



NorthWestern's Multi-Media Content Development Intern Natalie Mueller, has been working with the company for a few weeks, and she absolutely loves it!

"I've been having so much fun, and I think this job is the perfect fit for me," she said.

Natalie is a sophomore at the University of Montana and is working toward a degree in communications. Natalie finds the internship program to be very helpful.

"I think it's amazing that a company this big is willing to give young people such incredible opportunities," she said.

Before starting her internship, Natalie wasn't sure if she would stick with the path of her communications degree, but her internship experience reminded her why she chose communications in the first place.

Natalie is also part of Alpha Phi, a sorority at the University of Montana. Alpha Phi aligns with a lot of NorthWestern's values, such as volunteerism, generosity, character and innovation. These values are ones that Natalie tries to uphold daily, and her internship helps her do that.

Because of her life as a busy college student, Natalie doesn't cook anything too fancy. She is thankful the dining hall at the University has good food and lots of variety. And because of her lack of talent in the kitchen, when she does cook at home, she sticks with simple foods. One of her favorites is taco soup.

"I grew up with my mom making it for school lunches, and she would always pack enough for me to give out. Everyone loved when my mom made taco soup, so of course I had to learn how to make it too," said Natalie.



## Taco Soup

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound burger
- 1 medium onion, chopped (or 1 cup frozen chopped onion)
- 2 15-ounce cans pinto beans
- 2 14.5-ounce cans stewed tomatoes
- 1 15-ounce can corn
- 1 4-ounce can diced green chili peppers
- 1 11-ounce package ranch seasoning
- 1 11-ounce package taco seasoning
- 1 tablespoon chili powder

### DIRECTIONS

- 1 In a large pot, brown burger and onion. Drain.
- 2 Add all cans and ingredients to the pot, plus one cup water.
- 3 Bring to a boil.
- 4 Turn heat to low and simmer for one hour.
- 5 Serve with tortilla chips and shredded cheese.

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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 Karenic.

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 karenic.

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**Energy Connections Editor**  
11 E Park St, Butte, MT 59701  
[news2@northwestern.com](mailto:news2@northwestern.com)

# Energy Connections

Customer Bill Insert  
**July 2025**

**In this issue:** Bright Magazine | Outage alerts | Meter safety | How to read your bill | Taco soup recipe



**Bright ideas to save**

## Use your dishwasher

Using an energy-efficient dishwasher can save both water and energy compared to washing dishes by hand.



# Do not build or pour concrete near meter



Do not encase risers or meters in concrete



Always keep area around meter clear



Ensure proper ventilation

Your safety is our top priority. We want to educate customers about the importance of avoiding pouring cement or placing any structures around your natural gas meter.

### Why is this important?

- State and federal regulations strictly prohibit encasing risers and meters in concrete. Additionally, the lock wing valve must remain accessible at all times in case of an emergency. If concrete is placed near a riser, you must use a sleeve to prevent direct contact.
- Clear access for our crews. Natural gas meters require 10’ clearance above porches/decks and in a radius in front of the meter to allow safe access for maintenance, repairs, or emergencies.
- Proper ventilation and flow to your home. Your natural gas meter’s regulator vent must always be clear so the flow of natural gas into the home can be

regulated properly. If this vent becomes obstructed, the pressure of gas flowing into the home could either increase to a dangerous level, resulting in a fire, explosion or the buildup of deadly carbon monoxide, or decrease, preventing natural gas from flowing to your gas appliances.

### How can you help?

- Always keep the area around your meter clear of cement, structures or obstructions.
- If you’re planning to do any construction or landscaping near the meter, please contact us.
- Report any suspicious changes or damages to any gas meter and lines immediately.

Let’s work together to keep your family, neighbors and our crews safe. We work 24/7, year-round to keep our communities safe, but we need your help to prevent avoidable hazards and damages.

# Read the new issue of Bright magazine



The latest issue of Bright magazine is now available. The 2025 Community issue of Bright magazine showcases all the ways NorthWestern Energy is committed to being an active member of the communities and states we serve. This issue also highlights some of our incredible employees.

Check it out at: [NorthWesternEnergy.com/Bright](https://NorthWesternEnergy.com/Bright)

# Stay ahead of summer storms

Unpredictable summer weather can bring outages and updates you don’t want to miss. Sign up for alerts to get outage updates, billing and payment reminders, and tips for staying safe and comfortable this season.

Learn more at: [NorthWesternEnergy.com/notifications](https://NorthWesternEnergy.com/notifications).

# Hang with Louie and Sniffy this summer

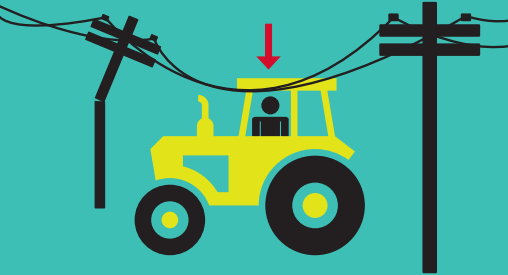
If you’re looking for some educational fun this summer, spend some time with Louie the Lightning Bug and Sniffy the Sniffasaurus to learn about electric and natural gas safety. We have games, activities and videos for kids of all ages to help them learn the importance of playing it safe around electricity and using your senses around natural gas.



Visit [NorthWesternEnergy.com/kids](https://NorthWesternEnergy.com/kids).

# What to do if your vehicle contacts a power line

Stay in the vehicle and call 911 for help.



If you must exit the vehicle because of a fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump clear of any wires with your feet together, never touching the equipment and ground at the same time. Then hop or shuffle at least 40 feet away, keeping your feet together.



Stay away from the equipment until the authorities tell you it is safe.

