

# Keeping You **CONNECTED**

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

**CEO Message, pg. 5**  
Embracing Community Spirit, pg. 6  
Scholarship & Grant, pg. 7

The logo for Triangle Communications features a stylized white graphic of a triangle with a curved line through it, followed by the word "TRIANGLE" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and "COMMUNICATIONS" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font below it.**TRIANGLE**  
COMMUNICATIONS



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## OUR COVER

2024 1st Place Winner  
Kristie Barnard Whitewater

## Youth Opportunity Deadlines Coming up!

FRS \$5,000 Scholarships  
Feb 14th

Youth Technology Grant  
Feb 15th

Teacher Appreciation Program  
March 1st

Triangle \$2,000 Scholarships  
April 1st

Visit [www.itstriangle.com/community/education](http://www.itstriangle.com/community/education) to learn more!

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## FEATURES

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## CONTACT US

**Call** 406.394.7807 or 611 or 1.800.332.1201

**Pay by Phone** 1.888.815.1040

**E-mail** [www.itstriangle.com/contact-us](http://www.itstriangle.com/contact-us)

**Visit** Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm, 2121 Hwy 2 NW

**Write** PO Box 1220, Havre MT 59501

**24/7 Internet Tech Support** 1.877.730.8215

**Call Before You Dig** 811 or [CallBeforeYouDig.com](http://CallBeforeYouDig.com)

**Website** [www.itstriangle.com](http://www.itstriangle.com)

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# Triangle Communications Trivia

## ACROSS

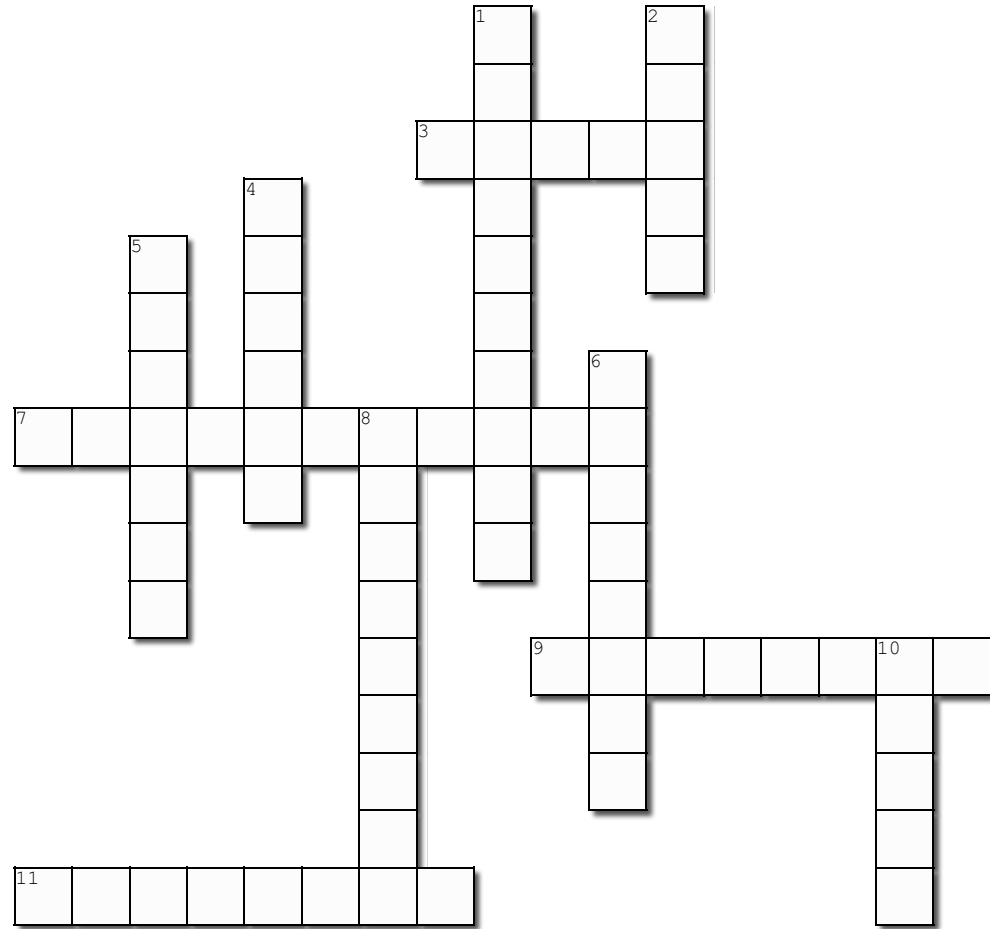
3. 10,400 miles of \_\_\_ has been placed.
7. Triangle is a \_\_\_.
9. Triangle service area reaches from the Wyoming border to the \_\_\_ border.
11. \_\_\_ Wi-Fi is Triangle's Worry Free Wi-Fi service .

## DOWN

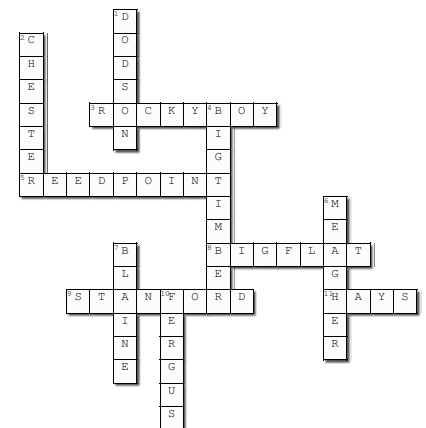
1. Triangle serves \_\_\_ exchanges.
2. Triangle's Teacher Appreciation applications are due \_\_\_ 1st.
4. Triangle offers scholarships to seniors, undergraduate and students going into a \_\_\_ field.
5. Triangle's Annual Meeting is normally held in \_\_\_.
6. Triangle's Youth Technology Grants are due \_\_\_ 15th.
8. Triangle is proud to offer yearly grants to our volunteer \_\_\_ departments.
10. Triangle's scholarships are due \_\_\_ 1st.

### Use the clues to fill in the words above.

Words can go across or down.  
Letters are shared when the words intersect.



### Montana Answer Key



# COOK'S CONNECTION

## DISHING UP MONTANA'S BEST RECIPES

Thank you to everyone who has shared their recipes, keep them coming!

If you have a favorite recipe of any kind that you would like to share, we would love to have it.

### RECIPE

#### Sugar Cookies

Makes about 5 dozen cookies

##### INGREDIENTS

1 ½ cups powdered sugar  
1 cup butter (*softened*)  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
½ teaspoon almond extract  
2 ½ cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon cream of tartar  
Granulated sugar

##### DIRECTIONS

Mix powdered sugar, butter, egg, vanilla, and almond extract. Mix in flour, baking soda and cream of tartar.

Cover and refrigerate at least **2 hours**. Heat oven **350 degrees**. Divide dough into halves. Roll each half out to desired thickness on lightly floured surface. Cut into shapes.

Sprinkle with granulated sugar and place on lightly greased sheet. Bake until edges are light brown, 7-9 minutes. Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

*Note:* I have left the almond extract out of these cookies before and they are still tasty. I divide the dough into 2 halves and wrap in plastic wrap then refrigerate overnight. You can skip the granulated sugar if you decide to decorate with frosting.

### RECIPE

#### Crockpot Meatballs

from HCE/Triangle Relay for Life Team Cookbook

##### INGREDIENTS

1 (10 ¾ oz.) can cream of mushroom soup  
1 (10 ¾ oz.) can cream of celery soup  
1 (10 ¾ oz.) can of French onion soup  
1 pkg. frozen meatballs  
1 pkg. egg noodles

##### DIRECTIONS

Combine soup in crockpot and add frozen meatballs. Cook on low all day. Cook noodles according to package directions. Serve meatballs over noodles.

### Sugar Cookies



## Drive Home Reliability: Retired Fleet Vehicles for Sale!

Looking for a dependable vehicle that's been meticulously cared for? Triangle Communications is offering a limited selection of our retired fleet vehicles for sale to the public. Each vehicle has been expertly maintained by our professional shop team and is in great condition. This is your chance to own a hardworking, reliable ride at an incredible value!

**Call Brian at 406.394.2879 if interested!**

### Vehicle #334

**2016 Ford F350 Super Duty Crew Cab\***  
**HCE/Triangle Fleet #334.** 161,136 miles.  
Asking \$20,000.



### Vehicle #323

**2015 GMC Sierra SLE 2500\***  
**HCE/Triangle Fleet #323.** 161,136 miles.  
Asking \$20,000.



### Vehicle #325

**2015 GMC Sierra SLE 2500\***  
**HCE/Triangle Fleet #325.** 169,618 miles.  
Asking \$20,000.







Craig Gates  
General Manager/CEO

## NEW YEAR AND LOOKING BACK

As we step into a new year, Triangle Communications is celebrating the past accomplishments, but also looking forward to the future. While the projects we have slated for 2025 are top of mind, it's important to pause and recognize the remarkable achievements we have accomplished so far.

Since 2008 when we made the commitment to bring fiber to every existing member, Triangle Communications has placed an impressive 10,400 miles of fiber, significantly enhancing connectivity for our members. Last year alone, our team installed 550 miles of fiber and completed two fiber rings, bolstering diversity and redundancy in our network. This accomplishment is no small feat and speaks volumes about the dedication and hard work of our entire team. These enhancements ensure that our members experience fewer interruptions and greater reliability.

But our commitment to our members goes beyond connectivity. Triangle Communications believes in being more than just a broadband company; we are a community partner. Throughout the past year, we have dedicated ourselves to supporting local initiatives. Our annual sponsorship programs have contributed vital resources to fire departments, ambulance services, food banks, and senior centers, allowing them to serve our communities more effectively. Collectively, we sponsored over 150 events and programs across our service areas and attended more than 60 community events. Additionally, we proudly supported 30 students who qualified to attend a national event through a school program. Triangle has a long-standing scholarship program which was revamped in 2024 to make the scholarships recurring and add

a Trade's specific program. These programs show Triangle's commitment to our investment in education and the future generations.

The successes we've enjoyed are a testament to the hard work of our entire team. Each milestone achieved has been made possible through the combined efforts of staff, members, and community partners. I am incredibly proud of our team and the dedication they demonstrate day in and day out. Their commitment to excellence has enabled us to grow and evolve while remaining deeply rooted in our communities.

Looking ahead, our strategic planning session has laid the groundwork for the upcoming years. As we embark on this new year, Triangle Communications is committed to upholding our legacy of keeping our members connected. We are excited to set new goals and continue our mission to provide our members with reliable phone and internet services. Here's to another great year of serving our members!



## EMBRACING COMMUNITY SPIRIT | Triangle Communications Shares the Cooperative Value of Concern for Community

In an era where community bonds are more important than ever, Triangle Communications is leading the way in demonstrating the cooperative principle of concern for community. Recently, the Board of Trustees at Triangle Communications made a commendable decision that exemplifies this value: they approved a generous donation of \$1,000 to every senior center within our service area. This initiative reflects not just a commitment to supporting local organizations but also a heartfelt appreciation for the senior community that enriches our lives.

Earlier this month, the staff at Triangle Communications made surprise visits to local senior centers, unveiling the donations in a memorable way. The surprise checks were met with appreciation and excitement for how much the donations meant to the centers and our senior members.

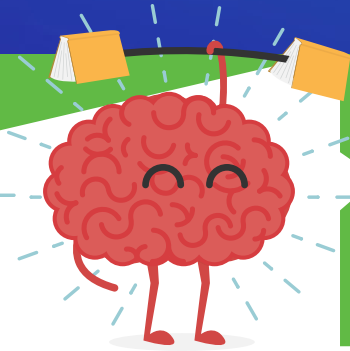
*Below are a few photos capturing the moments shared during the visits to our senior centers.*





## Scholarship & Grant

# YOUTH TECHNOLOGY GRANTS FROM TRIANGLE!



GET UP TO  
**\$500**  
FOR YOUR  
YOUTH CLUB!

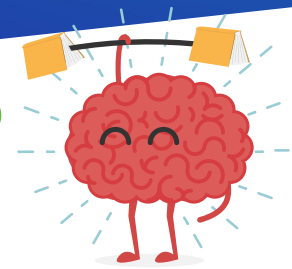
The Triangle Communications Youth Club/  
Organization Technology Grant program offers  
monetary support to youth clubs/organizations in  
the Triangle service area.

- 4-H, FFA, BPA, FCCLA, Skills USA, Robotics Club, Boys & Girls Club & more are eligible.
- Funds can be used for Science, Technology, Engineering or Math related projects.
- Local chapter of club/organization must have majority of it's members within in our service area.
  - Up to \$500 Grants are available.

APPLY TODAY at  
[itstriangle.com/youth-tech-grant](http://itstriangle.com/youth-tech-grant)  
APPLY BY FEB 15TH

# THOUSANDS IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED EACH YEAR!

EARN **\$2,000**  
OR MORE!



## FRS \$5,000 Scholarships

We partner with the Foundation for Rural Service providing scholarships for students attending college or vocational school. Law School Student scholarships are also available.

**Apply by February 14th!**

## Triangle \$2,000 Scholarships

Attention Senior in High School and current Undergrad or Trade School students!

**Apply by April 1st!**

Visit [itstriangle.com/scholarships](http://itstriangle.com/scholarships) for full details and application materials. *Some restrictions may apply.*



# TEACHER APPRECIATION PROGRAM



Triangle Communications recognizes that recruiting and retaining good, quality educators in rural schools is a significant problem in Montana. To help address the issue, Triangle is excited to provide this opportunity for teachers. Our Teacher Appreciation Program awards educators funds that can be used for items or expenses that are the biggest priority for the awardee.

## Award Amounts:



*Additional \$1,000 awards may be made each year depending on applications received.*

## Teacher Appreciation Program Requirements:

- Teach in a B, C or smaller school district
- Teacher does not have to be a member or member-dependent
- Teach in a school district served by Triangle Communications

## Include:

- Any other qualifications or interests that you think we should know about you.
- Positions of leadership
- Previous awards received
- Participation in group activities
- Community Service.
- Explain how the scholarship would encourage you to stay in your rural community for the coming years
- Letter of Recommendation

## Additional Information:

Awards will be paid out in August after confirmation of teaching from B, C or smaller school administrator in our service area. Triangle Communications finalist will be submitted to Montana Telecommunications Association for the Rural Education Teacher Scholarship

## Application Requirements:

- Letter of Interest
- Introduce yourself and your area of study
- Explain what influenced your decision to become a teacher
- Convey why you currently teach or want to teach in a rural community

Submit your application at  
[www.itstriangle.com/education-support/teacher-appreciation-program](http://www.itstriangle.com/education-support/teacher-appreciation-program)



# TEACHER APPRECIATION PROGRAM

# SWAP AND SHOP

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members!

Check out the current version online at [www.itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop](http://www.itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop)! Ads submitted online are usually added within **2 to 3 business days**. Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next magazine. \*Denotes photo available on website

## **Triangle Communications is offering the following items for sale to the public:**

### **Makita Cordless Weed Trimmer**

Brand new Makita cordless weed trimmer, includes 2 batteries, charger, goggles, cinch sack. Asking \$395. Call 406.374.2406.

### **Wanted to Buy**

8-12' triple k. Three point or hitch. Call 406.759.5670.

### **2011 GMC Sierra 3500 HD Crew Cab\***

Truck #23, has 174,683 miles, Kelly Blue Book calculated a private party value of \$10,564. Call Brian Johnson, Facility Manager/Fleet Manager. Call 406.394.2879.

### **Wanted 1955 to 1959 Chevy or GMC Pickup or Parts**

Call 406.326.2287.

### **Original Can Filter**

1 original can filter, 12" diameter, 13" tall. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184.

### **Hydrofarm Grow Light Fixtures**

\$20 each or 4 for \$60. Call 406.547.2184.

### **1993 Safari Motorhome For Sale**

3430 Cummins, 8.3 turbo-charged, intercooled. Allison World transmission with 6 speed and 2 overdrive gears. Well kept records, 98,600 miles. Asking \$17,500. Call 406.547.2184.

### **Leader Accessories Brand Travel Trailer (camper) cover**

Fits 24 to 27 foot camper. Made of 100% polypropylene. Used, but in excellent condition. Call 406.357.2891.

### **Cattle Squeeze Chute**

Powder River Squeeze chute. Asking \$2,000. Call 406.301.4035.

### **1970 3/4 ton Ford Pickup with Flatbed**

1970 3/4 Ford Pickup with flatbed. Call if interested at 406.301.4035.

### **Large Brown Cloth Lift Chair\***

Chair is in excellent condition, Free to be picked up from my home. Call 406.395.4581.

### **Weatherby 257 Magnum**

Weatherby 257 Magnum, new in gun case. Burris scope mounted, never loaded, never fired. One-inch MOA. 60 rounds of Weatherby ammunition. Asking \$750. Call 406.390.3522.

### **LGD Pups For Sale**

Two females left, out of great working mother. She is Ackbash/Komondor. Sire is Ackbash/pyrenees/Anatolian. Born July 4, 2024. Ready to go, right with flock. Asking \$450. Near Moore, MT. Call 406.374.2406.

### **1984 Steiger Panther Series IV**

Model KM-360 4-wheel drive, SF4 Hydraulics and 8500 hrs. Stored inside for 10 years, new batteries, runs good.

Asking \$29,500 or best offer. Call 406.262.4466.

### **Two Flexicoil Sprayers**

S67 XL models, 120 ft booms, 1 in good shape and one use for parts. Monitor included. Asking \$4,300.00. Call 406.262.4466.

### **1984 Rare Cultivator**

Rare 60 ft Cultivator, Morris. Model CP-760 Magnum. Harrows included. Asking \$7,500.00. Call 406-262-4466.

### **Hamburger For Sale**

In 2lb packages, \$4 per pound. Call 406.301.4035.

### **Set of 4 stock wheels**

Set of 4 stock wheels from 2016 Dodge Ram pickup truck. Very good condition \$700 OBO. Call 406.357.2891.

### **Boat, Motor, Trailer and Motorcycles For Sale**

15 ft. boat, motor & trailer  
2004 Harley Davidson Fat Boy (5000 actual miles)  
2013 Harley Davidson v-Rod  
2012 Suzuki V-Strom (5000 actual miles)  
Call 406.399.4949.

### **Big Foot Camper**

Big Foot 10 FT Camper with A/C, toilet, refrigerator and bed for sale, call 406.301.4035.

### **Craftsman 2 stage snowblower with tire chains**

Craftsman 28-inch electric start, 2 stage snowblower with tire chains. Asking \$500 obo, call 406.395.4581.

### **Tubular Aluminum Table**

Tubular aluminum inversion table, lightly used. Asking \$50. Call 406.395.4581.

### **Wanted 1955-1959 GMC or Chevy Parts**

1955-1959 GMC or Chevy parts. Pickup parts or whole pickup. Call 406.326.2287.

### **Early 1970's Disassembled triumph Spitfire\***

Early 1970's Disassembled Triumph Spitfire. Call 406.372.3161, asking \$2,500 OBO.

### **Wheat Straw Bales**

Small square wheat bales, our of conventional combine. \$5.00 per bale, located just a few miles north of Havre, MT. Limited quantities available. Please call or text 406.230.2281, email: noneckfarms@gmail.com or on Facebook at Twyla Knudson.

### **Trailer Needed**

Trailer needed for hired men. Call 406.930.2276.

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping!



# OUR PAY-BY-PHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED!

Save the new number and keep your payments hassle-free.

TRIANGLE PAYMENT OPTIONS



Online Bill Pay



Auto-Pay



Paperless Billing



SmartHub®



E-Check



Pay-by-Phone



Night Drop



Mail Your Payment

## Two Chances to Win!

#1. When are the Youth Club Grants due?

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#2. What is the mystery photo from in this issue?:

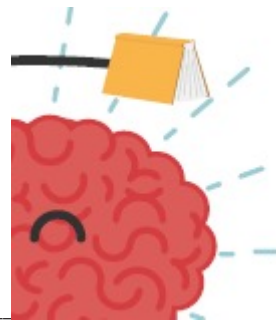
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My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Triangle phone number is \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I want to receive e-mail notifications about special events or deals in my area. My e-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_

Entries must be received by Feb 1st, 2025 to be eligible for the drawing. Please return this slip with your payment or mail to: Newsletter, Triangle Communications, PO Box 1220, Havre MT 59501 or submit answers at [www.itstriangle.com/telco-quiz](http://www.itstriangle.com/telco-quiz).



*Congrats to our November/  
December Mystery Photo Winners*

**Mike Tyler  
&  
Jim Leahy**



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## Big Dreams in Big Timber: *Local Passion with Thistle Creek*

*"Triangle Communications is not  
only an important part of our  
business, but also our community."*

Jocelin Miller, Partner  
*Thistle Creek, Big Timber*



Learn more at [www.itstriangle.com/montana-building-montana](http://www.itstriangle.com/montana-building-montana)