



Lori Cunningham's rhubarb cake recipe has deep family roots. The recipe itself came from her mother in-law and Lori's rhubarb plant used to belong to her mother. Lori transplanted the rhubarb to her house after her mom passed away.

The cake is now popular with both Lori's side of the family and her husband's side of the family.

"It's simple and everyone really likes it," Lori said.

Lori has been with NorthWestern Energy for 27 years. She started as a cashier in the Aberdeen, S.D. office and has held a variety of positions since then. Lori currently works on the new construction desk, which means that she helps customers who need new gas or electric service, typically because they're building a new home or other building.

While more than half of NorthWestern Energy's employees have been working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lori is one of the few who has stayed in the office, which means she's added another responsibility to her job – cashier. Walk-in offices are closed, but payments are still accepted in the drop boxes outside our offices. Lori checks the Aberdeen drop-box every day and processes those payments.

One of Lori's favorite things about her job is working with local electricians and contractors.

"I know a lot of the electricians and contractors and I enjoy working with all of them," she said.



## Lori's Rhubarb Cake

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups brown sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup buttermilk or milk
- 1 ½ cups cut up Rhubarb
- 1 tsp. soda
- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

### DIRECTIONS

- 1 Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- 2 Cream together brown sugar, egg and butter.
- 3 Add the buttermilk, rhubarb, soda and flour and mix to combine.
- 4 Pour the ingredients into a 9-by-13-inch greased pan.
- 5 Combine sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over cake. (You can cut back on the sugar to make the cake less sweet).
- 6 Bake for 30 minutes. Test with a toothpick to make sure it's done.

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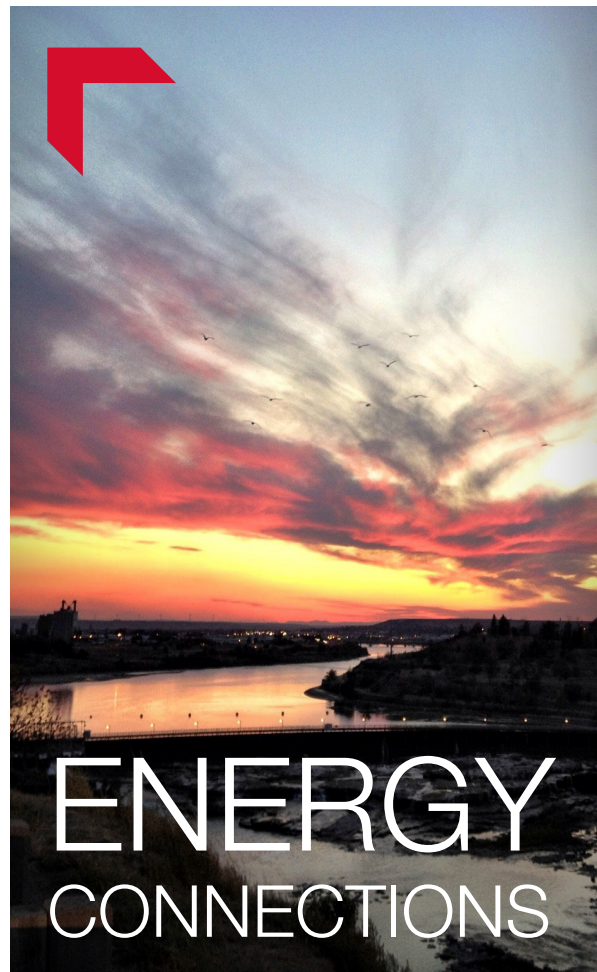
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We are proud of the diversity in the communities we serve. To better serve the needs of some of our customers, we translate important customer information into two languages: Spanish and Karen.

Estamos orgullosos de la diversidad en las comunidades que servimos. Para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de algunos de nuestros clientes, traducimos información importante del cliente a dos idiomas: español y karen.

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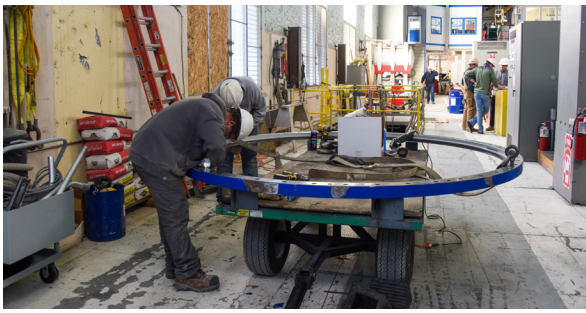
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## LOOK INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON:

- Hydro upgrades
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- Dam Safety
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## Hydro upgrades improve reliability

In 2014, NorthWestern Energy purchased 11 hydroelectric facilities in Montana. This carbon-free hydro system is now the backbone of our energy generation, producing safe, reliable electricity 24 hours a day. In recent years, we've begun upgrading our hydro facilities.

"This is a great opportunity to economically increase the capacity and long-term reliability of our plants," said Jeremy Clotfelter, Director of Hydro Operations.

In some plants, we're replacing entire units and in other plants upgrading the turbine and/or generator. These upgrades increase capacity through higher efficiency using new technology.

### Recent and upcoming upgrades include:

- Hauser – Unit 4 was recently replaced with a new unit, and Unit 2 is now being replaced. Each unit replaced has an increased capacity of 35%.
- Madison – The plant, which was originally built in 1906, was taken offline last fall. All old units were removed, and work is underway for the new units. This project will increase the plant capacity by 50%.
- Ryan – Plant upgrades will be complete in the near future that include turbine upgrades on all units and generator rewinds on select units. This project will increase the plant capacity by 20%.
- Black Eagle – A turbine upgrade is beginning for Unit 1 that will increase its capacity by almost 30%.
- Holter – We're currently soliciting proposals for potential upgrades.

We will continue to assess potential upgrades that would economically increase our system capacity.

## Stay away from blue-green algae

While most algae is not toxic, Montana does see toxic algae blooms on occasion. Blue-green algae blooms can occur anytime from May through October, but are most common during hottest summer months, according to the Montana Department of Health and Human Services.

Toxic blue-green algae can occur throughout Montana in any standing body of water that is exposed the sun, including lakes, reservoirs and stock ponds. Certain conditions can lead to an algae bloom, including high levels of nutrients and warm water temperatures.

If you see blue-green algae, which can look like pea soup or green latex paint, stay out of the water. Don't allow pets to drink the water or children to play in it. If you do enter the water, rinse off as soon as possible with fresh water.

If you encounter an algae bloom, report it online at [hab.mt.gov](http://hab.mt.gov) or call 888-849-2938.



## It's not too late to fill out the 2020 Census

The 2020 Census is available to fill out online at [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) or by phone at 1-844-330-2020. Only 50% of Montana households have responded. The 2020 Census takes just a few moments to complete.



## Be alert near dams

### Boating

Water levels can fluctuate rapidly near dams. Never take your boat past restrictive cables or warning signs. Depending on maintenance schedules and periods of high river flow, boat restraining systems upriver of a dam may not be in place. Never boat alone.

### Fishing

The water below a dam can boil up and trap or capsize a boat. If you fish from a boat below a dam, always wear your life jacket and leave your engine running. Anchoring below dams is dangerous and should never be done. Never fish alone.

### Wading

While wading, always wear your life jacket and use a walking stick in river channels. Never wade or swim alone.

If caught in the water or swept off your feet:

- Stay calm, lie on your back and don't try to stand up.
- Drop any items that weigh you down.
- Keep feet up and pointed downstream to avoid hitting rocks and entrapments.
- Go with the current and move diagonally across the current until you reach the shore.
- Roll onto dry land to drain boots or waders; don't stand until the water is out of waders.
- If trapped on an island, signal for help. Don't risk crossing the river.

## Use caution around Madison Dam

While work is underway this year at the Madison powerhouse, flows in the stretch of river between the dam and powerhouse will be much higher than normal. The same amount of water will be leaving Madison dam, but all of it will be flowing down the river, rather than through the powerhouse. Boaters and anglers should be aware of the increased river flows and take appropriate precautions.

Drivers accessing the area are asked to please drive slowly and use caution near blind corners on the one-lane road.



## Help us care for recreation sites

During the COVID pandemic NorthWestern Energy and our partners have been seeing unprecedented levels of use at our recreation sites. Along with the increased use, we've also seen more litter and vandalism.

NorthWestern Energy is proud to support recreation throughout our Montana service territory by providing resources to operate many recreation sites. We also provide funding match for public recreation improvement projects through the Missouri-Madison River Fund. However, we also ask for the public's support in maintaining these recreation sites. Please do your part by picking up your garbage. If you observe illegal activity or are the victim of vandalism, please call your local law enforcement to report the incident.