

A scenic landscape at sunset. A river flows through a field of tall green grass, reflecting the warm orange and yellow light of the setting sun. Several large, leafy trees are scattered across the middle ground. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds. In the bottom right corner, the Triangle Communications logo is visible.

Keeping You **CONNECTED**

MAR/APR 2024

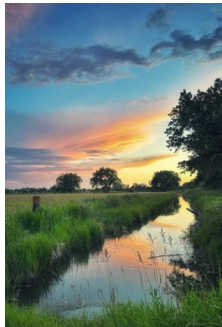
CEO Message, pg. 5

Battery Backup Customer Notice, pg. 6

MT Directory Information, pg. 8

TRIANGLE
COMMUNICATIONS

CONTENTS



OUR COVER

This photo taken by Ashley Norboe took second place in Triangle's 2023 Photo Contest. Ashley described the photo as a mosquito haven sunset in the Chinook area.

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



FEATURES

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 Community Crossword
Featuring Ringling & Martinsdale | 6 Battery Backup Customer Notice |
| 3 Cook's Connection
Dishing up our Readers' Best Recipes | 7 Call 811 Before You Dig |
| 4 Community Feature | 8 MT Directory Information |
| 5 CEO Message | 9 Swap & Shop |
| | 10 Who's Who |

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

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

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

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

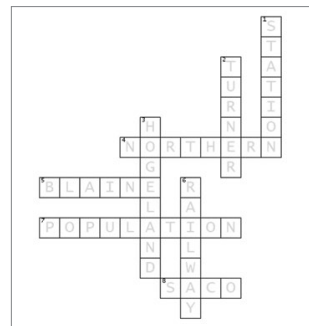
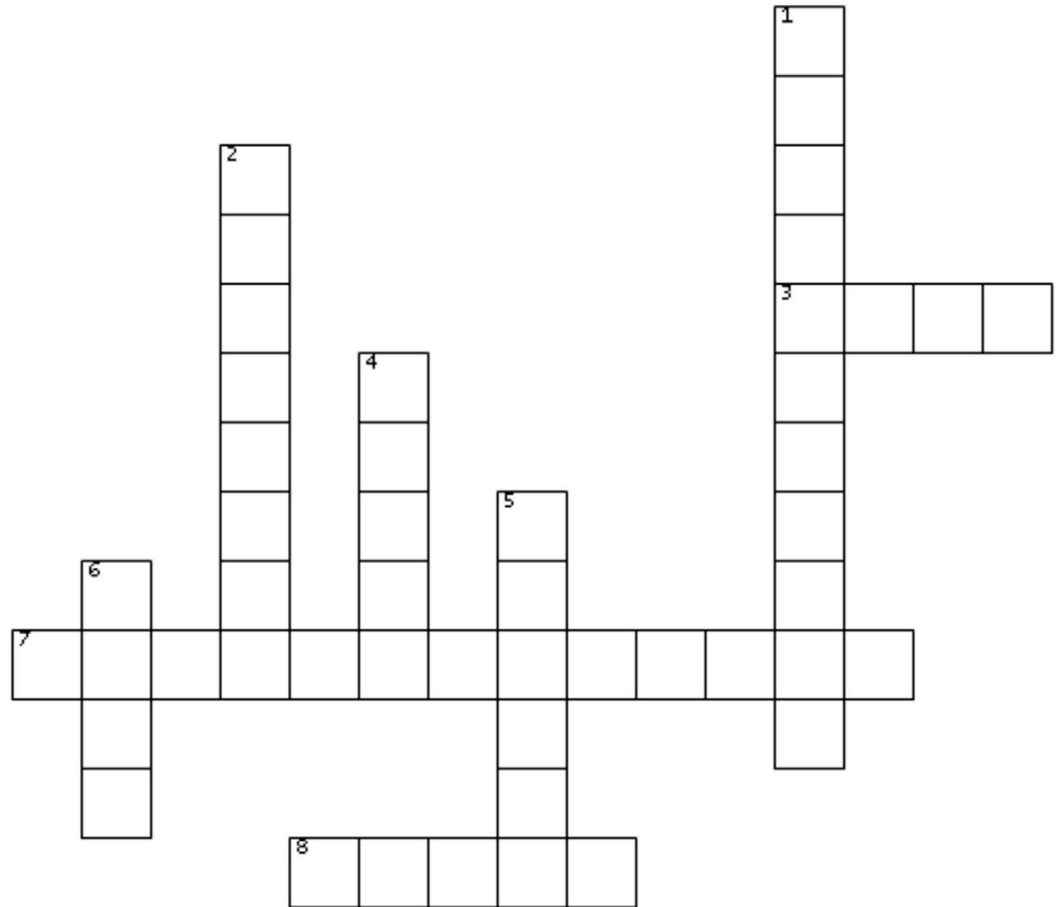
RINGLING/MARTINSDALE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- ____ Doig's 1979 book, This House of Sky, Ringling was known as the setting for parts of his book.
- ____ was the town's original name before it was changed to Martinsdale in 1878.
- Ringling was also the subject of a ____ Buffet song, "Ringling, Ringling" which was featured on his 1974 album.

DOWN

- ____ was home to Charles M. Bair, who was one of the of the most successful sheep ranchers in the United States.
- ____ was called Leader, but was renamed for John Ringling of the Ringling Brothers Circus.
- Martinsdale was the home of poet ____ Stone Coates, author of Black Cherries, Mead & Mangel Wurzel and Portulacas in the Wheat.
- The Bair family home is now a ____.
- Martinsdale was also home to Charles M _____, one of the largest and most successful sheep ranchers in the United States.



ANSWERS

For the November/December
Community Geraldine 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.



RECIPE

Easy Fruit Salad (Pictured)

Marjorie Olsen, Whitewater

INGREDIENTS

3 apples, cut into pieces
3 bananas, sliced
1 (20 oz.) can pineapple tidbits, drain and save juice
1 can mandarin oranges
Green grapes if you have them
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup pineapple juice
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup orange juice
2 Tbsp. cornstarch
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
2 Tbsp. lemon juice

DIRECTIONS

Combine fruit. Cook last five ingredients until thickened and pour over the fruit.

RECIPE

Banana Bread

From HCE/Triangle Cooking for a Cure Cookbook

INGREDIENTS

3 med. Bananas, mashed
2 eggs
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable oil
1 tsp. vanilla
1 $\frac{2}{3}$ cups all-purpose flour
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. salt (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350°. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, soda, cinnamon and salt. In mixing bowl combine bananas, eggs, sugar, oil and vanilla. Stir in dry ingredients. Pour into a greased loaf pan. Bake for 50-55 minutes.

RECIPE

Broccoli Swiss Cheese Frittata

Submitted by Diane Leibel, Malta

INGREDIENTS

1 Tbsp butter
2 cups broccoli florets
8 eggs
6 oz. shredded swiss cheese

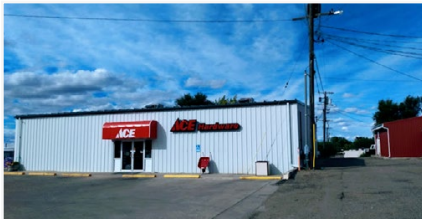
DIRECTIONS

Saute broccoli in butter until tender. Whip eggs in a bowl, mix in cheese. Put broccoli in a baking dish. Pour egg mixture over broccoli. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Let cool 10 minutes before cutting.

CHINOOK — PLACES TO EAT & SHOP



Bikini Coffee has been serving up the coffee and specialty drink needs in Chinook for the past 17 years. They even have rolls and burritos. Check out their Facebook page to see specials and hours for delivery.



Ace Hardware in Chinook has been locally owned since 2014. They provide services ranging from key cutting, to paint color matching, plumbing supplies, tools, and all your home essentials. They provide a personalized service for all of your home maintenance needs.

The Chinook Eagles 689 is sure to be an enjoyable time between nightly dinners, bowling, darts, and pool. The Eagles also has Bingo on Sunday nights! Follow their Facebook page to see nightly specials and specific events.

Chinook Pharmacy has been a staple in Chinook for many years. They are more than just a pharmacy as they have an entire gift shop inside. Stop by and check out the wide variety of items available.



Rad's Deli & Pizza has been a local eatery for almost a decade in Chinook. They offer daily specials which can be found on their Facebook page. Their regular menu includes pizzas, Mexican food, burgers, appetizers, salads, and subs. They have additional parking in the back if the street is full.

The Mint Bar in Chinook is under new ownership since 2022 and they brought a variety of fun additions to the location in Chinook. Monthly wine tastings, an upcoming Cinco de Mayo party and other special events throughout the year draw a crowd.

Shores Floral specializes in bouquets for weddings or everyday occasions and so much more. They also have unique home décor with their gift shop. If you are looking for a gift for that hard to shop for person, swing by and you will be sure to find something amazing for them.

Chinook Grille Restaurant offers amazing Chinese food and burgers. They are open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Whether Chinook is your destination, or you are traveling through, be sure to stop by for a bite to eat.

Pastime Lounge also had new ownership in 2022, with a focus on local involvement. Pool tables and dart boards provide friendly competition. They serve lunch from 11am to 2pm and dinner from 5pm to 9pm 7 days a week. This location is also home to many parties and unique events throughout the year.

Prairie Pieces Boutique is one of the newest retail locations in Chinook. Swing by for a personalized shopping experience to find outfits that make you feel confident in your own beauty as well as unique gifts for your loved ones. Visit the store in person or online at prairiepiecesboutique.com.

The Creamery has been a summertime staple for nearly 20 years. They are located right on Highway 2 as you drive through Chinook. You will often see young and old sitting outside enjoying their favorite cone, dish, sundae, shake, float, malt, whip, or any other version of ice cream you can think of! They also serve hot dogs and chips.

Stopping by the **Bear Paw Saloon** you will be greeted by a friendly Siberian husky named Causer. They have live

poker and a nice patio in the back with a spot for dancing as well as food throughout the year.



Award-winning Museums — If you are traveling through or making Chinook a destination, be sure to check out their award-winning museums. Bear Paw Battlefield, Blaine County Museum and Blaine County Wildlife Museums are a must stop when in Chinook.



CEO MESSAGE



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

We are now looking at winter behind us and looking toward what spring has in store for us. I am writing this in January so I hope that I am safe to say that we all need more moisture in the mountains and it wouldn't hurt for some down here with us as well. As we move into construction again for 2024, our Fiber to the Home projects are the Hays/Lodgepole/Zortman areas, Springdale and Martinsdale areas.

Once completed, our exchanges will be building out to the members who have service with Triangle. We will have a few spots that will require additional projects assigned to them and Triangle will also start to engineer and plan for our Enhanced ACAM responsibilities. The FCC set about a new Universal Service program called Enhanced Alternative Connect America cost Model. This new program will require Triangle to build out our facilities according to the locations on the FCC Broadband Map.

Also in 2024, you are going to hear from the State of Montana about the BEAD funding for broadband deployment across the country and specifically in Montana. Triangle will not be utilizing these funds for our internal builds and will have to look at business plans with a payback for areas outside of our territorial boundaries, as we do not want to put membership dollars at risk for no return.

I appreciate the kudos our members send in for our employees. I know we have a great team, but it is always nice to have others recognize the work our employees do every day. As always our team appreciates your membership and your patronage. Stay safe and stay healthy!

Smart Cameras, Anywhere.

Secure your home, farm,
and more with a camera
system from Triangle!



- *View your animals from the comfort of your home.*
- *Protect your property and enjoy piece of mind.*
- *Customized options available!*



**Contact us for a free camera
system consultation today!**

BACKUP POWER CUSTOMER ANNUAL NOTICE

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



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Do I have to get underground facilities located?

YES! Whether you are a professional excavator, farmer or homeowner, you are required to get marks indicating the location of underground utilities when digging or placing any object in the ground. The person doing the excavating is the person that must 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 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 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.



One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Visit call811.com for more information.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

2024 TRIANGLE YOUTH TOUR WINNERS

Congratulations to Camryn Niebur and Madelyn Myers for being selected to travel to Washington, D.C. for this year's Youth Tour!



Madelyn Myers



Camryn Niebur

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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 awarded for \$2,000 recurring up to 4 years.

For College Undergrads

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

For Trade School

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

APPLY BY APRIL 1ST!

Visit www.itstriangle.com/scholarships for full details and application materials.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a subscriber or a dependent of a subscriber who receives landline telephone or broadband service from Triangle Communications. Eligible applicants must be pursuing their first degree or certificate.

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

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

2014 Massey Ferguson Heston 2956A*

2014 Massey Ferguson Heston 2956A baler with twine and net. 11,486 bales, well maintained and shedded. Asking \$20,000, call Don at 406.799.4131 or 406.357.4131.

Tires For Sale

Three Continental 235/54 R18 106 T Cross Contact LX Sport All Season, less than 1000 miles. Asking \$200, call 406.397.3236.

Mechanics Special

2010 Ford Explorer XLT, excellent body and interior, nice tires, 150,000 miles, needs timing chain replaced. Can send photo, \$2000 or best offer. Retail value approx. \$6,500-\$7,000. Call 406.374.2458.

For Sale or Trade

300 Rem. WinMag, 26" Barrel, Timney trigger. Trade for youth model 7mm08 or 308. Call 406.932.4057.

2001 Dodge Dakota

Cab and half pickup, 2-wheel drive, air and 148,000 miles, asking \$2,000. Call 406.378.3131.

Big Foot Pickup Camper

10-foot camper with overhead over pickup cab. Includes queen size bed, air conditioning, a refrigerator, stove and shower. Asking \$1,500, call 406.301.4035.

Antique Farmhouse cabinet with countertop*

Two pull-out cutting board surfaces, 3 drawers, 2 tilt-out bins. One door, no back, 33 1/2" tall x 62" long, 24" deep. Asking \$125. Also selling Antique Wilson oak Hoosier-style cabinet, original hardware and zinc pull-out surface, \$1,200 or best offer. Call 540.624.0502.

Farm Sink For Sale*

White porcelain over steel, double basin/double drain. Approx. 62" long, has metal cabinet sides and bottom need work, drawers and hardware in nice shape. Asking \$600 or best offer. Call 540.624.0502.

TAMKO T-Lok Shingles*

Up to 12 bundles, 22 shingles to a bundle. Tile red blend color, \$50 per bundle. Call 540.624.0502.

Free Moving Supplies

Flattened boxes (Lowe's small and medium sizes and more). Bags of bubble wrap, air bags, packing paper and foam peanuts. Hobson area, call 540.624.0502.

Hay For Sale

Alfalfa Hay, Alfalfa Grass mix, plain grass, Hay Barley in round bales. Call 406.671.6876, 406.671.6633 or 406.473.2422.

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.

Flex coil S1070 Sprayer

2009 model, 1600-gallon tank, tire size 480/80R38. \$10,500 or best offer, call 406.262.3395.

Two Flex coil 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.

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.

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 at noneckfarms@gmail.com or call or text 406.230.2281.

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!

WHO'S WHO: DONITA WINSOR

Donita has been with Triangle Communications for nine years. Before coming to Triangle, Donita worked at Head Start, was a Customer Service Manager at Walmart and has been a cashier and is now a Receptionist at Triangle. Her main responsibilities include answering and directing phone calls. She also takes care of getting the mail out and opens and runs payments. Donita said the best thing about her job is the people and the atmosphere. The people are kind and supportive and Triangle is a great place to work.

In her spare time, Donita enjoys spending time with her family, especially her 5 year old granddaughter.



MYSTERY PHOTO AND TELCO QUIZ

Two Lucky Subscribers Per Issue Will Win \$25!

We received 64 entries that correctly answered the Telco Quiz and identified the Mystery Photo as Community WiFi graphic.

Congratulations to Gerald Goldhahn and Dorothy Harris who were randomly drawn to receive a \$25 credit on their next Triangle bill.

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



Two Chances to Win!

#1. What are the dates of the 2024 FRS Youth Tour?

#2. Mystery Photo (right):

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 22, 2024 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. You can also submit your answers at www.itstriangle.com/telco-quiz.





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

1.800.332.1201 | Itstriangle.com

PRSR MKTG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
THOMAS PRINTING
59901

Serving friends and
neighbors for 70 years

Every click,
Every stream,
Seamless.

Ensure everyone can get the most
out of their devices by upgrading
your internet plan.



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

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

