Keeping You CONNECTED NOV/DEC 2023 CEO Message, p. 6 Annual Meeting of Members, p. 5 Swap & Shop, p. 9

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OUR COVER

Jill Conover captured the colorful clouds and golden wheat field outside of Broadview. This photo received 6th place in Triangle's 2022 Photo Contest.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 23rd
& Friday November 24th

Christmas Day

New Year's Day

Please call 1-800-332-1201 24/7 to report any phone or Internet issues.

FEATURES

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CONTACT US

Call 406.394.7807 or 611 or 1.800.332.1201

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E-mail 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 **Website** www.itstriangle.com

/trianglecommunications







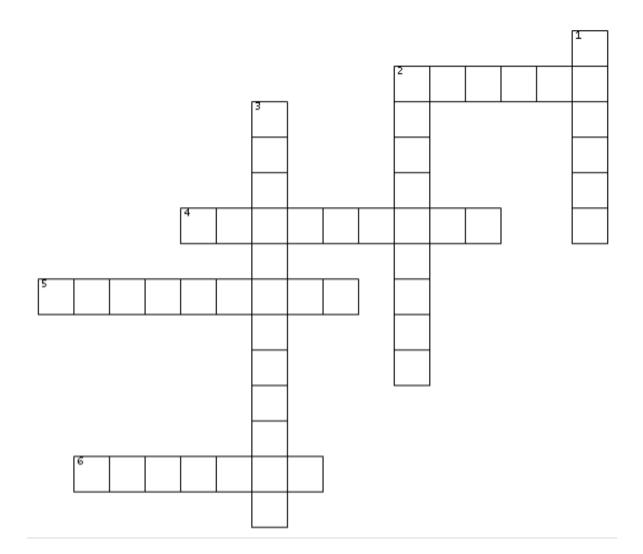
HARLOWTON CROSSWORD CLUES

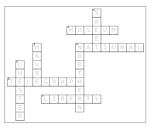
ACROSS

- 2. The town of was officially established in 1881, named for the breed of sheep run in the area by Charles Severance.
- 4. Harlowton is located in County.
- 5. is surrounded by the Crazy, Little Belt and Snowy Mountains, which are a part of the Lewis and Clark Forest.
- 6. The first railroad in the area was the Montana Railroad, nicknamed The Railroad.

DOWN

- Wheatland became the 41st county of Montana and Harlowton became the county seat.
- 2. In 1916, Harlowton became the eastern end of the Road's 438-mile electrified line between Harlowton and Avery, ID.
- 3. During the boom, Harlowton became the state's second-largest grain-shipping terminal.





ANSWERS
For the Sept/Oct
Chester Crossword

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.



EARN A FREE GIFT JUST FOR SHARING!



RECIPE

Cashew Green Beans

From the Recipes & Remembrances from the HCE/Triangle Relay for Life Team (2008)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ lbs. fresh green beans
- 3 Tbsp butter
- ½ tsp. fresh ground pepper
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, finely chopped
- 1 cup dry roasted cashews

DIRECTIONS

Trim and cut green beans into a 1 ½ inch pieces. Cook green beans in rapidly boiling water with salt in it. Cook until just tender (about 10 minutes). Drain, immerse in ice water, drain again, and set aside. In a medium saucepan, melt butter over medium-low heat. Add pepper and parsley and stir to blend. Add reserved beans and cook until thoroughly heated. Transfer to warm serving bowl and top with cashews.

RECIPE

Sour Cream Chocolate Cake

From HCE/Triangle Cooking for a Cure Cookbook

CAKE INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups sugar
- 34 cups butter
- 3 eaas
- 4 1/2 squares unsweetened chocolate, melted
- 3 3/4 cups flour, sifted
- 1 ½ tsp. baking soda
- 1 ½ cups sour cream
- 1 ½ tsp. vanilla
- 1 ½ cups boiling water

DIRECTIONS

Cream together sugar and butter. Mix in eggs. Stir in melted chocolate. Slowly add the flour, soda, and sour cream, alternating between the flour and sour cream. Gently mix in the vanilla and boiling water. Pour into a 9 x13 inch pan and bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes.

FUDGE FROSTING INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup butter
- 2 squares unsweetened chocolate
- 2 cups sugar
- ²/₃ cup milk, or canned condensed milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ tsp. salt

DIRECTIONS

Mix ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a boil. After boil, turn down and cook to soft boil stage, 225° to 235°. Don't stir while cooking. Cook to 150°. Add vanilla and salt. Hand beat until gloss is gone and it is spreadable.

RECIPE

Triple Layer Slow Cooker Lasagne

From HCE/Triangle Cooking for a Cure Cookbook

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. extra lean ground beef
- 1 (14 ½ oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 1 sm. onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup mushrooms, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced

9 no-boil lasagna noodles

- 1 (28 oz.) jar spaghetti sauce
- 2 (16-oz.) cups fat-free cottage cheese
- 2 cups reduced fat mozzarella cheese, shredded

DIRECTIONS

In a large nonstick skillet over medium heat, combine beef, tomatoes, onion, mushrooms, and garlic. Cook until meat is no longer pink. Coat slow cooker with cooking spray. Place 3 noodles, side by side, in the bottom of the cooker. Top with 1/3 of the spaghetti sauce, 1/3 of the beef mixture and 1/3 of the cheeses. Repeat layers two more times ending with mozzarella. Sprinkle parmesan on top. Cover and cook on low for 4 to 6 hours or until lasagna is hot and cheese in bubbly.

TELEMARKETING CALL **SCREENING IS FREE!**

Triangle Communications is excited to announce that all our residential phone members will now have telemarketing call screening for FREE, it was previously \$5 a month.

Triangle will offer this service to all of you starting 10/1/2023. This is an Opt-In program and once you enable the telemarketing call screening, it will stop calls from coming into your phone if they do not press "1" to get through before you answer the call.

Below is a limited FAQ on how to use the feature and more are available on our website and in your phone book.



Dial *95 and from the main menu press "6".

Once enabled, how will it affect people calling me?

Once you enable the feature on your line, the first time someone calls you they will receive a call screening message. After they get the message the first time, and press "1" when prompted by the call screening message, they will not need to do so again when calling from that number.

What numbers should I add before they call?

If you receive any automated calls, you need to ask them what number they call from and manually whitelist these numbers. Examples would be notifications from schools, emergency services, work, etc.

How do I add numbers before they call me, so they do not receive the call screening message?

Dial *95 to access the main menu and press"4" to add numbers to your known list. After pressing "4", you will be prompted to add the number to your list of allowed callers. Please make sure you press all ten (10)

digits for the number you are adding. You will receive a confirmation recording that the number was added. After the recording plays, you will be taken back to the main menu. To add another number, repeat the steps above.

What can I do if a telemarketer call makes it through the initial screening?

After hanging up the phone with them, press "0" and they will be added to the blocked list.





Win the trip of a lifetime!

The Foundation for Rural Service & **Triangle Communications proudly** sponsors up to 2 high school juniors each year for a trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. every summer. Any 16-17 year old high school JUNIOR who is a dependent of a subscriber who receives landline telephone or broadband services from Triangle Communications is eligible.

> **TOUR DATES:** June 3-7, 2024

The deadline to apply is December 1st

APPLY TODAY at www.itstriangle.com/youthtour

TRIANGLE'S 69TH ANNUAL **MEETING OF MEMBERS**



Triangle's 69th Annual Meeting of Members was held on Saturday, October 7th at the Student Union Building on the campus of MSU-Northern. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Richard Swartz, Vice President, gave the invocation.

Richard Stuker, President of the Triangle Board, welcomed all the member is attendance to the meeting including guests Montana State Senator Russ Tempel, Hill County Electric Trustee Nick Siebrasse and past Triangle trustee, Verlin Reichelt. President Stuker also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Stuker talked about the history of Triangle Telephone and what a strong advocate Tom Bangs has been for the Cooperative. Triangle's acquisition of the former US West exchanges tied the Triangle north and south exchanges together allowing Triangle to begin the fiber to the home projects across our service area. Had Triangle not pushed to get mobile and fixed wireless, other cooperatives and the bigger companies wouldn't have. Over the years Tom held the President, Vice President, and Treasurer positions on the Triangle Board.



CEO Craig Gates shared that the Triangle Board decided to hold one Annual Meeting in Havre this year. In place of a second meeting Triangle has been holding events called Bits & Bytes. These events are held to keep our membership informed on how the Cooperative is doing. Triangle held these events at the same time as football games in Big Timber and Harlowton, where both schools playing were served by Triangle to reach more of our members.

Mr. Gates also shared that the FCC gave Triangle the



opportunity to take a different form of Universal Service Funding in the form of a new program called Enhanced A-CAM. The funding model gives Triangle certainty on

a level of support for 15 years. It will also help the Cooperative to complete our remaining fiber to the home projects. The fiber to the home projects being constructed in 2023 include South Chester, Geraldine, and portions of the Big Timber exchange. Hays, Martinsdale, Springdale, plus the final section of Big Timber are planned to be completed in 2024.

Also announced by Mr. Gates, was that after last year's questions about robocalls, the Board elected to give all members Telemarketing Call Screening free of charge. starting on October 1. It has been added to member's accounts to be activated by them at any time you wish, free of charge.

Prize drawings were held for members in attendance.

Triangle also held an election for District 1 and District 3. Rich Swartz was the sole candidate for District 1 and Eric Hanson





and Michael Ladenburg were nominated for District 3. All three Trustee nominees were present and spoke to the membership. Mail-in ballots and votes from members at the meeting determined the outcome. The results were as follows:

District #1 Richard Swartz

District #3 Eric Hanson

Members at the Annual Meeting voted for their favorite photo in our annual photo contest. Congratulations to the winners:

- 1st Place Crystal Stepper
- 2nd Place Ashley Norboe
- 3rd Place Jessica Ophus
- 4th Place Stephanie Genereux
- 5th Place Emily Scofield
- 6th Place Ashlee Ophus

Another great year and thank you to everyone who attended the Triangle Annual Meeting!

CEO MESSAGE

SAVE A LIFE: AVOID DISTRACTIONS WHILE DRIVING



Craig Gates General Manager/CEO

While driving, we typically hear that "ding" on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn't, but we reason that we're going to make an exception—just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are betterthan-average drivers. Afterall, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates potential for injuries

and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist's attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we'd simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone without being hands-free, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one

Play it safe. That text can wait.



While driving, turn phone to silent mode or pull over if the text can't wait.

of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 70 mph that is one tenth of a mile. That is a lot of roads covered without any eyes on the road or hands covering the wheel of the vehicle.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads

safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency and utility vehicles. If you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, it is now the law in Montana that you must move over and slow down and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Triangle Communications, safety is foremost in everything we do for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. It is Triangle Communications' policy that there will be no texting and driving. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you'll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let's work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. **Remember: that** text can wait and waiting just might save a life. If it is that important, pull over in a safe spot, stop the vehicle, read the text and return the text if necessary before you get back on the road.

Don't put your life or others' lives in danger.

As always, stay safe and stay healthy!



It's time to enjoy complete home coverage with a better Wi-Fi experience.

Improved Router

State-of-the-art equipment for the best Wi-Fi experience.

Complete Wi-Fi Coverage Professional Installation **Network Optimization**

Simple & Functional

We'll take care of all the technicalities.

24/7 Support **Advanced Security Features Maximum Performance**

Full home coverage

Wi-Fi Extenders are available to give you complete coverage.

No Dead Spots Wireline Maintenance **Help Connecting Future Devices**

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COMMUNITY WI-FI

Community Wi-Fi locations are spread throughout our service area. We have Wi-Fi available at the Central Offices in each of our exchange as well as the business areas in Big Timber and Fort Benton. This service was set up as a member benefit so members can connect any device while close to a Community Wi-Fi location. The member's Username and Password(s) to connect are printed on your bill each month. Non-members can connect as well and they can sign up for a hour, day, week or month of service.

WHAT MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

- All devices currently connected to the Community Wi-Fi will be disconnected
- Members will have to re-log in with the Username and Password located on their bill.
- Non-members will have to sign up for a package or service through us (things like TV's are connected currently).

The page for Community Wi-Fi page on our website has been updated with information on how the Community Wi-Fi (https://www.itstriangle.com/ services/misc/community-wifi) works for members and non-members.



SWAP AND SHOP

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members! 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 month's magazine. *Denotes photo available on website

Check out the current version online at www.itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop!

Sheetrock Lift

Heavy Duty sheetrock lift. Asking \$500, call 406.945.3764.

Men's and Women's Golf Clubs

One set of men's golf clubs, left-handed and one set of women's golf clubs, right-handed. Both only used once, asking \$50 each, call 406.945.3764.

1995 Bounder Class A Motorhome*

36ft Bounder Class A Motorhome with only 53,000 miles, diesel pusher, LP generator, all new tires, 2 filled propane tanks, 3-way refrigerator/freezer. 3 burner stove/oven, microwave, queen bed, shower/bath/toilet, 2 AC units, LP furnace, lots of storage, well kept interior. Asking \$23,000, call 406.357.3491.

Whole & Half Pork For Sale

Farm raised in Havre, processed at the Saco Pay and Save. Taking pre-orders for July 2024 processing & October 2024 processing season. Whole pork \$450 plus processing fees, half pork \$250 plus processing fees. You receive approx. 150lbs of meat per whole hog. Delivering processed meat locally and between Saco and Havre on pickup day. Contact Josh or Twyla Knudson by email: noneckfarms@gmail. com or call or text 406.230.2281.

Flexicoil S1070 Sprayer

2009 model, 1600-gallon tank, tire size 480/80R38, \$10.500 or best offer, call 406.262.3395.

Two Flexicoil Sprayers

567 XL models, 120 ft booms, 1 in good shape and one use for parts. Asking \$10,000 or best offer. Call 406.262.3395.

Winkel Portable Cattle Chute

Has options, 30-inch swing gate like brand new, stored inside. Asking \$4250 or best offer. Call 406.262.3395.

1984 Styger Panther Series IV

KM360 4-wheel drive, SF4 Hydraulics and 8500 hrs. Stored inside for 10 years, new batteries, runs good. Asking \$33,500 or best offer. Call 406.262.3395.

Rapelje 12th Annual Holiday Fair

The 12th Annual Holiday Fair will take place at the Rapelje School (located in the town of Rapelje) Gymnasium on Sunday, November 12, 2023 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Money raised will go towards scholarships. There will be raffles, door prizes and wonderful food during the event. Admission is \$1.

Ford Escape Parts Vehicle

2001 Ford Escape parts vehicle. Body and all glass in excellent condition, 4 Wheel Drive is good. Engine blown. Asking \$800, call 406 355 4123

Cooper Tires

2001 Ford Escape parts vehicle. Body and all glass in excellent condition, 4 Wheel Drive is good. Engine blown. Asking \$800, call 406.355.4123.

Adjustable Bed for Sale

Still in box-new, twin-size adjustable bed (knees, head raise and lower). Price new was \$855, make a reasonable offer. Call 406.262.0603.

Puppies For Sale*

LGD Anatolian/Karakachan puppies. Call 406.931.0225.

1989 Dodge D100

318V8, auto, short box, all original, 88k very scarce, runs great. Call 406.350.1392.

Wheat Straw Bales

Small square wheat bales, out 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.

Stained Glass Set Up

Two grinder, more than 50 lbs glass, misc. tools, foil, solder, etc. \$250, call 406.861.3885.

Metal Swing For Sale

Metal swing set with slide and quart canning jars. Call 406.379.2695, leave a message with name and number.

7Up Refrigerated Cooler and more

Nice original 7up soda pop refrigerator cooler out of an old grocery store, asking \$650. Also have Cushman scooter parts for sale. Firebird original snowflake wheels, \$350.00. call 406.350.1392.

Craftsman Zero Turn Mower

42", 22 HP, 130 hours, rear bagger. Asking \$1.800. call 406.378.31222.

Boys Bike and Misc For Sale

Boys bike, needs tire repaired, \$100. Brown barrell chair, \$129. Lowry Holiday Organ, Yamaha Digital Piano, \$500, Call 406.366.4625.

2005 Crestliner 1950 Sportfish*

Purchased new in 2009, one owner, Includes a boat cover, 200-horsepower Mercury Motor. one 9.9 Mercury Kicker motor, a 24-volt trolling motor, and 2 depth finders. Many accessories included, call 406.262.4015 or see in person at 700 Cleveland Road.

Wheat Straw Bales

Small square wheat bales, out 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.

In Search of Pickups and Parts

1949 to 1959 Chevrolet or GMC 1/2 ton pickup or just parts. Call 406.326.2287.

Sanger Speedboat

Sanger Speed boat with 440 Chrysler engine. Asking \$5,500 or best offer. Call Lenard at 406 378 2572

2016 Starweld Boat

18 Pro Merc 150 (20 hrs) Merc 9.9 kicker, minnkota troll. 4 seats, ram mount rod holders. bimini top, travel cover, shorelander trailer. Asking \$32,000, call 406,566,2426.

1980 Case 446 Tractor

1980 Case 446 tractor 2 cycle, 16hp, hydro with 48-inch mower. New battery, always stored inside, nice tires, set and paint. Call Mike at 406.374.2458.

1979 CJ5 Jeep with Winch

1980 Case 446 tractor 2 cycle, 16hp, hydro with 48-inch mower. New battery, always stored inside, nice tires, set and paint. Call Mike at 406.374.2458.

Tires For Sale

Four 33x12.50R17 General Grabbers at 95% on black aluminum rims, 5x5.5 bolt pattern. Asking \$1,200, call 406.566.2274.

*indicates photo available to view on the website version.

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!

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

MYSTERY PHOTO AND TELCO QUIZ

TWO LUCKY SUBSCRIBERS PER ISSUE WILL WIN \$25!

We received 87 entries that correctly answered the Telco Quiz and identified the Mystery Photo as one of Triangle's Youth Tour Winners in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to Jean Raprager and Gregory Bohn who were randomly drawn to receive a \$25 credit on their next Triangle bill.

Try your luck with this issue's guiz and mystery photo shown on the right.



#1. What is cost of Teler	narkerter Call Sci	reening?		CON
#2. Mystery Photo (right):		FU	COMM
My name is:				
My Triangle phone numb	er is			
Yes! I want to receive e-address is:		•	events or deals in r	ny area. My e-mail
	. D	22 to be eligible.	for the drawing. Ple	aca ratura thia alia





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