

XIT Connections

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XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to Celebrate 75th Anniversary

In March of this year, XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will celebrate **“75 Years of Connecting Our Communities”** with telecommunications services.

In 1945 and after the end of World War II, the farmers and ranchers in the rural areas of Dallam, Hartley and Sherman Counties became interested in securing both electric and telephone services for these rural areas of the Northwest Panhandle of Texas. After the National Congress and Senate passed the act establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), these dedicated and farsighted citizens began to petition REA for a loan to secure electric service for their area by knocking on doors to solicit members for a rural electric cooperative. Often, they were told “There is no way you will be able to secure enough members in this sparsely settled area of the Texas Panhandle to get an REA loan.” However, their efforts were successful when an REA loan was made, and the Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative was formed.

About this time, the rural people began discussing means to secure telephone service also. A few local ranchers banded together and pooled their money to build the first telephone lines to serve their purposes. The owner of the Texline Telephone Exchange handled the arrangements for the purchase of the wire, poles, telephones and miscellaneous items. The poles were 20 feet long and creosoted.

The twelve miles of line were composed of double wire coated with copper. The wire was doubled because the trunk ran alongside a power line. An estimated 290 poles, 70 steps apart, were required to stretch from the Texline city limits to the end of the line. The ranchers used a tractor-powered machine to speed up the digging of post holes and to string the wire. In two weeks, after they went to work in March 1950, the system was complete and was known as The Stateline Telephone Company.

These families started a telephone fever. More and more ranchers and farmers wanted telephone service. Only a year later, the XIT Telephone Cooperative, Inc was chartered by the State of Texas in 1951. Many trips to Washington, D.C. and much personal expense and effort went into securing an REA loan for constructing telephone service in this very sparsely-settled area. In 1952, the initial “A” loan of \$543,000 was approved to build telephone lines, central office facilities and buildings in the Dallam and Hartley County area. It was originally planned to serve the same four-county area as Rita



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Blanca Electric Cooperative; however, REA initially would not approve a loan to service Sherman and Moore Counties.

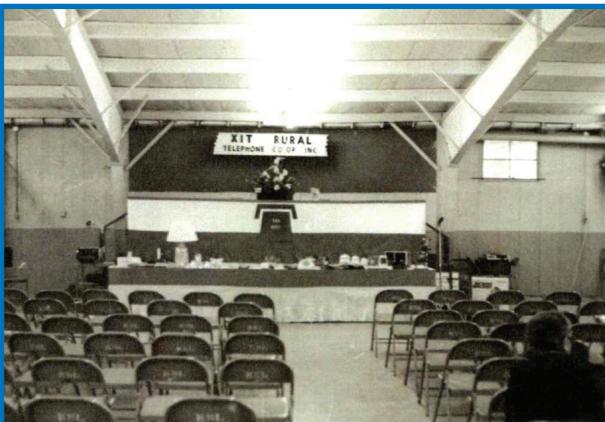
In January 1951, REA requested that the Cooperative's name be changed to include RURAL. This was completed in September 1951. The financial condition of the telephone cooperative was very limited at this time. REA approved a joint venture with Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative where the electric cooperative had to guarantee the first XIT loan. The telephone cooperative shared management, office space and personnel with the electric cooperative for years.

One of the REA loan requirements was that each new member should pay a \$5 membership fee and a \$45 equity fee before a line could be built to his/her location. REA also required that subscribers deposit \$29,150 in equity fees in the REA Construction Fund Trustee Account to secure the 35-year, 2% loan. In the 1920s, the Fort Worth & Denver Railroad moved its roundhouse to Childress ... so Texline's population had dropped from 3700 to less than 500 in 1950. In 1951, this population allowed REA to loan funds to purchase the existing Texline Telephone Exchange for \$42,900 or \$300 per station. Since the Texline Exchange was an existing exchange, revenue was received from approximately 143 Texline subscribers prior to the building of any new lines.

Many people were involved in canvassing the rural farmers and ranchers to sign applications for telephone service and pay the required fees. As the telephone cooperative's business progressed, in February 1952, XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, entered into an official Operation and Management Contract with Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative ... as well as a Joint-Use Pole Agreement. In order to save funds, many of the new telephone lines were being constructed beneath the power lines.

Speed ahead to 1970, when REA approved the Cooperative's first million-dollar loan in the amount of \$1,454,000. This loan was to provide one-party service to Cooperative members. By the time of the February 3, 1971, Annual Meeting, plans were underway for the construction of one-party, buried service to the Coldwater and Texline Exchanges. Ninety-nine registered members attended the annual meeting, and seven door prizes were awarded. Over the next several years, more central offices were built in Bunkerhill, Kerrick, Lutz, Middlewater and Stevens.

XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. terminated its Operation-Management Agreement with Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative in January 1974. On February 26, 1974, XIT had its "first" Annual Meeting not in conjunction with Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative. With only thirty-four registered members, the quorum was not met. The directors elected in 1973, therefore, would serve another term until the 1975 Annual Meeting.



Friday January 31, 1975

XIT Rural Telephone Has Completed Expansion Plan

During 1974 the XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. has completed an expansion program begun in 1970, when the former Coldwater telephone exchange was divided into the Coldwater, Bunkerhill and Middlewater exchanges and cutover to single-party telephone service in June 1972. This is learned from Manager Thomas A. Hyer, who reported also that in August of 1974, the Cooperative's Texline exchange was moved into a new central office building, with single-party service being offered to all subscribers. The former Kerrick exchange was divided into the Stevens, Lutz, and Kerrick exchanges and were receiving complete single-party service by October of 1974. New central office buildings were built to house the central office equipment for the Stevens and Lutz exchanges in Sherman County.

Considerable growth was experienced by the Cooperative last year. As of Dec. 31, 1973, 703 main stations and 362 extension telephones were connected in the five exchanges of Coldwater, Bunkerhill, Middlewater, Texline and Kerrick. At the end of 1974, an increase of 82 main stations and 90 extensions was recorded in seven exchanges, making a total of 785 main telephones and 452 extensions.

Until 1973, XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Since that time, the Cooperative has operated as a separate organization, with business office facilities at 317 Rock Island in Dalhart. As of the 1976 Annual Meeting, the Cooperative will have been in existence twenty-five years, and plans are now underway to celebrate this Silver Anniversary, according to Mr. Hyer.

Making New Changes

According to Manager Thomas A. Hyer, XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. has entered the final phase of its arcwide private-line telephone service begun in 1970, when the former Coldwater exchange area was divided into the Coldwater, Bunkerhill and Middlewater exchanges and cutover to single-party service in June, 1972.

Hyer stated that at the present time the outside plant contractor has completed 75 percent of the buried telephone lines in the Texline exchange area and expects this area to be finalized by the middle of February. Cutover to single-party telephone service for the Texline exchange is scheduled for August of this year. At that time a new 400-line switchboard, housed in the new exchange building in Texline, will be placed into operation.

Construction to buried, single-party telephone service in the present Kerrick exchange area will begin in February and is expected to be completed in June of this year. The present

Kerrick exchange area will be divided into three separate exchanges known as Stevens, Lutz, and Kerrick exchanges. Completely new telephone exchange buildings have been built to house the new facilities of the 100-line switchboards for the Stevens and Lutz exchanges. Cutover to single-party service for the Stevens, Lutz, and Kerrick exchanges is expected by October of this year.

Hyer reported that private-line telephone service will be offered to each resident and business subscriber in the area served by XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and requested that any telephone subscriber in the present Kerrick and Texline exchange area who desires more than one private line to his residence or business should notify the XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. business office in Dalhart, Texas as soon as possible. This will enable their engineers to plan for any additional lines during the construction period allotted to each exchange.

BEWARE OF PHISHING EMAILS!

Phishing emails are fraudulent messages designed to steal your personal information, like passwords or credit card numbers. They often look like they're from trusted sources and may create a sense of urgency or offer something too good to be true.

Phishing emails are becoming more common today and we would like to remind our customers to stay vigilant and to never click on any links like the one below! If you ever receive an email from XIT, and you are unsure if it's real, it is always best to call into our office to verify it is legit. We want to keep our customers information safe!



Autopay Attempt Failed

Dear Customer,

⚠️ Your automatic payment was unsuccessful and requires your attention.

We attempted to process your autopay for your current billing cycle, but it was declined. To prevent any service interruption, please update your payment information and complete your payment as soon as possible.

Amount Due: \$55.30

Due Date: December 18, 2025

[Update Autopay & Pay Now](#)

Need help?

📞 903-797-2701 | 🗨️ [Support Center](#)

PROTECT YOURSELF

- Always double-check the sender's email.
- Don't click on suspicious links.
- Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA).
- Stay alert and protect your data!

75th Anniversary ...

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At a special meeting in January, 1975, eight acres of land was purchased ... along with a steel building from Circle Rite Irrigation, Inc. Although many changes have been made to the building, and many other buildings added to the site, the Cooperative sits on this same piece of land located on Highway 87 North of Dalhart today.

Over the years, XIT formed a subsidiary XIT Telecommunication & Technology, LTD and became a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) under the



Directors purchased this building and site (5.9 Acres) from Circle Rite Irrigation. On Highway 87 North, it is near Rita Blanca Electric Coop. The building interior is to be completed by XIT Coop.



XIT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.
MOVING
Wednesday, Jan. 21, 1976
To New
Headquarters Building
One-Half Mile North
Of Electric Cooperative
On Highway 87



XIT Communications name covering towns outside of its rural area. XIT also provided wireless service for years before being purchased by AT&T Wireless. In the past several years, XIT has converted all of its service areas to fiber optics and has added new areas too.

From Party Lines in 1951 to Fiber Fast Internet in 2026 ... XIT has spent the past 75 Years Connecting Our Communities and will do so for years to come.



2025 XIT Customer Appreciation Christmas Open Houses a Success!

We would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who came out to our Customer Appreciation Christmas Open Houses this year! It is always a pleasure to see and visit with our customers! A delicious meal of BBQ sandwiches, chips, veggies with dip, and cookies was served to everyone who attended.

We hosted our Stratford Open House on December 5, 2025, where we had 103 guests register for door prizes and served 120 meals. Winners of the door prizes in Stratford were Brenda Thrasher, Loria Maria Torres, and Bobby Chester who all won hams from Texline Meats. Our Downtown Open House was hosted on December 12, 2025, where we had 145 guests register for door prizes and served 213 meals. The winners of the door prizes were Buzz Summerour, Janette Goodwin, Dewayne Schafer, Sherlon Ferguson, Fobie Montoya, and Samantha Sullivan who all won hams from Texline Meats.

Again, we would like to say thank you and express our deepest gratitude to all of our XIT customers. Without each of you, what we do would not be possible! We strive to keep you satisfied and hope you will join us next year at our Customer Appreciation Christmas Open Houses!



XIT Board of Directors & Employee Service Awards Luncheon

XIT held their annual Board of Directors and Employee Service Awards Luncheon on December 17, 2025, at the Dust Bowl Bar & Grill. A delicious meal, dessert, and service awards presentation were enjoyed by all the board of directors and employees who attended.

XIT recognized three Board of Directors, Walter E. Lasley: 35 Years, Nick Olson: 15 Years, and Gared McBryde: 15 Years, and two employees, Clint Wheeler: 15 Years, and Braydon Barrow: 5 Years. We are so thankful to each one for their many years of service to XIT and its customers. Each honoree was presented with a company plaque, and an NTCA (National Telephone Cooperative Association) plaque commemorating their years of service.



Walter E. Lasley – Board President - 35 Years of Service.



Nick Olson – Board Secretary-Treasurer – 15 Years of Service.



Gared McBryde – Board Director - 15 Years of Service.



Clint Wheeler – Operations Manager – 15 Years of Service.



Braydon Barrow – Installation Repair Technician - 5 Years of Service.



XIT Board of Directors smile for a picture! Pictured here (left to right): Gared McBryde, Caleb Finch, Barry Poling, Clint Coulter, Marcia French, Bryce Howard, Nick Olson, Walter E. Lasley, and Steve Baskin.

Best of Dallam & Hartley Counties

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to every single one of you who voted XIT Communications for Best Internet & Communications Provider! Our customers are our top priority, and we are so blessed to be the one taking care of your telecommunications needs!

We would also like to thank the Dalhart Texan for all their hard work putting this together. XIT is a proud supporter of local organizations and events in the communities we are privileged enough to serve.



XIT Welcomes New Team Members



Brunner Orman

Brunner Orman – Installation Repair Technician

Brunner joined the XIT Family in December and will be working as an Installation Repair Technician. Brunner was born in Amarillo but was raised in Dalhart where he graduated from high school. He is one of three children. His siblings are Karley of Amarillo and Max of Lubbock who attends Texas Tech University. In his free time, Brunner enjoys watching sports and hanging out with his friends. We are so thankful to have Brunner be a part of the XIT Team!



Fernando “Pika” Ruiz – Installation Repair Technician

Pika joined the XIT Family in December and will be working as an Installation Repair Technician. He was born in Phoenix, Arizona. Pika grew up in Dalhart where he graduated from Dalhart High School. He has earned his welding certificate from Frank Phillips College. In his free time, he enjoys playing video games. Pika is a great addition to the XIT Team, and we are thankful to have him!



Pika Ruiz



Andy Tena – Installation Repair Technician

Andy joined the XIT Family in January and will also be working as an Installation Repair Technician. Andy is the son of Claudio and Marisa Tena. He has one younger sister, Fernanda. Andy was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. Andy finished his senior year here in Dalhart where he graduated from Dalhart High School. He attended Frank Phillips College in 2025 where he obtained his Commercial Drivers License. In his free time, Andy enjoys learning new things! Andy is a great asset to the XIT Team, and we are so thankful to have him!



Andy Tena

Welcome to the XIT Family

What's Cookin' at XIT

Grandma's Gingersnaps by Stacy (Duggan) Knight

- ¾ cup margarine
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup molasses
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp. ground ginger
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ cup white sugar for decoration



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, cream together margarine and white sugar until smooth. Beat in the egg and molasses until well blended. Combine the flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda and salt. Stir into molasses mixture to form a dough. Roll dough into 1" balls and roll the balls in the white sugar for decoration. Place cookies 2" apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing. Place on wire rack and allow to cool completely.

Find even more great recipes in the XIT Country Cookin' Cookbooks (2 editions available) for sale at any of our XIT locations for just \$14.95+ tax. They make great birthday, wedding, and anniversary gifts!

XIT Conducts Another Successful Breakfast Food Drive



XIT wrapped up its Annual Rise & Shine Breakfast Food Drive December 31st, 2025. This was the 11th year for the food drive, and it was a HUGE success! The participating pantries this year included, The Pantry of Stratford, Texline Food Pantry, The Food Pantry at Lincoln Street Baptist Church, and Vega Food Pantry/UMC. Participants were encouraged to donate breakfast food items such as grits, oatmeal, gravy, muffin, or pancake mixes, granola bars, peanut butter, jam, and fruit juice packs, and other items.

Each person who donated to the food drive this year was given an XIT reusable tote bag when they dropped off their food items. This was XIT's way of saying "Thank You" for participating in this year's drive and helping numerous families in our local communities to put food on their table. All food donated is much appreciated by not only the receiving families, but the food pantry workers as well. Please



Claude and Leonda Fedric with The Pantry of Stratford are shown here picking up the food collected at XIT's office in Stratford.



Belinda Waide is shown here at our Headquarters office picking up 10 bags of food donated to Texline Food Pantry.

remember that the food pantries are open all year long and there is a constant need for food in our communities, especially in times like these!



Shown here with the food collected from XIT's Downtown and Headquarters offices in Dalhart, is Terri Griggs with The Food Pantry at Lincoln Street Baptist Church. 31 bags of food donated!

of our food pantry workers! Without them, we would not be able to coordinate the entire drive! Let's all Rise & Shine to Fight Hunger together again next year!

A total of 61 bags were collected between the food pantries, which almost doubled the count from last year! XIT would like to thank every single person who took the time out of their busy schedules and money out of their budget to participate in this year's food drive. Without your generosity, we would not be able to conduct the food drive each year. We would also like to thank all

Let's all Rise & Shine to Fight



is a quarterly publication for
XIT Rural Telephone
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and XIT Communications
Customers.

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We Need Your Help! Updated Cell Phone Numbers & Email Addresses are Needed!

XIT has installed NEW LIVE MESSENGER in our system, which allows us to contact our customers in a timely manner by text messages and emails when we have service outages ... changes in service offerings ... and other important notifications. This only works if we have this information updated in our system.

With all the fraud these days, this is a safe way for our customers to know the message is from XIT.

Please call today and talk with one of our Customer Service Representatives to update your records on file ... All the numbers listed below route into our XIT headquarters ... FREE of Charge.



Dalhart – 806-384-3311	Boys Ranch – 806-533-3355
Vega – 806-967-3355	Sunray – 806-563-0311
Beverly Hills / Borger / Lake Meridith / Fritch 800-232-3312	

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/ad-3027-usda-program-discrimination-complaint-form>, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.