

Keeping You **CONNECTED**

MAY/JUNE 2024

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OUR COVER

Jessica Ophus captured 3rd place in Triangle's 2023 Photo Contest. Jessica described this beautiful phot as "Heading off into the sunset, this road takes us towards the Bears Paw Mountains."

Please call
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24/7 to report
any phone or
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CONTACT US

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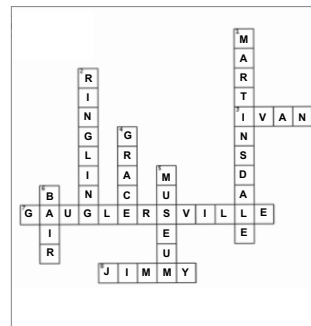
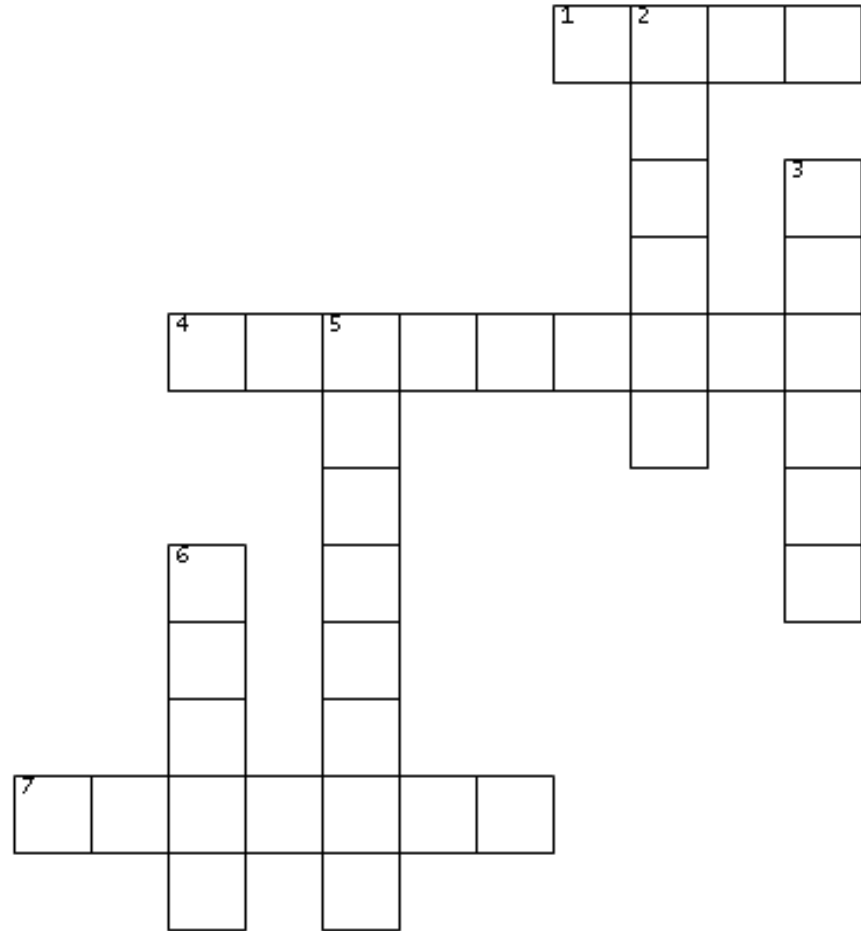
MOORE AND MOCCASIN CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Ackley ____ is at the heart of Montana's Big Sky Country.
- Moccasin began as a ____ community.
- In 1908 the MSU Central Agricultural Center was created to teach dry land ____ techniques.

DOWN

- ____ Lake State Park offers diverse water sports opportunities.
- The ____ River flows north of Moore and makes an excellent river for canoeing.
- ____ was named after the nearby mountain range.
- Five island mountain ranges surround the town of ____ Montana.



ANSWERS

For the March/April
Martinsdale Crossword

EAT, STAY, SHOP FORT BENTON

Established in 1846, Fort Benton is the oldest continuously occupied settlement in Montana. Fort Benton has a rich history and a beautiful walking trail along the Missouri River. The Heritage Complex is the home of Old Fort Benton, The Museum of the Upper Missouri, The State of Montana's Museum of the Northern Great Plains, Homestead Village, The Hornaday Smithsonian Buffalo Gallery, The Upper Missouri River Breaks Interpretive Center, The Overholser Research Center, The Schwinden Library, and The Montana Agricultural Center. Step back in time as you explore the history of the American West at Fort Benton!

B Social Bar and Lanes

"B social" it's what we strive to do! This unique establishment offers a combination of great food, drinks, and of course, bowling. B Social Bar and Lanes offers a great menu including homemade pizzas. This establishment also hosts various events for the community to enjoy; there is always something happening at B Social.

Benton Pharmacy

Benton Pharmacy is a place where you can find caring and knowledgeable staff who are dedicated to helping you and your loved ones with all your healthcare needs. Not only that, but it also boasts a wonderful gift shop filled with unique and thoughtful gifts for anyone in your life. Whether you are looking for a birthday present, a housewarming gift, or just something special for yourself, you are sure to find it at Benton Pharmacy.

Clubhouse Bar & Grille

The Clubhouse is a beloved bar and grille that has become a go-to spot for locals and visitors alike. Whether you're in the mood for a juicy burger, a fresh salad, or some tasty wings, you'll find it all here. There is always something new and exciting to try thanks to the Clubhouse's delicious weekly specials. In addition to their delicious food, The Clubhouse also offers a variety of fun events for the community to attend.

Grand Union Hotel

The Grand Union Hotel re-opened its doors on its 117th anniversary on November 2, 1999, and is proudly listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Grand Union has a restaurant featuring a farm-to-table menu serving the finest and freshest food from local producers ranging from trout to tenderloin. This venue also serves as a hub for a variety of events and activities.

Pastime Bar

The Pastime Bar is a local favorite spot for many to kick back, have a few drinks, and enjoy some fun games with friends. The bartenders are always ready to whip up your favorite drink or suggest something new to try. It also offers a variety of casino games and pool tables for patrons to enjoy.

Missouri River Outfitters

Missouri River Outfitters provides guests with a premier river experience. This outfitter provides a one-of-a-kind river exploration experience using small motorless boats like canoes and kayaks. Missouri River Outfitters offers guided trips that combine outdoor activities, camping, hikes, and delicious meals made with locally sourced food.

Fort Benton Hardware

Fort Benton Hardware is a locally operated hardware store committed to excellent customer service and quality products. You will find everything you need for hardware, plumbing, electrical, paint, power equipment, appliances and more. This store is stocked with products tailored just for you and your community.

Pioneer Lodge

Family owned and operated since 1986, the Pioneer Lodge offers affordable, pet friendly, comfortable rooms, and a welcoming atmosphere. They are renowned for their porch view of the Missouri River where you can enjoy a beautiful view with coffee in the morning or a beverage of your choice in the afternoon. If you plan on staying and enjoying Fort Benton for an extended period, the Pioneer Lodge also has apartments for rent.



Palace Bar

The Palace Bar is a great place to grab a drink. Whether you're a regular or a first-time visitor, you'll always feel welcome and have a good time. One of the main draws of The Palace Bar is its regular dart tournaments. The competition is fierce, but the atmosphere is always lively and fun. Even if you're not a pro at darts, it's a great opportunity to meet new people and have a good time.

Pour House Saloon

This local establishment offers a menu featuring Montana brewed beer and a wide selection of liquor. Customers can choose from a rotating selection of beers on tap or opt for a bottle or can from their extensive beer cooler. The Pour House boasts a small casino area with machines and a live poker table. They also hold special events throughout the year.

The Governor's Keep

The Governor's Keep is a hidden gem that offers a unique shopping experience like no other. This charming establishment is a combination of a spirits and wine shop, a women's boutique, and offers gifts and accessories. With its diverse range of products, The Governor's Keep has become a go-to destination for locals and tourists alike.

River Market

The River Market is a beloved local grocery store that serves Fort Benton's rural community. It is a staple for residents, providing them with convenient and reliable options for all their grocery needs. From fresh produce to household essentials, the River Market has become an essential part of the community, offering a unique shopping experience for its patrons.

Rivers Edge Floral

This local florist delivers courteous, professional service and the highest quality floral and gift items around. These experienced designers can create floral arrangements that will complement any occasion, meet your budget and style expectations. For your convenience, Rivers Edge offers daily delivery in the area.

Rustic Mug

The Rustic Mug is the perfect place to shop for gifts, home decor, and clothing. There is stylish apparel for the whole family available at the Rustic Mug. They have a range of apparel featuring the logos and colors of the nearby schools, making it a great place to show your team spirit and support the community. It's also the perfect place to stock up on Montana gear and gifts.

The Freeze

As the temperatures rise and the sun shines brighter, there's no better way to beat the heat than indulging in some delicious frozen treats. When it comes to finding the perfect destination to eat in the warmer months of the year, look no further than The Freeze. The Freeze is a popular spot known for its mouth-watering ice cream and delectable food options. The Freeze offers an outdoor seating area.

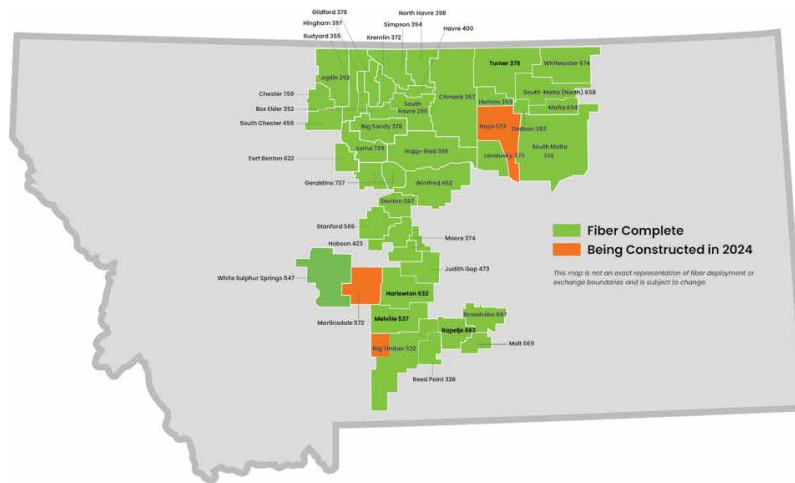
The Public House

This bar and smokehouse restaurant serve a unique take on southern cooking. From its mouth-watering dishes to its fun events, The Public House has established itself as a must-visit destination for food enthusiasts. It's a great place for brunch, lunch, and dinner!

Wake Cup Coffee House Café & Bakery

Wake Cup is not just your average coffee shop. It's a vibrant and bustling seven day a week restaurant that serves delicious locally sourced food with great gluten free options alongside your morning cup of joe. Whether you're in need of a caffeine fix, a hearty breakfast, a quick lunch, or a satisfying dinner, Wake Cup has you covered.

CEO MESSAGE



The rejuvenating essence of spring to Montana is upon us following a very light winter. With optimism, we anticipate the timely arrival of rain to meet the needs of Central Montana. Our construction season commenced early, marking the final stretch of our exchange-wide buildouts.

Reflecting on our transition from copper to fiber optics, it's evident that the latter offers vastly superior speeds compared to its predecessor. Beyond speed, fiber optics demonstrate a notably lower incidence of network troubles. While not immune to issues, fiber optics boast a higher success rate in maintaining network stability compared to copper.

Looking ahead, Triangle Communications envisions a promising future, brimming with opportunities for residents within its service area. As we wrap up the last phase of our exchange areas this year, the Board of Trustees remains committed to enhancing the member experience. Anticipating future challenges, we recognize that most troubles will likely originate within households. With Triangle's provision of VOIP services, there's little necessity for members to procure their own routers, as Triangle provides it as a part of the service. Utilizing Triangle's router technology enables efficient troubleshooting, extending our network infrastructure reach to individual devices within homes. This streamlined approach not only saves time but also enhances efficiency and cost-effectiveness for both the cooperative and you, our members.

In closing, be safe and stay healthy.



GRAND PRIZE **\$200** RUNNER-UP PRIZES **\$50**

This contest is open to Triangle members and member dependents of all ages.

Photo Qualifications:

- Must depict the scenic or abstract beauty of the Triangle service area.
- Trademarks, commercial names and advertisements must not appear in the photo.
- Photos considered Portraits of people are not eligible.
- Must be previously unpublished.
- Cell phone shots are allowed, but must be high resolution in JPG format.

Entries must be submitted by July 7th.
Limit two entries per person.

Winning photos will be featured on covers of our magazine!

VOTING: All valid entries will be posted on Triangle's Facebook page on July 15th for First Round Voting through August 5th. The top 20 photos by will go to Second Round Voting in the September/October "Keeping You Connected" magazine to select the top 10 by Sept 30th. Winners will be chosen through in-person voting at our Annual Meeting.

Triangle reserves the right to disqualify incomplete entries, or entries that do not meet the criteria. By submitting an entry, you agree to give Triangle complete, royalty-free publication rights to the photo. One Grand Prize and five (5) Runner-up Prizes will be awarded.

FOUR TIPS FOR BETTER SMARTPHONE IMAGES



You don't have to be a professional to take quality photos. Embrace your inner photographer by following these four tips for better smartphone images!



Clean the camera lens.

Your phone goes with you everywhere, collecting dirt and dust and leaving a cloudy layer that can ruin the quality of your photos. Wipe down the lens before you snap a picture. Use a soft handkerchief when possible, but a shirt sleeve works too!



Adjust the camera focus.

Smartphones automatically focus on the foreground, but that may not include your intended subject. The best way to correct this is by manually setting your camera's focus.

Tap the portion of the screen you want in focus. This results in a square or circle icon appearing over your intended subject, producing a sharper image.



Get closer.

This may seem obvious, but the closer you can get to your subject, the better. Avoid zooming in, which leads to blurry, pixelated images. That said, keep safety in mind when you're taking pictures in potentially hazardous situations.



Use natural light.

Natural light is your friend! It's beautiful, free, everywhere and constant. Natural light also lets you be more creative when playing with shadows and silhouettes.

Avoid using the flash when possible. Flash can overexpose or wash out the image colors. You can always adjust the brightness with your camera's exposure tool.



Bonus Tip: Take photos during the golden hours, the time just after sunrise or before sunset. Photographers know this is the best time to take photos because of the softer and warmer lighting the sun provides.

Youth Clubs and Organizations Selected for Grants!

Triangle Communications is proud to announce this year's recipients of the Triangle Communications Youth Club/Organization Grants. We would like to congratulate all of the following clubs and organizations that were selected, and we wish you the best of luck with all your projects!

- Blaine County 4-H
- Boulder River Bandits 4-H
- Boy Scouts of America- Big Sandy
- Engineer Pep Club- Harlowton
- Faith Youth-Harlowton
- Fort Benton- Robotics
- Harlem- FFA
- Harlo Theatre Project
- Havre Girl Scouts
- Lucky Leprechauns 4-H- Harlowton
- Malta Kids Club
- North Star CTE Programs
- Rapelje FFA

Congratulations!

GET THE VOTE OUT!

GET OUT THE VOTE


VOTE

in MONTANA

WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE?

Voting is one of the most powerful ways to make your voice heard in our democracy, but in 2020, only 66.8% of the voting-age population in the United States reported voting.

Modern technology has improved access to information on candidates and made it easier to register to vote in many areas, and it is vital to be aware of how you can participate in the 2024 election cycle.




MONTANA'S ABSENTEE AND MAIL-IN VOTING PROCEDURES


Permanent absentee / mail-in voting procedures:

- No excuse required to request an absentee ballot
- Applications can be submitted via mail or in-person

MONTANA'S EARLY VOTING DEADLINES

Early Voting **Begins: May 6, 2024**
 Early Voting **Ends: June 3, 2024**





A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP

JUNE

4

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

DEADLINES TO KNOW FOR VOTING IN MONTANA

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

May 6, 2024

30 days before Election Day, Same-day registration is permitted through Election Day

ABSENTEE / MAIL-IN VOTING BALLOT DEADLINES:

Request must be received by

June 3, 2024

BALLOT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Must be received by 8 PM on Election Day

Data as of 05/20/23

Information provided by NCS, State Board of Elections, and the State Board of Elections. Check your voter registration for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

HOW CAN YOU REGISTER TO VOTE IN MONTANA

To register to vote in Montana, visit the State Board of Elections website for more information on voter eligibility and the registration process.

[HTTPS://SOSMT.GOV/ELECTIONS/](https://sosmt.gov/elections/)

You can begin the registration process through Montana's Online Voter Registration System.

[HTTPS://SOSMT.GOV/ELECTIONS/VOTE/](https://sosmt.gov/elections/vote/)

<https://vote.coop>

LIFELINE

Government Assistance Program. Lower your monthly bill!

If your household is eligible, you can receive:

Up to a \$9.25/
month discount
on your internet
service

Up to a \$34.25/
month discount if
your household is on
qualifying Tribal lands

If you or someone in your household participates in one of the following programs, apply today!

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
- Income is 135% or less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines

Additional options for Tribal Lands

- Any of the federal assistance programs listed above
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Head Start (only households meeting the income qualifying standard)
- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Apply online at www.lifelinesupport.org. Upon approval, you'll receive a Qualifying ID number. Call us with your Qualifying ID to enroll!

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SPOOFING

Have you recently picked up a phone call from what appeared like a local number or local business? Unfortunately, this is happening more often. Triangle Communications would like to provide some education and helpful tips for dealing with these annoying spoofing calls. According to the national publication USTelecom, over 56 MILLION Americans lost nearly \$19.7 billion from spoofing phone scams in 2020.

How to Protect Yourself from Spoofing

Spoofing is when a scammer disguises their identity by purposely misrepresenting the name or number that appears on your caller ID. In most cases, these calls try to trick you into providing valuable personal financial information such as your Social Security or credit card number.

Scammers have also begun utilizing Neighbor spoofing. Neighbor spoofing is when illegal robocallers display a phone number similar to yours or use your area code or one from a neighboring area in the hopes you are more likely to answer the call and provide personal information. Sometimes these neighbor spoofing calls will even appear like your number is calling you.

Follow the tips below to avoid these spoofing calls:

- **Don't** answer calls from unknown numbers.
- Hang up if you accidentally answer the phone.
- **Don't** hit any buttons if the caller or message instructs you to stop getting these calls.
- **Don't** answer any questions.
- If you have any doubt on who the caller is, hang up and call the person back at the number you have for them.
- **Never** provide any personal information in response to a robocall.
- Verify when the caller claims to represent a company you know or a government agency by calling them back at the number you have for them or the number on their website.
- File a complaint online with the FTC or call **1-877-FTC-HELP** or **FCC** or call **1-888-CALL-FCC**
- Register your number with the [National Do Not Call Registry](#)

Even following the guidelines above, you may not be able to tell right away if an incoming call is spoofed. Please be extremely careful about responding to any request for personal identifying information. Remember to check your voicemail periodically to avoid missing important calls and clear out any spam calls that might fill your voicemail box.

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:

Jeep Wrangler For Sale*

1997 Jeep Wrangler with 134,000 miles. Asking \$6,800. Call 406.366.0653.

TF150 4x4 Parts Truck 85 ft.

It might be something minor, was running before they fixed fuseable links, new coil, map sensor, voltage regulator, new tires and mags. \$1500 or best offer, call 406.357.5442.

Antique Monarch Wood Cookstove*

Antique Monarch wood cookstove for parts or restoration. Asking \$200/OBO, call 540.624.0502.

1986 Dodge Ram D50*

140K miles, 2wd, 5 manual, 2.0 liter 4cyl. Starts instantly, recent service. No rust. All switches wor, 28 mpg. Asking \$5,000, OBO. Call 406.390.3522.

Two Folding Arched Steel Ramps

Ramps suitable for ATC, UTC, or small tractor. Ready to use, factory made, traction surface. Make reasonable offer. Call 406.390.3522.

Sheetrock Lift

Heavy-duty sheetrock lift. Asking \$500, call 406.945.3764.

IH Cadet 1450 Hydrostatic PTO*

400 hours, one bottom plow with 40-inch rototiller, 44-inch mower deck, 44-inch push blade, and Trac-vac and attachments. Call 406.390.3522. traction surface. Make reasonable offer. Call 406.390.3522.

2014 Massey Ferguson Heston 2956A*

2014 Massey Ferguson Hesston 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.

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, sleeps 4. Also has air conditioning, a refrigerator, stove, and shower. Asking \$1,500, call 406.301.4035.

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.

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, August and September 2024 processing season. Whole pork \$450 plus processing fees, half pork \$250 plus processing fees. You receive approx. 150 lbs 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 or find Twyla Knudson on Facebook.

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, audiotope, 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.

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MYSTERY PHOTO AND TELCO QUIZ

Two Lucky Subscribers Per Issue Will Win \$25!

We received 73 entries that correctly answered the Telco Quiz and identified the Mystery Photo as Community WiFi graphic.

Congratulations to Andrea Keller and Karen Graham 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.



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.

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 June 19, 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.





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neighbors for 70 years**



**Local Internet
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Local Staff**



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