

Keeping You **CONNECTED**

MARCH/APRIL 2025



CEO Message, pg. 5

Backup Battery Notice, pg. 6

Scholarship & Grant, pg. 8



CONTENTS



OUR COVER

2024 2nd Place Photo Contest Winner:
Russ Hanson

FEATURES

- 2 **Public Relations and Education**
- 3 **Cook's Connection**
Dishing up our Readers' Best Recipes
- 4 **Building Community Connections**
- 5 **CEO's Message**
- 6 **Backup Battery Customer Notice**
- 7 **Call 811 Before Digging**
- 8 **2025 Youth Tour Winners**
- 9 **Swap & Shop**
- 10 **Pay-By-Phone number changed**



**HAPPY WORK
ANNIVERSARY
CRYSTAL!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
10 YEARS
OF SERVICE!



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
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

[f/trianglecommunications](https://www.facebook.com/trianglecommunications)

[@ItsTriangle](https://twitter.com/ItsTriangle)

[You Tube @ItsTriangle](https://www.youtube.com/ItsTriangle)

[in triangle-communications](https://www.linkedin.com/company/triangle-communications)

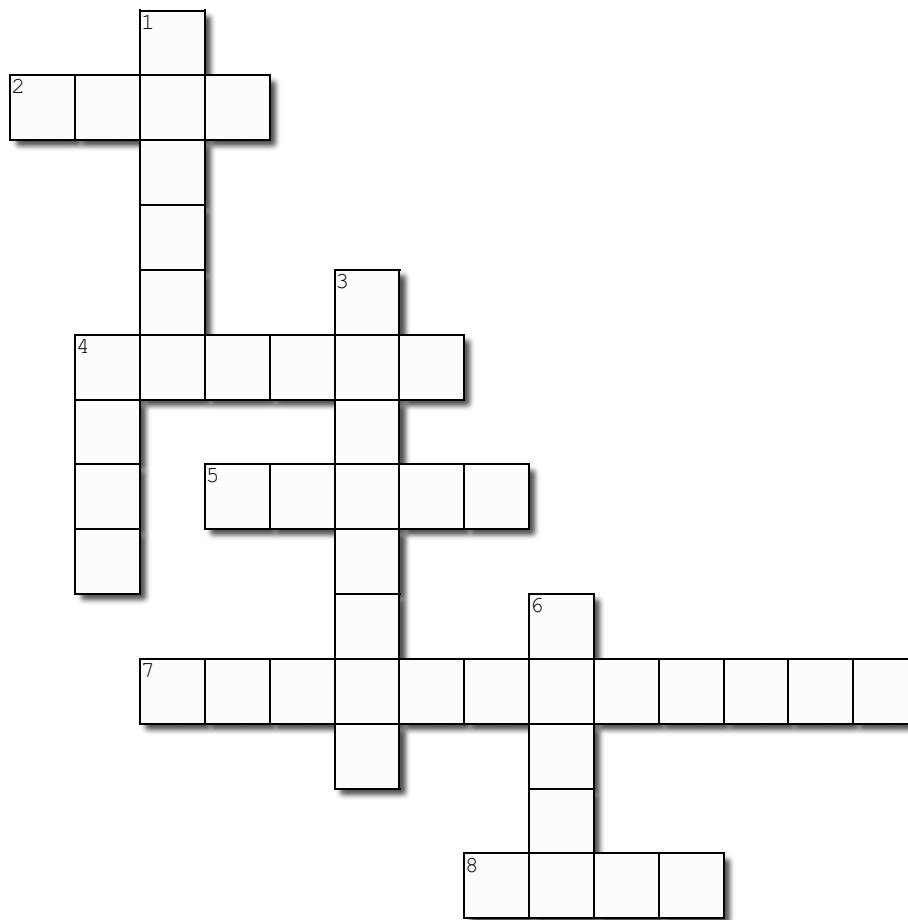
ACROSS

- ## DOWN

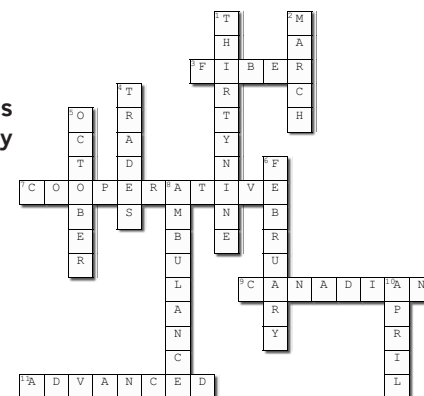
- Use the clues to fill in the words above.**

Words can go across or down.

Letters are shared when the words intersect.



Triangle Communications Trivia 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

Lemon Poppy Seed Cake

Makes 1 cake

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pkg. lemon cake mix
- 1 sm. pkg. instant lemon pudding
- ½ cup oil
- 1 cup water
- 4 eggs
- ¼ cup poppy seeds

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. With a mixer, beat all ingredients together until well blended.
3. Grease a bundt pan and pour in cake mixture.
4. Bake for 45 minutes.
5. Dust with powdered sugar before serving.

RECIPE

Hamburger Soup

from HCE/Triangle Relay for Life Team Cookbook

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1 lb. hamburger | 2 beef bouillon cubes |
| 1 cup chopped onion | 1 cup shredded raw cabbage |
| ½ cup chopped celery | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 Tbsp. butter | ½ tsp. chili powder |
| 1 qt. tomato juice
or sauce diluted with
water to make 1 qt. | 3 cups water |

DIRECTIONS

1. Brown and drain hamburger.
2. Sauté onion and celery in butter.
3. Add the rest and simmer until cabbage is done.
4. You can also add a can of diced tomatoes and carrots.

RECIPE

Oh Henry Bars

from HCE/Triangle Relay for Life Team Cookbook

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 4 cups oatmeal
- ½ cup corn syrup
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 (12 oz.) pkg. chocolate chips
- ¾ cup creamy peanut butter

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine the first four ingredients and press into a greased 13 x 9-inch pan.
2. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes.
3. In a saucepan, melt chocolate chips and peanut butter together.
4. Pour over the oatmeal mixture while hot.
5. Cut and cool.

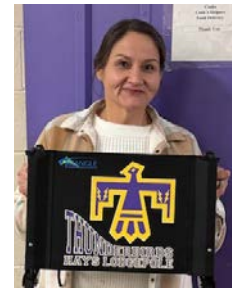
Lemon Poppy Seed Cake



Building Community Connections through Partnerships with Local High Schools

Triangle Communications is committed to giving back to the community. One way the company demonstrates this commitment is through partnerships with local high schools. Triangle recently participated in 12 high school basketball games, interacting with over 2000 members and member-dependents. By attending basketball games, Triangle staff can engage directly with members, answer any questions and thank them for their trust in Triangle as their phone and internet provider.

Triangle looks forward to continuing its commitment of community and member engagement. Below are a few photos of some of our stadium chair winners.





Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF RURAL BROADBAND:

COOPERATIVES, USF REFORM, AND A LANDMARK COURT CASE

Rural broadband cooperatives like Triangle Communications provide vital communication services to the communities that we serve. We are facing a critical juncture this year with a renewed focus on Universal Service Fund (USF) reform.

USF has historically played a crucial role in supporting infrastructure development in rural areas, making it possible for us to reach the communities you live in. The current system is facing increased scrutiny and currently being challenged at the Supreme Court.

The challenge originated in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, where the court questioned the fundamental legal authority of certain FCC decisions regarding USF. The case quickly escalated to the Supreme Court, where it now sits awaiting a decision. The Supreme Court's ruling will hold far-reaching implications for the USF and the country.

The legal battle has sparked intense debate and engagement from industry organizations. NTCA, the Rural Broadband Association, has been vocal in its assessment of the case. NTCA has expressed concern about preserving the essential purpose of the USF: ensuring that all Americans, regardless of location, have access to essential communications services. They have also focused on the uncertainty created by the court challenge, emphasizing the potential disruption

to broadband expansion plans if fundamental funding mechanisms are altered.

Similarly, WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband, has also commented on the potential far-reaching consequences of this legal action. Aligning closely with NTCA, WTA has underscored the constitutionality, and importance of a predictable robust USF for deploying broadband in the most challenging rural areas. They highlight the crucial role the fund plays in bridging the digital divide and enabling economic opportunity in rural communities.

Next Steps:

- **Stay informed:** Follow reliable news sources and industry publications concerning the Supreme Court decision and USF reform.
- **Be ready to engage with your cooperative:** Watch our Facebook page and website to find out when we need you to speak up for USF.
- **When needed we will contact our representatives:** We will share when and who you need to contact when and if we need your support to fight for USF.

As the CEO of Triangle, I am actively monitoring the court case and the progress of USF reform efforts. I am also on the regulatory committees for both NTCA and WTA and will continue to be involved to keep your best interests at heart and in the forefront of my mind and actions.

Triangle Communications Backup Battery Customer Notice 2025

Traditional Residential Voice: For many years, your home telephone would allow you to stay connected to emergency voice services during a power outage. However, if your residential voice telephone service is provided using fiber optics or fixed wireless rather than the traditional copper-based line, then your residential voice telephone service requires backup battery power to continue functioning during an outage. To avoid a disruption of home voice service during an outage and to maintain the ability to connect to 911 emergency services during an outage, Triangle Communications provides you with a battery for the backup power for your residential voice telephone service at the time of the initial installation at no additional cost.

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP Service): Voice service that is delivered over the Triangle Communications network to the home via an Internet connection is a VoIP service. VoIP service subscribers have the option to purchase an Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) battery backup from Triangle Communications or provide their own. The UPS battery backup obtained through Triangle will provide power for approximately 2 hours of

talk time with 8 hours of standby time for VoIP service during a power outage. However, without this battery backup this service (including dialing 911) will not function during a power outage. Subscribers may purchase a longer-lasting UPS from Triangle, if desired. Subscribers will own the battery backup and are responsible for the maintenance and replacement of the unit.

What Your Battery Can and Can't Do for You: The backup battery provided by Triangle Communications is not a substitute for commercial/ primary power at a location. The backup battery is for powering the fiber optic or fixed wireless network terminal providing traditional residential voice service during a power outage. Without a backup battery or alternate backup source such as a generator, customers with fiber or fixed wireless based residential telephone service will not be able to make any calls, including emergency calls to 911. The only way to maintain the ability to use your telephone is by using some form of backup power. Our backup battery does not provide power to any services other than voice. All Internet services are turned off in the network terminal after 5 minutes of power outage to better conserve battery power for traditional voice service. Home security systems, cordless phones, medical monitoring devices, and other equipment will not run on a residential voice telephone backup battery.

Replacement Options: As previously noted, a backup battery has been provided by Triangle Communications during the initial installation of traditional residential voice services. However, the battery provided by our company may need to be replaced every two or three years or when the battery is no longer functioning.

- Triangle Communications provided replacement backup batteries — Triangle Communications will provide and install at no cost to you, a replacement backup battery, upon appointment, when it becomes known that the battery needs to be replaced. If you have any questions, please call 1-800-332-1201, or email techsupport@itstriangle.net. Additional backup batteries to be stored in your home may be purchased from our company. Our 8-hour backup batteries cost approximately \$30 each and can be purchased at our warehouse location in Havre, Montana or one can be shipped directly to your home, for an additional charge.
- Third Party provided spare backup batteries — You can also purchase additional spare backup batteries to keep on hand in your home through many local retailers such as Best Buy or online. Please contact our company and we will gladly provide you with the information you need to ensure that you purchase a quality battery model that meets the requirements for powering your network terminal.

Expected Backup Power Duration: Backup batteries are expected to provide at least 8 hours of standby power. The backup battery should give you at least 2 hours of talk time. If you feel that is not enough time, you may extend your standby power by purchasing from our company or a third-party additional spare 8-hour batteries.

A 24-hour battery back-up unit is also available for an additional charge. This unit provides 24 hours of standby power and at least 5 hours of talk time. If you feel this is a better option for you, you can purchase this unit from us for approximately \$240.

Instructions for Proper Care and Use: Please follow the more detailed instructions included with your battery for proper use, storage, and care of your battery to ensure that it will function as needed during a power outage. If you do not store your battery correctly, it may shorten its useful life. Environmental factors such as temperature can shorten your battery's useful life. We recommend that you store your battery above 41°F and below 104°F. These batteries are rechargeable. They will not last forever and should be replaced every 2 to 3 years, or when your device starts to make a loud beeping sound. That sound means that the battery is depleted and must be replaced. You should also periodically, as described in the instructions included with your battery, remove and test your battery to verify both the operation of the backup battery and its condition.

ALWAYS CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING

DO I HAVE TO GET UNDERGROUND

FACILITIES LOCATED? YES! Whether you are a professional excavator, a farmer, or a homeowner – If you are digging or placing any object in the ground, you are required to get marks indicating the location of underground utilities. The person doing the excavating is the person that has to make the call.

Montana Law, Annotated Code, 69-4-502 states: "...an excavator may not make or begin an excavation without first obtaining information concerning the possible location of an underground facility from each public utility, municipal corporation, underground facility owner, or other person having the right to bury underground facilities that is a member of a one-call notification center"

Montana Law, Annotated Code, 69-4-503 states: "Before beginning an excavation, the excavator shall notify, through a one-call notification center, all owners of underground facilities in the area of the proposed excavation."

THERE ARE ALREADY MARKS THERE FROM AN EARLIER LOCATE, CAN I USE THEM? NO!

You may not use someone else's locate marks. You don't know how old they are and if they are still valid or not. Things can change over time or it may not cover the same area that you are digging in.

CAN I USE A COMPUTER TO REQUEST A LOCATE? YES, YOU CAN.

Visit call811.com, hover over "Start Here" on the menu at the top

of the screen, then select either Homeowner or Excavator. In the drop-down, choose Submit A Locate Request.

WHAT IS 811? 811 is the national number designated by the Federal Communications Commission to help protect do-it-yourselfers, landscapers and contractors from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects – large and small.

WHY CALL 811? Every digging project requires a call to 811. Hitting an underground utility line while digging can cause damage to the environment, serious personal injuries, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially incur fines and repair costs.

WHEN TO CALL 811?

- Installing a rural mailbox
- Putting in a fence
- Planting trees or shrubbery
- Building a patio or deck
- Excavating a new garden area

** These are a few common examples of when to call. You or your contractor should call at least 2 business day before any digging project.*

HOW DOES 811 WORK? One easy phone call to 811, at least 2 business days prior to digging, starts the process of getting your underground utility lines marked for free.

When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, a representative from your local one call center will answer your call. Local one call center

Always Call
Before You Dig.



Visit call811.com for more information.

representative will ask you for the location and description of your digging job, and will notify affected utility companies, who will then send a professional locator to the proposed dig site to mark the approximate location of your lines within a few days of your call.

Once your underground lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T CALL? There is one unintentional hit every three minutes, which can lead to injury, repair costs, fines and expensive and inconvenient outages.

37% of these incidents are caused due to a failure to call 811 before digging. Another 37% are due to not digging safely around the marks.

Knowing approximately where underground utility lines are buried before each digging project helps to prevent these situations.

2025 TRIANGLE YOUTH TOUR WINNERS

Congratulations to **Kylie Ricci** & **Lexi BahnMiller** for being selected to travel to Washington, D.C. for this year's Youth Tour!

To learn more, visit
www.itstriangle.com/youthtour



UPCOMING YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY DEADLINES

SCHOLARSHIPS

Triangle Communications has excellent opportunities available to help with education expenses. Triangle has recognized a growing need for more people entering the trades and has added a new scholarship this year.

For High School Seniors

Up to 12 senior scholarships - \$2,000 recurring up to 4 years.

For College Undergrads

Up to 12 undergrad scholarships -
\$2,000 recurring up to 3 years.

For Trade School

Up to 5 trade school scholarships - \$2,000 recurring up to 2 years.

Visit www.itstriangle.com/scholarships for details

APPLY BY APRIL 1ST!

BEEF GRANT

Each year Triangle Communications purchases 4-H livestock at local fairs in our service areas. With these purchases, we provide **8 grants for a ¼ beef.**

Non-profit organizations in our service areas can apply for a beef grant to be used in their daily operations or to be used as a fundraiser.



Visit www.itstriangle.com/beefgrant for details

APPLY BY APRIL 1ST!

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! 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

Complete Stained Glass Crafting System for Sale

Includes grinder, foiler, scoring machine, cutting pad and many tools. Also glass. Call for details, asking \$200. Call 406.547.2184.

Wilray Flat Be Trailer*

Wilray Flat Bed Trailer, \$2,400, Deck size 81"x10'. Torsion bar, 3500 lbs. axle. Extra cross stringers, 2011 model. Spare tire included. Call 406.437.1187.

Toro Snowblower

Very nice 21-inch, electric start Toro Snowblower, like new, asking \$375, call 406.378.3226.

2015 F250 Platinum Crew Cab Diesel

2015 F250 Platinum Crew Cab Diesel, black, 111,000 miles. Asking \$36,900, call 406.945.2180.

Livestock Guardian Pups*

Anatolian Shepherd/Karakachan. Guard goats, sheep, chickens, cows and kittens. Call or text 931-0225 or email Hoofnpawsworkingstock@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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. 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 Rare Cultivator

Rare 60 ft Cultivator, Morris. Model CP-760 Magnum. Harrows included. Asking \$7,500. Call 406-262-4466.

Hydrofarm Grow Light Fixtures

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

Hamburger For Sale

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

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.

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, 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, 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.

(855) 940-3815

TRIANGLE PAYMENT OPTIONS



Online Bill Pay



Mail Your Payment



Paperless Billing



Auto-Pay



E-Check



SmartHub®



Night Drop



Pay-by-Phone
(855) 940-3815

MYSTERY PHOTO AND TELCO QUIZ

Two Lucky Subscribers Per Issue Will Win \$25!



Two Chances to Win!

#1. How many members and non-members have we interacted with
at our recent basketball game Meet & Greets?

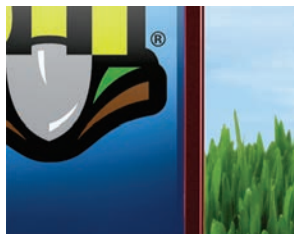
#2. What is the mystery photo from in this issue?:

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 April 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.



*Congrats to our
January/February
Mystery Photo & Quiz
\$25 Winners*

Alice Green
• and •
**Jack & Lynda
Barnhart**



PO BOX 1140
2121 US HWY 2 NW
HAVRE, MT 59501-1140

1.800.332.1201 | Itstriangle.com

PRSRT MKTG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
THOMAS PRINTING
59901

Serving friends and
neighbors for 70 years

Internet you can count on



Upgrade and get a \$50 bill credit or a FREE Roku!*

**Restrictions may apply. Contact us for details.*

