

# Keeping You **CONNECTED**

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

**CEO Message, pg. 6**  
Scholarship Opportunities, pg. 5  
The Triangle Difference, pg. 7



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## OUR COVER

Photo by Rosalie Spinler

### Previous Issue Crossword Answer Key

Q	T	U	R	K	E	Y	K	G	N	I	L	O	R	A	C	U	M	J	B
U	V	O	F	O	E	Y	N	K	F	X	I	U	Q	W	A	Y	T	P	U
D	G	C	J	E	V	E	R	I	T	D	C	N	D	Y	K	X	T	P	T
T	C	G	F	H	A	W	N	G	R	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	U	Z	W
H	O	R	O	W	P	S	T	U	Z	W	C	H	E	P	N	P	X	Y	R
G	Z	C	J	R	L	C	T	Y	Z	Q	G	A	Z	B	H	W	P	B	O
I	G	L	E	K	A	L	F	W	O	N	S	R	K	V	W	Y	O	N	G
E	C	H	V	H	J	L	N	J	W	A	E	V	X	S	T	H	G	I	L
L	N	S	S	J	K	C	L	O	S	D	F	E	T	C	L	O	N	P	M
S	O	E	L	R	H	A	K	M	V	A	Z	S	Z	A	U	O	O	R	A
H	W	O	F	A	G	L	V	L	M	E	V	T	P	F	I	S	G	K	S
R	E	B	M	E	C	E	D	I	Q	Q	M	B	G	T	O	U	A	M	B
C	C	P	P	P	F	G	L	D	V	B	C	B	I	Y	R	H	T	N	F
O	A	W	O	S	J	Y	H	B	O	Q	M	D	E	M	N	F	N	F	Y
O	L	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	A	N	A	R	A	L	A	R	A
K	P	S	Q	V	B	W	B	Z	O	R	S	K	M	F	M	W	S	E	D
I	E	A	A	Y	N	N	C	E	T	Y	F	C	X	Q	E	X	K	T	I
E	R	O	O	K	X	K	Y	J	D	M	D	O	X	C	N	K	W	N	L
S	I	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	S	L	E	Y	S	T	V	U	I	O
H	F	P	O	C	A	P	V	J	C	I	L	P	M	K	T	O	A	W	H

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## CONTACT US

Call 406.394.7807 or 611 or 1.800.332.1201

Pay by Phone 1.855.940.3815

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

Write PO Box 1220, Havre, MT 59501

Visit Havre: 2121 Hwy 2 NW

Big Timber: 300 McLeod St

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)



# NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH

NewYear

TwentySix

Celebration

Countdown

Midnight

Resolution

Confetti

Fireworks

Cheers

Calendar

January

Goals

Hope

Sparkle

Party

Welcome

FreshStart

Toast

AuldLangSyne

BallDrop

W	E	B	A	X	Q	H	A	H	L	T	B	T	G	C	K	R	K	Q	R
C	W	L	S	M	Y	E	F	K	W	W	A	L	R	B	X	M	G	F	X
H	T	D	K	P	O	F	I	R	A	E	Y	W	E	N	Z	X	C	E	G
C	O	A	K	R	I	C	E	L	A	N	F	O	H	E	J	O	X	M	Y
L	E	P	S	N	A	Y	H	J	K	T	A	I	M	O	U	R	C	O	R
D	T	L	E	R	O	P	A	H	E	Y	P	R	R	N	U	E	J	C	A
K	Q	K	E	T	E	I	S	N	N	S	I	S	T	E	W	Y	C	L	U
Z	X	H	N	B	D	E	T	W	I	I	M	D	G	Z	W	A	F	E	N
P	F	X	I	C	R	Y	H	U	F	X	O	I	U	E	Q	O	T	W	A
C	L	W	P	A	J	A	V	C	L	W	V	B	B	S	T	T	R	I	J
T	F	C	M	L	P	K	T	G	N	O	Q	F	U	V	E	O	X	K	I
O	H	R	P	E	D	L	S	I	E	V	S	M	R	C	Q	A	U	B	S
F	V	J	L	N	B	C	J	Q	O	D	L	E	I	N	T	S	O	W	Z
I	B	Y	A	D	N	X	I	Q	R	N	N	R	R	D	K	T	P	T	L
U	U	X	L	A	D	E	X	N	G	O	A	L	S	M	N	X	M	O	I
V	P	H	H	R	F	R	E	S	H	S	T	A	R	T	N	I	I	L	B
C	V	A	U	L	D	L	A	N	G	S	Y	N	E	T	V	K	G	W	V
N	Q	Z	R	H	V	R	G	B	L	C	O	N	F	E	T	T	I	H	A
A	P	A	R	T	Y	B	P	P	D	N	V	E	P	Q	Z	Y	V	J	T
M	M	F	F	I	Q	V	B	B	A	L	L	D	R	O	P	E	K	O	H



# COOK'S CONNECTION

## TRIED-AND-TRUE RECIPES SHARED BY OUR READERS

If you have a favorite recipe of any kind that you would like to share, we would love to have it! Submit it to: [newsletter@itstriangle.net](mailto:newsletter@itstriangle.net)

### RECIPE

#### CHICKEN SALAD CANTON

##### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup fresh snow peas
- 1 (14-1/2 oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. low salt soy sauce

- 4 cups shredded cabbage or iceberg lettuce
- 1 cup cubed, cooked chicken
- 1/3 cup packed, chopped cilantro
- 1/3 cup sliced green onions
- Toasted sesame seeds, optional

##### DIRECTIONS

Dip fresh snow peas in boiling water for 30 seconds. Cool. Drain tomatoes, reserving 1/4 cup liquid. Combine reserved liquid with oil, vinegar, and soy sauce; toss with tomatoes and remaining ingredients. Season with pepper and sesame seeds, if desired.

### RECIPE

#### ITALIAN SHRIMP

##### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pkg. shrimp, deveined & tails removed.
- 1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced.
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped
- 1 bottle Italian dressing
- Rice

##### DIRECTIONS

Cover bottom of skillet with Italian dressing. Sauté onions and mushrooms until tender. Add shrimp and enough Italian dressing to coat the shrimp. Cook until shrimp turns pink, stirring constantly. Serve over rice and top with Italian dressing and grated Parmesan Cheese. You can also add a can of chopped tomatoes when cooking, if desired.

### RECIPE

#### LIGHT AND EASY FRUIT SALAD

##### INGREDIENTS

- 3-4 fresh red apples sliced & chopped.
- 3-4 fresh pears sliced & chopped.
- 2 cups fresh green grapes
- 1/2 to 1 (32 oz.) container vanilla yogurt
- 1/2 cup coconut flakes

##### DIRECTIONS

Mix ingredients together. Chill and serve.

#### Italian Shrimp



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## Investing in the Future of Our Communities

At Triangle, we believe every student deserves a strong start. Whether you're headed to college or a trade school, already enrolled, or pursuing a law degree, we have scholarship opportunities for you. Each year, we award **up to \$60,000 in renewable** scholarships to support the goals of our youth.

Visit [www.itstriangle.com/scholarships](http://www.itstriangle.com/scholarships) to apply.

### Triangle Scholarships

#### High School and Undergraduate - \$2,000

Up to 12 Senior (renewable up to 4 years) and up to 12 Undergrad (renewable up to 3 years).

#### Trades School - \$2,000

Up to 5 scholarships awarded. Renewable up to 2 years.

**Eligibility:** Triangle subscribers or dependent; pursuing first degree or certificate.

**Deadline:** April 1

### Partner Scholarships

#### Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship - \$5,000

Triangle partners with FRS to support high school seniors in rural communities through competitive national scholarships. Your FRS application also puts you in the running for several additional named scholarships offered each year.

**Eligibility:** Triangle subscribers or dependent; pursuing first degree or certificate.

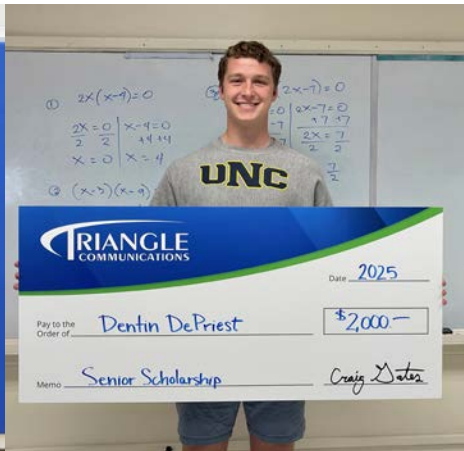
**Deadline:** February 14th

#### FRS Law School Student Scholarship – Up to \$5,000

This competitive national scholarship supports students entering their first year of law school, especially those with an interest in serving rural communities. Triangle will match up to \$5,000.

**Eligibility:** Triangle subscriber or dependent; first-year law student.

**Deadline:** February 16th





Craig Gates  
General Manager/CEO

## CEO MESSAGE

### The Future is Here: 100% Fiber Across Our Service Area

This year marks a milestone unlike any other in Triangle Communications' history. In the last eighteen years of work, we are proud to share that our cooperative has completed the transition to a fully fiber-optic network across our 24,000-square-mile service territory. Every member we serve now has access to the speed, reliability, and future-proof technology that only fiber can provide.

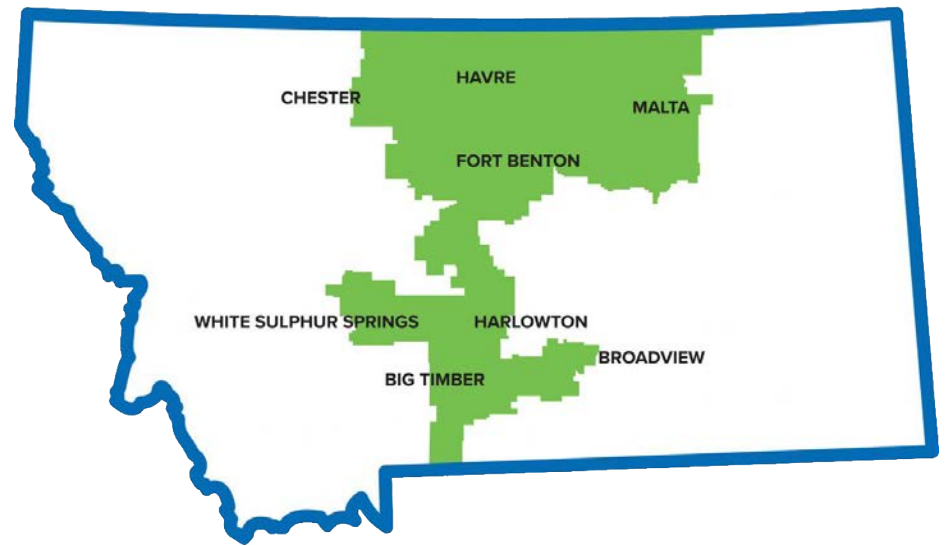
When we began this journey back in 2007 with design work and right-of-way acquisition in Big Sandy and Fort Benton, few could have imagined the scope of what lay ahead. Today, we've built more than **10,200 miles of buried fiber** and over **180 miles of aerial fiber**, giving access to over **25,000 homes, businesses, schools, and farms**. Along the way, your cooperative invested approximately **\$400 million** into this infrastructure, an investment in our members, and in the future of the communities we all call home.

In the early years, progress was steady, but by 2017 it became clear that demand for fast and reliable internet was accelerating. We adjusted our approach, moving from four-year project windows to one-year completions. In 2019 and 2020, we brought both network engineering and outside plant engineering in-house, giving us greater control and efficiency. Over just the past three years, we've averaged **463 miles of fiber construction annually**, a testament to the dedication of our employees and contractors.

Why does fiber matter? Because it is built to last. Fiber delivers unmatched reliability and nearly limitless capacity - its capabilities will serve our members for generations to come. Unlike satellite or other technologies that struggle with weather, distance, or shared bandwidth, fiber provides a stable foundation for work, education, health care, precision agriculture, and the simple joys of staying connected with family and friends.

This accomplishment belongs to all of us. To our members, thank you for your patience, support, and trust as we undertook the largest and most expensive project in our cooperative's history. To our employees, contractors, and partners, your hard work made this possible. Together, we've ensured that Triangle Communications is not only keeping pace with the digital future but helping to shape it.

The future is fiber, and thanks to you, that future is here.



100% Fiber Across Our Service Area

# THE TRIANGLE DIFFERENCE

Other providers sell you a service. We invest in you.  
Scholarships, local support, capital credits, and more.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Up to \$60,000 in renewable scholarships awarded annually.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

50+ partnerships each year supporting local gatherings.

## EDUCATION & CLUB GRANTS

Up to \$65,000 in STEM & Tech Grants awarded annually.

## STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

100+ students sponsored for national trips & competitions.

## CAPITAL CREDITS

Over \$4 million in capital credits returned to members annually.

## CARING FOR NEIGHBORS

\$25,000+ donated annually to 14 Food Banks & 18 Senior Centers.

## FIRST RESPONDERS

\$12,000+ donated to 51 Fire & 14 EMS volunteer departments annually.



# YOUTH CLUB/ORGANIZATION TECH GRANT

Our Youth Technology Grant program offers monetary support up to \$500 to youth clubs/organizations in our 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 our service area.

Apply online by February 15th

[www.itstriangle.com/youth-tech-grant](http://www.itstriangle.com/youth-tech-grant)



**WIN A 1/4 BEEF**  
FROM YOUR LOCAL 4-H CLUB!

Open to non-profit organizations  
in our service area.

Apply by **April 1st!**

CHEEK, NECK, RIBLOIN, SHORT SALLOIN, TENDERLOIN, TOP SALLOIN, BOTTOM SALLOIN, BRISKET, PLATE, FLANK, SHANK, RIB, SHANK, BUTT, RIB, SHANK

## 4-H BEEF GRANT

Each year, we purchase 4-H livestock at local fairs throughout our service area. These purchases allow us to offer 8 grants for a 1/4 beef to local non-profit organizations. Eligible non-profits can apply to use the beef in their daily operations or as part of a fundraising event.

Apply online by April 1st

[www.itstriangle.com/beef-grant](http://www.itstriangle.com/beef-grant)

# 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.*

Apply online by March 1st

[www.itstriangle.com/tap](http://www.itstriangle.com/tap)



## 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



# TEACHER APPRECIATION PROGRAM

# SWAP AND SHOP

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

Visit [www.itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop](http://www.itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop) to view all listings or to submit/remove your own. \*Denotes photo available on website

## **Morris Cultivator CP760**

Great shape, 60' wide with harrows.  
\$7,500. (406) 262-4466.

## **Insulated Shop Door**

Used, 16' wide x 14' tall, insulated,  
complete with all needed hardware.  
\$625. (406) 395-4800.

## **Misc Tools**

Van Norman Boring Bar & Accessories.  
Souix Valve Grinder & Hard Soft Facer.  
(406) 262-3058.

## **2022 Chevy G3500 Passenger Bus**

Comes with a chair lift, seats 14, or 12  
with 2 wheel chairs. \$20,000. (406)  
932-5455.

## **1973 28' Red Dale 5th Wheel**

Sleeps 4, full bath, kitchen etc. Great for  
hunters or bunk house. \$2,450. (406)  
262-4466.

## **Birch Hutch**

Lots of storage, bottom has 4 drawers  
and 4 cupboards, upper portion has  
glass front. Length 6 ft. - Height 7 ft.  
\$250.00. (406) 376-3135.

## **Hydraulic Rock Picker**

\$1,750. (406) 670-9706.

## **Whole & Half Pork**

Processing dates of July, August, and  
September 2026. Raised in Havre, MT  
processed at the Pay-N-Save in Saco.  
(406) 230-2281.

## **Free Dogs**

1 English bulldog and 2 tea cup yorkies.  
(854) 737-3737.

## **Hundreds of free books and records**

Big Sandy Cultural Center. 79200 U.S.  
Highway 87, Big Sandy. (406) 378-2514.

## **1987 936 Versatile**

10,000 hour engine, hydraulics, injector  
pump reworked. (406) 390-3185.

## **FlexCoil 2320 45' Airdrill**

12" single shoot. Lots of new parts.  
(406) 390-3185.

## **Professional Chicken Cages**

Accommodates 550 Hens. \$800 each.  
(406) 945-2027.

## **Two Brandt 835 Augers**

New condition w/electric motors.  
\$6,000 each. (406) 945-2027.

## **1 year old Border Collie.**

Started on sheep, too much energy. No  
fear. Will be great on cows. Has had 2  
weeks professional training. Great with  
children and other dogs. Neutered,  
UTD on shots. \$950. Near Moore. (406)  
374-2406.

## **2015 Polaris 1000XP**

3,945 miles, 468 hrs. Handle bar &  
hand warmer, hard case lockable front  
rack, winch, 3/4 tread left, rear receiver,  
medium size trunk. \$7200. (406) 390-  
4077.

## **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  
\$15,000. (406) 547-2184.

## **1993 Ford Explorer**

Needs transmission, runs good, \$400.  
(406) 547-2184.

## **1996 Suburban**

Needs motor, \$400. (406) 547-2184.

## **Targhee Registered Rams**

Over 75+ years of genetics. Great  
longevity and will do their best for you  
and your flock! (406) 799-2379.

## **Small Square Wheat Straw Bales**

30lb average - \$3 each. Located in  
Havre. Call (406) 230-2281.

## **Cajun electric smoker with timer,**

thermostat, burns pellets. Asking \$75,  
call (406) 547-2184.

## **Mini Washing Machine For Sale**

Mini washing machine, capacity 1KA,  
B-Quick Bubbleator, portable, great  
for RV's or apartments. \$35.00. (406)  
547-2184.

## **Water Tank\***

Estimated 350-500 Gallons. (717) 994-  
5076.

## **Diamond Laser 3000 Glass Bandsaw**

Asking \$220. Call 406-547-2437.

## **Round bale wool sacker gas motor**

\$275 OBO. (406) 326-2287.

## **ISO Model T Car Body for Model T**

**Frame**  
(406) 945-2027.

## **Craftsman 28" Snowblower**

Electric start, 2 stage snowblower with  
tire chains. Only used twice. Asking  
\$500. (406)395-4581.

## **4 speed manual 350 V8**

Very nice condition, new GM engine  
and all new interior, no rust P.S.P.B. nice  
paint. runs great, long box. (406) 374-  
2458.

## **WANTED: Clamp bumper hitch.**

(VO type) with or without ball. For  
Shriner parade vehicle. (406) 390-  
3522.

## **Powder River Cattle Squeeze Chute**

(808) 391-0766.

## **Flexi-Coil Sprayer**

65XL Sprayer 130 ft booms, 1,000 gallon  
tanks, wind screens. \$750. (406)  
262.3969.

## **Sooner Aluminum 20 ft. Stock Trailer**

**Gooseneck**  
Asking \$8,000. (406) 326.2287.

## **12' Foot Dump Trailer with Split**

**Seasoned Ash**  
12' dump trailer of split seasoned ash,  
\$350.00. Delivered, not stacked.  
(406) 561-6315.

## **Toro Snowblower**

Very nice 21-inch, electric start Toro  
Snowblower, like new, asking \$375.  
(406) 378.3226.

## **Red Melroe 42' Cultivator**

Good shape. (406) 390-3185.

## **Greenhouse Windows**

Make offer. (406) 439-5456.

## **Two Horse Buggy Parts**

Free. (406) 439-5456.

*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 members 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 and if approved, the ad will be published. It will stay online for 1 year unless you notify us to remove or change it. Ads will also appear in our newsletters (space permitting). Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's issue. We reserve the right to abbreviate ads. **Happy swapping and shopping!***



HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY

**CASEY!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
**15 YEARS**  
OF SERVICE!



HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY

**CRAIG!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
**10 YEARS**  
OF SERVICE!



HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY

**ARICA!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
**10 YEARS**  
OF SERVICE!



### Triangle Fleet For Sale!

Call 406-394-2879 to schedule a test drive.

2007 GMC Sierra 3500HD SLE 4dr Extended Cab 4WD 6.0l diesel.

Includes pickup box.

195,368 miles.

**\$9,000.00**



### MYSTERY PHOTO AND TELCO QUIZ

Two Lucky Subscribers Per Issue Will Win \$25!

#1. How much in capital credits is returned to members annually?

\_\_\_\_\_

My name is:

\_\_\_\_\_



Mystery Photo

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

\_\_\_\_\_

My Triangle phone number is:

\_\_\_\_\_

Submit answers online at [www.itstriangle.com/telco-quiz](http://www.itstriangle.com/telco-quiz) or return this slip with your payment, or mail it to: Newsletter, Triangle Communications, PO Box 1220, Havre, MT 59501.

\*Submit answers before the next newsletter comes out to be entered into the current drawing.

**Congrats to the previous issue's winners:**

**Billy Scott  
and  
Shannon Sattlen**

