

Keeping You **CONNECTED**

MARCH/APRIL 2026



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OUR COVER

Photo by Vivian Bruckner

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C	W	L	S	M	Y	E	F	K	W	W	A	L	R	B	X	M	G	F	X
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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	L	L	B
C	V	A	U	L	D	L	A	N	G	S	Y	N	E	T	V	K	G	W	V
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A	P	A	R	T	Y	B	P	P	D	N	V	E	P	Q	Z	Y	V	J	T
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SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES ARE QUICKLY APPROACHING!

Apply by 4/1

Visit
itstriangle.com/scholarships
to apply today!

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

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

Website www.itstriangle.com



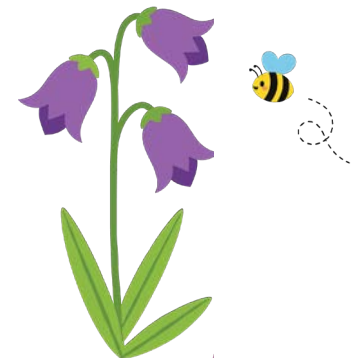
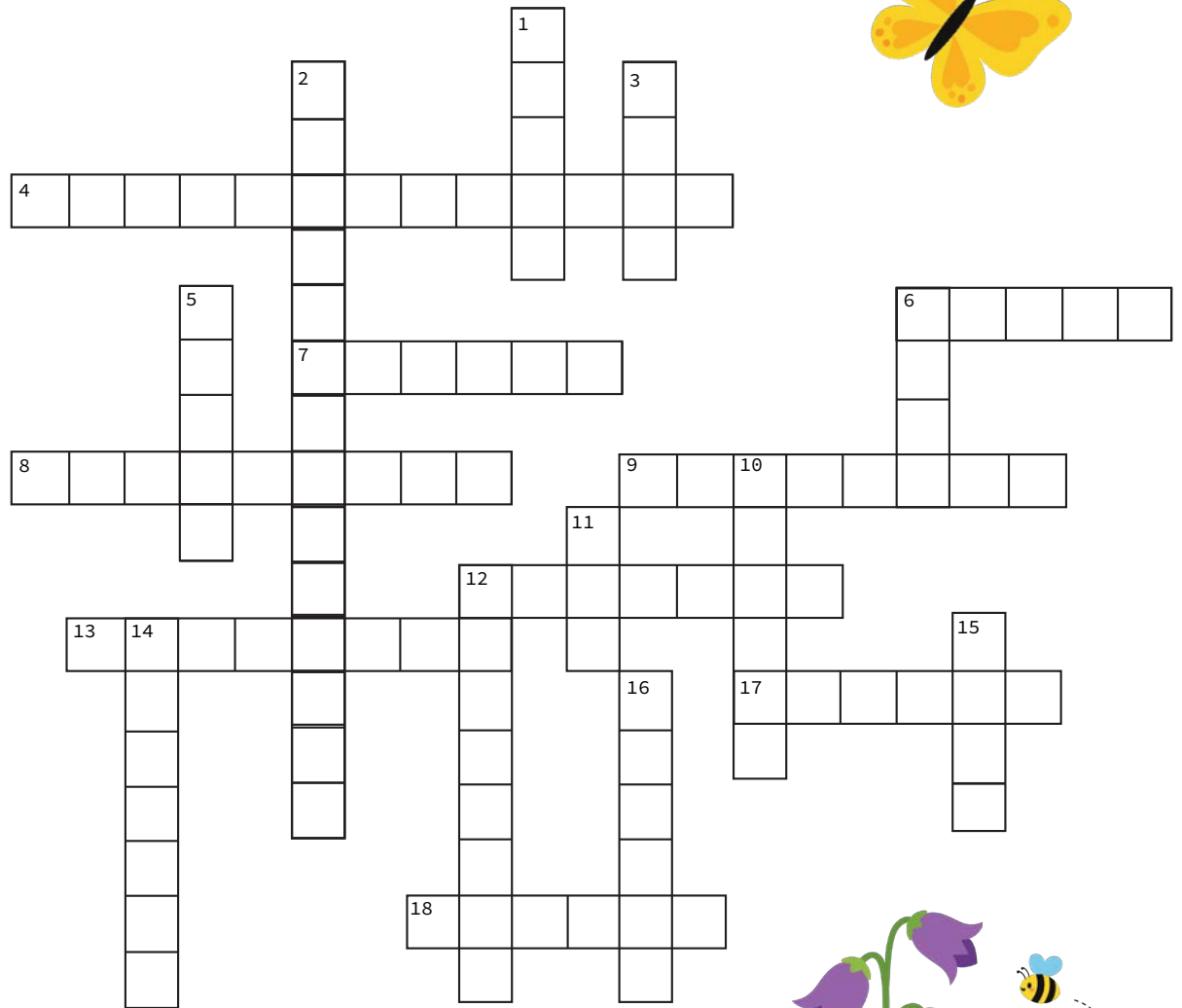
Spring Crossword

Down:

1. To flower
2. Process plants rely on more as days lengthen
3. Common spring weather
5. Color of new growth
6. Animal often heard in spring mornings
10. Spring bloom
11. Source of warmer days
12. April environmental observance
14. What many birds do in spring
15. Birds build this in spring
16. Powder carried by bees

Across:

4. Caterpillar's spring transformation
6. Animal associated with Easter
7. Season after winter
8. What some animals stop doing in spring
9. Classic yellow spring flower
12. Day when light and dark are nearly equal
13. Useful during spring showers
17. Spring holiday
18. Place to plant flowers or vegetables



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

RECIPE

CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

Ingredients

2 – Cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
1 – Redbell pepper, seeds, and ribs removed, coarsely chopped
1/2 – Yellow onion, coarsely chopped
1Tbsp. – Neutral oil

1 tsp. – Ground cumin
2 – (10-oz.) cans enchilada sauce.
1 – 8 oz.- Canned crushed tomatoes
3 Cups – Cooked, shredded chicken
1/4 Cup – Chopped cilantro, plus more for serving.
8 oz. – Shredded cheddar (about 2

cups), divided.
8 oz. – Shredded Monterey Jack (about 2 cups), divided.
Kosher salt
8 – (8”) Flour or corn tortillas, warmed.
Sour Cream & Lime Wedges, for serving

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a food processor, pulse garlic, bell pepper, and onion until finely chopped. In large skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add onion mixture and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, 6 to 8 minutes. Add cumin and cook, stirring until fragrant, about 1 minute more. Stir in enchilada sauce and tomatoes and cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until warmed through, about 2 minutes. Reserve 3/4 cup sauce mixture for topping enchiladas. In a medium bowl, combine chicken, cilantro, 1 cup Cheddar, and 1 cup Monterey Jack. Add 1 cup of sauce mixture and toss: season with salt. Spread remaining sauce mixture in the bottom of a 13” – by – 9” baking dish, sprayed with non-stick spray. Spoon about 2/3 cup of chicken mixture into the center of a warmed tortilla. Roll up tortillas and arrange seam side down on top of sauce along one short side of baking dish. Repeat with the remaining filling and tortillas, placing each filled tortilla next to the last to form a row that stretches the length of the dish. Spread reserved sauce mixture on top of tortillas. Sprinkle with remaining Cheddar and Monterey Jack Cheese. Bake enchiladas until cheese is bubbling and melted, 15-20 minutes. Top with sour cream and cilantro. Serve with lime wedges alongside.

RECIPE

WHITE CHOCOLATE LUCKY CHARM TREATS

Ingredients

6 cups – Lucky Charms Cereal
1/4 cup – unsalted butter
10-ounce bag of marshmallows (mini size or regular)
Optional – pinch of salt
2-4-ounce white chocolate bars, coarsely chopped. Can also use almond bark.

Directions

Line a 9 – inch baking pan with parchment paper. Lightly grease parchment. Set aside. Melt butter over medium heat in a large pot. Once melted, add the marshmallows and salt. Stir the mixture until the marshmallows are completely melted. Remove from heat and then fold in the cereal. Make sure each piece of cereal is coated with marshmallow mixture. Transfer mixture to prepared pan. Use a greased flat spatula to gently press the mixture down into the pan. Lightly press down until it is secure and even in the pan. Allow treats to set for at least 2 hours at room temperature. Lift the cereal treats out of the pan using the edges of the parchment paper. Cut into squares. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Set aside. Melt the white chocolate in a double boiler on the stove or simply use the microwave. Dip the bottom of the treat into white chocolate. Place white chocolate side up on prepared baking sheet. Allow chocolate to set at room temperature for about 1 hour or refrigerate for 20 minutes. Cover and store treats at room temperature for up to 3 days. To store, place in an airtight container, with sheets of wax paper between layers.

Chicken Enchiladas



CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES COURTSIDE

Triangle Communications is proud to support the communities we serve by staying actively involved in local events and schools. During this past basketball season, Triangle staff attended 12 high school basketball games, connecting with more than 2,500 members and member-dependents across the service area.

Being present at these games allowed Triangle team members to engage directly with attendees, answer questions, and personally thank members for choosing Triangle as their trusted phone and internet provider. As part of our commitment to giving back, Triangle also gave away stadium chairs throughout the season, adding a small but meaningful way to enhance the game-day experience for fans.

Triangle remains committed to community involvement and values every opportunity to support local schools and connect with members.





Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

CEO MESSAGE

A Milestone Year for Triangle Communications

The year 2025 marked a significant milestone for Triangle Communications (Triangle). A vision set in motion in the early 2000's was to bring fiber-optic service to every member. Today, 100 percent of Triangle members are served by fiber optics.

This achievement reflects decades of leadership, foresight, and dedication. We extend our deepest gratitude to past and present trustees and employees whose commitment made this vision possible. Equally important, we thank our members and the landowners who partnered with us to extend fiber across our 24,000 square-mile service territory.

As we continue to focus on delivering the services our members rely on while remaining strong community partners, Triangle has taken another historic step to ensure the long-term stability of the cooperative.

Universal Service Fund (USF) support has been a topic of discussion with our members for many years. USF remains critical to our ability to provide telecommunications services in our rural communities. In 2023, Triangle faced an important decision regarding the future of our USF

participation. A new participation model was introduced, bringing with it additional build-out obligations but also long-term certainty.

By electing to participate in the Enhanced A-CAM model, Triangle secured support certainty for the next 15 years. We officially entered this model on January 1, 2024.

The Enhanced A-CAM program includes build-out requirements in our service area. These requirements extend service to locations that have not previously requested it. The obligations must be completed by December 31, 2028, with specific benchmarks along the way. Meeting these requirements will require hundreds of miles of construction.

While the annual construction mileage is lower than recent years, the work presents new challenges. Previous construction was concentrated within geographic exchange areas, allowing for greater efficiencies in travel, setup, construction and tear down. Under the new model, projects are more dispersed, requiring additional time and coordination.

For the next several years, our team will remain focused on meeting these critical build-out requirements. During this time, some new service requests may take additional coordination as we prioritize construction milestones tied to the Enhanced A-CAM program. Staying on schedule is essential to protecting the funding that makes this expansion possible for our members.

We sincerely appreciate our members' continued support as we work toward this next major milestone for the cooperative. As always, our staff and leadership team are available to answer questions and provide information. Thank you for your patronage and thank you for your continued support.

Be safe and stay healthy!

UPCOMING YOUTH & COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarships

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 1/4 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!

2026 Triangle Youth Tour Winners

Congratulations to **Mikaela Doney & Savannah Schaumloeffel** for being selected to travel to Washington D.C. for this year's Youth Tour!

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



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. Look at the menu at the top of the screen and select the appropriate type: 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 full business days 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 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 percent of these incidents are caused due to a failure to call 811 before digging. Another 37 percent 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.

Triangle Communications Backup Battery Customer Notice 2026

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.

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 to view all listings or to submit/remove your own. *Denotes photo available on website

Anatolian Shepherd Karakachan Livestock Guardian Puppies*

Working lines. Males and females. Located in Columbus. (406) 290-3127

Side & front windows from a 1979 8ft topper

Windows slide. Make an offer. (406) 390-4493

735 7" Brandt Auger

Like new. \$5,000. (406) 945-2027.

Wanted: Hunting lease for elk and deer

Personal use, not a outfitter. Prefer annual lease but will consider options for shorter duration. (406) 932-5296.

New Aluminum Stall Horse Door + Hardware Kit System

Five horse door hardware kits with everything you need. \$2000 OBO. (406) 932-4391.

BOSCH 3-1/4" Planer Kit*

Barely used \$75. (406) 750-7894.

ISO Used 4-wheeler

With rack to mount sprayer, honda 250 or equivalent. (406) 899-9279.

Greenhouse Windows

Make offer. (406) 439-5456.

Morris Cultivator CP760

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

Misc Tools

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

Two Horse Buggy Parts

Free. (406) 439-5456.

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.

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.

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.

Water Tank

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

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. \$950. (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

3430 Cummins, 8.3 turbo-charged, intercooled. Allison World transmission with 6 speed and 2 overdrive gears. 98,600 miles. \$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. \$75, call (406) 547-2184.

ISO Model T Car Body for Model T Frame

(406) 945-2027.

6 Lots with two buildings in Harlowton

Corner Lots on Central Ave, Harlowton, For Sale By Owner. (24,150 sq ft) with two buildings. Lots of space in a great location. \$350,000. (406) 350-1408.

Mini Washing Machine

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

Diamond Laser 3000 Glass Bandsaw

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

Round bale wool sacker gas motor

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

Craftsman 28" Snowblower

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

1976 GMC 4wheel drive

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.

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.

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



HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY!
BRIAN!
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR
5 YEARS
 OF SERVICE!



HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY!
JENN!
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR
5 YEARS
 OF SERVICE!



TIRED OF PAPER BILLS?

Paperless billing paired with Auto Pay makes paying effortless.



Plus you get a \$10 bill credit for enrolling and \$1 off your bill every month!

MYSTERY PHOTO AND TELCO QUIZ

Two Lucky Subscribers Per Issue Will Win \$25!

#1. What Percent of Triangle members are served by fiber optics?

My name is:

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

My Triangle phone number is:



Mystery Photo

Congrats to the previous issue's winners:

*Julie Welsh
and
Andrea Keller*

Submit answers online at 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.





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HAVRE, MT 59501-1140

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