

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

DELIVERING OUR MISSION IN 2023

As 2023 comes to a close and we reflect on the evolution of our Cooperative we are especially grateful to our member-owners for supporting the important work underway to modernize our network. Our multi-year fiber project is in full swing, and we are pleased to be on schedule with the completion of St. Ignatius and Thompson Falls this year and Plains early in 2024. We remain committed to delivering fast, reliable, and future-proof service that enables our rural communities to connect to the world in ways that matter. In today's digital world, access to high speed internet is a necessity for local economies, education, healthcare, and social connectivity. Thank you for your patronage as we continue to connect people, businesses, and communities.

Stay up to date on our network upgrade project at GoBlackfoot.com/NetworkUpgrades



2023
COMMUNITY IMPACT
\$425,000 +

1,387 FIBER
DROPS
COMPLETED

384+ MILES
OF FIBER

Our Mission:
We connect
people, businesses
and communities

81,200+
CALLS ANSWERED BY OUR
HIGHLY SKILLED TEAM MEMBERS

1,006
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS

Please save the date to join our Annual Cooperative Meeting on
April 27, 2024 as we celebrate 70 years!



Congratulations to Kyler Ruiz from Dixon Elementary School for winning our first ever Blackfoot Cooperative Teacher Scholarship at the August Institute Educational conference.



We were thrilled to send Arianna Manual from Thompson Falls High School on an all expense paid trip to Washington DC via the Foundation for Rural Service program. Learn more about our education programs including scholarships at GoBlackfoot.com/Education



Plains Day Parade



Drummond Rodeo



Our Annual Meeting in April was well attended!



Elliston 4th of July

Annually, we support iconic parades, rodeos and 4th of July celebrations!



Potomac PTA Bingo



Superior Fire Department received \$10,000 from Blackfoot and CoBank

We received the 2023 Corporate Philanthropy Award from the Missoula Non-Profit Center.

NEED HELP? WE ARE HERE 24/7
Blackfoot's Technical Support:
1-877-881-1155

GET MORE TECH TIPS AT
GoBlackfoot.com/TechTips

CHECK OUT OUR EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS AT
GoBlackfoot.com/Education



Congratulations to our 2023 Employee Ambassador: Christie who spent hours helping our communities.



Canine Classic



Tom Eggensperger, Trustee President



Trout Unlimited banquet



Philipsburg library for Affordable Connectivity Program training



Philipsburg Arts



Seeley Lake Snow Joke is a tradition for us



October is National Cooperative Month! A great time to thank our Trustee team.



DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT?

Request support at GoBlackfoot.com/Community

We value time honored traditions in our local service areas and are proud to help many organizations. Thanks for giving us high ratings in our recent Customer Satisfaction Survey. 96% of respondents rated us as highly trustworthy! (conducted by Pivot Group LLC)



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GoBlackfoot.com/Subscribe



A Message from Jason Williams

BLACKFOOT COMMUNICATIONS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Cooperative Member,

We continued to make millions of dollars of network investment in your cooperative in 2023. So far, we have built-out fiber based broadband to more than 4,000 homes and businesses. Blackfoot recognizes that high-speed internet is no longer a luxury; it's essential to how we educate our kids, run our businesses, and access healthcare. That's why we continue making strategic investments to expand our fiber network in more communities as quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience as we deploy more and more of this technology throughout the cooperative.

Looking ahead to 2024 is both exciting and humbling. Blackfoot celebrates 70 years of business next year, a milestone credited to our member-owners, dedicated employees, and trustees. Our story of building networks, caring for

the communities we serve, and earning the trust of our customers constitute the themes of this celebration and remain at the core of our mission.

This holiday season offers an opportunity to connect with friends and family and take a moment to reflect on what makes our quality of life so unique in Western Montana. On behalf of the Blackfoot Board of Trustees and all our employees:



*Happy Holidays and
Happy New Year!*
J. Williams



Trout Creek Redneck Ball



St. Ignatius Fall Festival



Court Appointed Special Advocates banquet



Boys and Girls Club Blue Door Banquet

Cyber criminals often exploit holiday themed emails to trick users in to sharing personal information. Always exercise caution when opening any email or clicking on links. Shop local or from trusted websites. Stay vigilant year round for safe on line experiences.