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**Serving friends and
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CONNECTED

January/February 2022



CEO Message, pg. 5

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OUR COVER

This incredible view, located east of Big Sandy in the Bear Paw Mountains, captured the Grand Prize in Triangle's 2021 Photo Contest. This photo received the most votes by our members at the Annual Meetings in Havre and Big Timber. Congratulations Jon Sheehy!

**PLEASE CALL
1-800-332-1201
24/7 TO REPORT
ANY PHONE
OR INTERNET
ISSUES.**



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CONTACT US

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E-mail www.itstriangle.com/contact-us
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TRIANGLE COMMUNICATIONS NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Triangle Communications is a recipient of Federal assistance from the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA). 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.

MYSTERY PHOTO AND TELCO QUIZ

Two Lucky Subscribers Per Issue Will Win \$25!

We received 86 entries that correctly name at least one of Triangle's 8 payment options and the Mystery Photo was the Winter Storm Warning sign from page 6.

Congratulations to Theresa Ellison and Myrna Finn 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 month does Triangle hold its' Annual Meetings?

#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 January 26, 2022 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.

calls, dial:

1

SWAP AND SHOP

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members!

*Indicates photo of item available on website (itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop)

Wanted 55 to 59 Chevy

Wanting to buy a '55 to '59 1/2-ton Chevy or GMC pickup, running or not. Call 406.326.2287.

Napa Collector's 1993 Toys

Collection includes Semi-Truck and Tractor-Trailer; Jeep and boat; Sound Machine Pickup; Semi-Truck trailer; Sound Machine Semi-Trailer. All in original collector boxes. Call 406.262.3392 for more information and pricing.

Ratchet and Sockets*

3/4" Drive Ratchet, extension and sockets. Sizes 1 1/8, 1 5/16, 1 3/8, 1 7/16, 1 1/2, 1 5/8, 1 3/4, 1 7/8. Asking \$90, call 406.292.3680.

Antiques and Collectibles

Antiques and Collectibles from the past for sale December 4th & 5th at Hwy 87 and 4th Ave in Loma from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Dolls (large & small), 1940's and newer marbles, 1950's cigarette lighters, post card collection, records (78's, 45's & 33's), matchbook collection, jewelry (1940's to 90's), glassware and silverware, all genres of books, magazines and newspapers. There will also be old light fixtures and lamps, radios and record players, antlers, tools, furniture and more. For more information call 406.739.4361.

Pool Table

Choose between 1 of 2 full-size pool tables. Your best offer please and you haul. Call 406.566.2510 afternoons to see the tables.

Looking For

Looking for an older model Chevy Pickup with a 6-cylinder motor that runs, preferably a 2WD. Also looking for a 292 Chevy that runs. Call 406.932.4748.

Thermador Cook Stove

Has gas burners and electric oven. Size: 30" wide x 36" front height x 42" back. Asking \$150, call 406.378.3233.

Tiffin Allegro Open Road Coach

2012 Tiffin Allegro Open Road Coach model 30'AG, In excellent condition, stored inside, only 33,000 miles. Pictures sent on request. Asking \$88,500, call 406.570.4909.

2003 H2 Hummer*

Lifted 2003 H2 Hummer with 85,000 miles for \$23,000. Excellent condition with giant subwoofer, off-road tires, Brimbo super sports brakes, LED headlights, sunroof, custom exhaust and undercarriage train horns with in-cabin air compressor. Call 406.669.3336.

Collectibles For Sale*

Selling Hazel-Atlas "Orchard" clear glass, apple-shaped dishes, plates and cups; Cornishware by T.G. Green Ltd. "Jersey blue" with white polka dots; Teapot and 4 mugs; 1 gallon brown and cream color crockery jugs with handles; Vinyl LP records (1956-1976), mainly soundtracks; gilt-framed mirror with beveled glass (21.5 high c 39.5 wide) from 1940's; American Beauty Dolls of Hollywood (10.5 inches tall & in original box); Smurf deka brand plate, cup and bowl made in USA; Smurf metal license plate ("Honk if you like Smurfs"); Eagle galvanized 2.5-gallon red gas can; Call 406.671.4787 or email buffalo@itstriangle.com.

Hot Tub

Hot tub for sale, needs work. Call 406.378.3212.

Farm For Sale

1175-acre farm NE of Harlem. 840 crop land, balance pasture. Available after harvest. \$750.00 per acre crop land and \$225.00 for grazing. Located in Township 32N Range 25E Sections 4,9,5,6,8 Blaine County. Montana cadastral site has satellite pictures of the farm. Call 406.355.4773.

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!

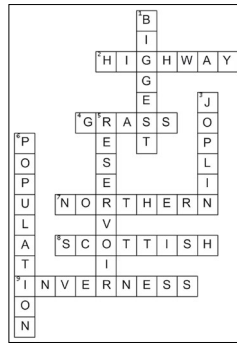
HAY/FORT BELKNAP CROSSWORD

ACROSS

4. ____ was founded in 1890 and named after a Major who helped the Gros Ventre establish themselves in the area.
6. The Assiniboine refer to themselves as ____, meaning the generous ones.
7. Today, the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine are united as one government called the Fort Belknap Indian ____.
9. German explorer and naturalist, Prince Maximilian, and painter, Karl Bodmer, painted portraits and recorded their meeting with the Gros ____ in Montana around 1826.
11. Kid ____ and his famous train robbing gang are reported to have had several hideouts in the Little Rockies.

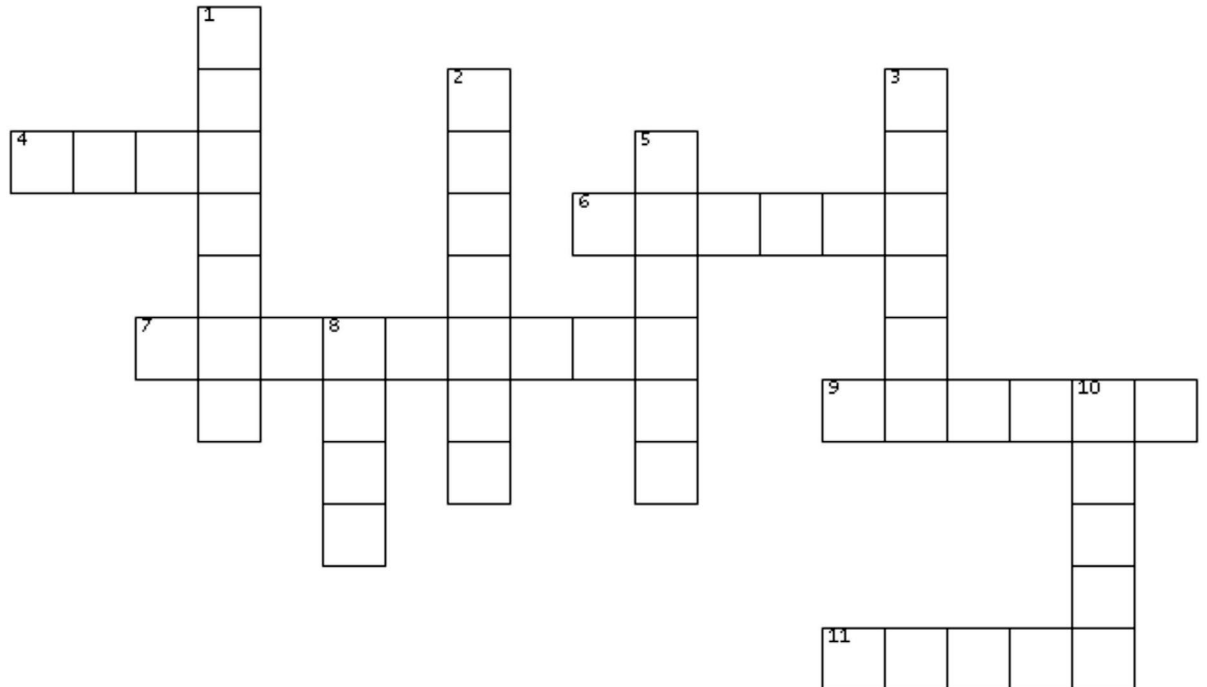
DOWN

1. St. Paul's ____ Church in Hays was established in 1887.
2. Fort ____ was named for President Grant's secretary of war.
3. Hays and Fort Belknap are located in ____ County.
5. The beautiful Mission ____ scenic area includes the Natural Bridge, Wilson Park, Devil's Kitchen, Needle Eye and Kid Curry's Hideout.
8. Trading company Durfee and Peck built a fort/trading post on the south bank of the ____ River in 1871.
10. Gold was discovered in the Little ____ Mountains in 1884.



ANSWERS

*For the Nov/Dec Community
Crossword, Joplin/Inverness, MT*



COOK'S CONNECTION

DISHING UP MONTANA'S BEST RECIPES

Thank you to everyone who has shared their recipes, keep them coming!

If you have a favorite recipe of any kind that you would like to share, we would love to have it.



Earn a FREE GIFT just for sharing!

Photocopy, print or type your favorite recipe and send it in one of the following ways:

Mail to Newsletter, PO Box 1220, Havre, MT 59501

E-mail: newsletter@itsTriangle.net

RECIPE

German Skillet Beans

Submitted by Joyce H Dahlhausen of Moccasin, MT

INGREDIENTS

- 3 slices bacon
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 1 16oz. can pork and beans
- 2 Tbsp catsup
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp vinegar
- ½ to 1 tsp prepared mustard

DIRECTIONS

Fry bacon until crisp; reserve drippings in pan. Crumble bacon and set aside. Sauté onion in bacon drippings until tender. Add bacon and remaining ingredients. Simmer 5 to 10 minutes or until thickened and heated through. Stir occasionally.

RECIPE

Pistachio Dessert

Submitted by Tammy Wyse of Dodson

CRUST

- 1 ½ pkgs crushed cinnamon graham crackers
- 1 cup butter or margarine, melted

Mix graham cracker crumbs and butter. Pat into a 9x13 pan and cook 10 minutes at 350°. Cool.

FILLING

- ½ cup milk
- 2 small pkgs pistachio pudding
- ½ gallon vanilla ice cream, softened
- Small carton of whipped topping
- 5 Heath bars, crushed

Mix milk, pudding and ice cream; pour over cooled crust and freeze until firm. Remove from freezer and top with whipped topping and crushed candy bars. Return to freezer. A half hour before serving, place in refrigerator to soften if needed.

RECIPE

Turkey or Chicken Stuffing Casserole

From HCE/Triangle Cooking for a Cure cookbook

CRUST

- 2 lbs. cooked turkey or chicken, cut up
- ½ cup onion, chopped
- 2 cups cooked corn or broccoli (cut up)
- 2 (10 ¾ oz.) cans cream of mushroom soup or 1 can and leftover gravy
- 2 pkgs. Stove Top Stuffing, chicken or turkey or leftover stuffing
- 2 cups shredded cheese

DIRECTIONS

Grease a 13x9 inch cake pan. Sauté chicken/turkey with onion. Add soup/gravy, vegetables and cheese. Pour into a greased pan. Reserve 1 ½ cups of dry dressing, prepare remaining as directed on box. Smooth prepared dressing over chicken/turkey mixture in pan. Top with dry dressing. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes or until bubbly and dressing is crunchy. Serve with cranberries.

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 – Triangle Communications provides you with a battery for 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 Triangle Communications network to their 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. In case of a power outage the UPS/ battery backup obtained through Triangle will provide power for approximately 2 hours talk time with 8 hours standby time for VoIP service. However, without this battery backup this service (including dialing 911) will not function during a power outage. Subscribers may purchase a longer lasting UPS if desired. Residential subscribers will own the battery backup and are responsible for maintenance and replacement of the unit.

WHAT YOUR BATTERY CAN - AND CAN'T - DO FOR YOU:

The backup battery provided by Triangle Communications for powering the fiber optic or fixed wireless network terminal on traditional residential voice services allows you to continue to use your home voice services during a power outage. Without a backup battery or alternate backup source such as a generator, customers with fiber

or fixed wireless based traditional 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 voice service on traditional voice services. 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 for 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 on traditional voice services. If you have any questions, please call 1-800-332-1201, or email techsupport@itstriangle.net. Additional spare 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 of your local retailers such as Best Buy or on-line. 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.

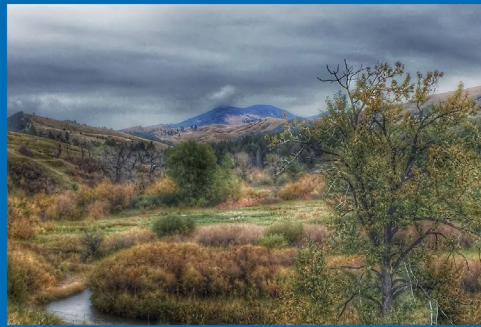
A 24-hour battery back-up unit is also available for an additional charge. This unit will provide 24 hours of standby power and at least 5 hours of talk time. If you feel that this is a better option for you, this unit can be purchased from our company for approximately \$240.00.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPER CARE AND USE OF YOUR BATTERY:

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.

2021 PHOTO CONTEST
WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

1ST PLACE
Jon Sheehy



2ND Place - Todd King



3RD Place - Steve Leitner



4th Place
Billie Jo Simons



5th Place
Ashlee Anderson



6th Place
Jon Sheehy



CHECK OUT OUR YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES!

YOUTH TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Funds can be used for Science, Technology, Engineering or Math related projects. Local chapter of club/organization must have majority of its members within in our service area. Grants up to \$500 are available.

Deadline: February 1st

\$5,000 FRS SCHOLARSHIP

Our partnership with the Foundation for Rural Service gives students the opportunity to receive a scholarship of up to \$5,000. You will need to create an account with FRS and then apply for the scholarship online.

Deadline: February 25

\$1,000 TRIANGLE SCHOLARSHIP

Triangle Communications provides up to 37 \$1,000 scholarships to Seniors in our serving area, and up to 3 \$1,000 college scholarships.

Deadline: April 1st

For more information and applications visit:
www.itstriangle.com/scholarships



COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Box Elder was first called Bremer after an early homesteader, but the name was eventually changed to Box Elder for the nearby creek lined with box elder trees. Box Elder had their first post office established the same year Montana became a state in 1889.

Jitterbugs is a frequent stop for travelers for their convenience store needs with a deli as well as gas. Stop by the restaurant for a tasty lunch or dinner or enjoy the bar and casino. Jitterbugs completed a remodel recently.



D&L Bar is located right off Highway 89 and has been in business for over 20 years. Stop by for a cold drink and visit with the locals.

Lone Tree Bar & Casino is easy to spot driving down Highway 87 by the brightly colored Palm Trees outside the bar. The Lone Tree Bar & Casino is under new ownership of Reece Ophus. This bar and casino is also home to a laundry mat in the back.



Prairie Brew Espresso & More has been open for over 6 years. Stop by for coffee, latte or a baked good as you are traveling through Box Elder.

Krusty Krab Fireworks is the newest business in Box Elder. Krusty Krab recently was awarded a Tribal Tourism Digital Business Development grant. They now have two locations to better serve all your firework needs. As you drive through town, you can't miss their red and black building.



Since 2011, Plain Green LLC is a tribal lending entity wholly owned by the Chippewa Cree Tribe. Plain Green LLC not only provides jobs in the area and are big supporters of community events. Plain Green LLC also provides scholarships, internships and educational support.



WHAT NUMBERS SHOULD I DIAL?

For local calls inside the 406 area code, dial:
406 + XXX-XXXX

For long distance calls, dial:
1+ XXX-XXX-XXXX



10-DIGIT DIALING REMINDER

Some seven-digit phone numbers in Montana's 406 area code begin with 988. To prevent misdialing the 988 Lifeline, all local calls in Montana must be dialed with the area code beginning October 24, 2021.

The 10-digit dialing requirement applies to all area codes that use 988 as a working prefix, including 83 area codes across 37 states. Calls that are currently considered local for billing purposes will continue to be billed as local calls. Existing seven-digit phone numbers will not change but will require the 406-area code to connect. Three-digit dialing services, like the 911 emergency number, will continue to work as a three-digit number with no need to dial an area code.

The 988 number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will be available beginning July 16, 2022. Prior to that date, customers may continue to use 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) to reach the Lifeline for suicide prevention and emergency mental health counseling.



CEO MESSAGE

2021 was a busy year for Triangle. I would like to first thank our Board, management team and employees for their hard work and dedication to serving our members. Our employees step up when needed and they are what makes Triangle great.

Triangle held two Annual Meetings of Members in 2021. The two meetings took more coordination and planning, but it was worth it. Members were able to attend the meeting in Havre on October 9th, the meeting was recessed after going through the agenda and it was reconvened, and we went through the agenda again in Big Timber on October 16th. We were able to obtain a quorum in Big Timber, and I truly hope that next year we double the size of membership at our annual meeting. I would be remiss if I did not

thank all the members who were able to attend one of the two meetings, thank you! A complete wrap up of the meetings is on the next page.

Our 2021 Fiber to the Home projects in Molt, South Malta (North), Denton, a portion of the Big Timber exchange and the rural Stanford area have been completed. We are now focusing on the 2022 fiber exchange upgrades in the remaining areas of Moore, South Malta and two areas in Big Timber including the town of Big Timber. Our Right-of-Way agents and engineers are also reviewing our 2023 fiber upgrade areas and working on easements. The cooperative is having supply chain issues just like the rest of us and we are doing everything we can to ensure that our 2023 builds are able to continue as planned.

Todd Solomon, Triangle and HCE's Safety, Loss Control and Compliance Specialist, announced his retirement last month. Todd had a career as a Havre firefighter and EMT before joining Triangle and HCE. His dedication to educating our employees on how to work safely and also being able to present tips for home safety as well was a benefit to everyone at Triangle and HCE. Enjoy your retirement, Todd, well deserved!

Triangle also lost one of our own in 2021. Our condolences go out to the family of Wes "Hondo" Herren. Hondo started as a Triangle Serviceman in White Sulphur Springs in 2004 and later moved to Big Timber to serve as the area Serviceman there until his passing. He is missed.

Craig Gates, CEO



TRIANGLE COMMUNICATIONS HOLDS 67TH ANNUAL MEETING

Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc., doing business as Triangle Communications (Triangle), held its 67th Annual Meeting of Members in Havre and Big Timber. The first part of the meeting was held Saturday, October 9th, 2021, in Havre, MT. The meeting was recessed in Havre and then called back to order in Big Timber on Saturday, October 16th, 2021. The Havre meeting took place in the Student Union Building on the campus of Montana State University-Northern in Havre. The Big Timber meeting took place at the Sweet Grass Fairgrounds Community Center. The meetings were streamed live on our website.

Because of the cancellation of last year's meeting, several items were brought before the membership for a vote. Including the election of four trustees of the Cooperative and Bylaw Amendments.

TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS:

- District 1: Richard Swartz (2 year term)
- District 3: Tom Bangs (2 year term)
- District 4: Richard Pokorny (3 year term)
- District 5: Richard Stuker (3 year term)

All Bylaw Amendments were passed at the meetings by majority vote. Changes to the bylaws are available on our website.

Each meeting included member gifts, as well as door prizes of processed beef and pork purchased from local 4-H clubs. Six cash prizes were drawn for members' children in attendance. Voting for the annual Triangle Photo Contest also took place. One lucky member at each meeting also won a grand prize of an iPad Pro.

