

For Cassie Scheidecker, a holiday family gathering isn't complete without Merry Mix-ups.

"This recipe is one of about eight that make up what we affectionately call 'pig corner,'" Cassie explained. "Pig corner" was the area of her grandma's kitchen counter devoted to desserts.

"As far as I know, the recipe was just one of the ones my grandma picked up along the way when she was having a million kids," Cassie said.

Her grandparents had 16 children to be exact, so holiday gatherings for Cassie's family in Butte, Mont. always include lots of aunts, uncles, cousins, and plenty of food. (Of course this year will be a little different). After her grandmother died in 2018, the tradition of family gatherings has carried on. And Cassie helps continue the tradition of making some of her Grandma's favorite recipes, including Merry Mix-ups.

Cassie grew up in Butte and then left to attend college in Dillon and Billings. She took a job in Dillon after graduation.

About five and a half years ago. Cassie was hired by NorthWestern Energy as a graphic designer. "I was so excited to get back to Butte," Cassie said.

Cassie's job consists of laying out brochures, reports and other documents for NorthWestern. In fact, she designed this very edition of Energy Connections that you are reading.

Like her ties to family recipes, Cassie also has deep roots with NorthWestern Energy. Her grandfather, Pat Rice, worked there as an electrical engineer, and her dad worked in communications.

"When I got hired, everyone who knew my dad came to talk to me," Cassie said. A few people even knew her grandpa and told Cassie stories of his hard work and excellent work ethic.



### Merry Mix-ups Recipe

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

1 ½ cup flour

½ cup (1 stick) butter

34 cup sugar

1 tsp baking powder

1 cup chocolate chips

2 ½ cups shredded coconut

½ cup walnuts

1 14-oz can (1 1/3 cups) sweetened condensed milk

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

**d** Combine flour, butter, sugar and baking powder and mix until particles are fine.

**?** Pat into a 9" x 13" pan.

**Q**Sprinkle with chocolate chips, coconut and walnuts.

△ Drizzle with sweetened condensed milk.

 $\mathbf{5}^{\mathrm{Bake}}$  at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

 $6 ^{\mbox{\sc Allow to cool.}}$  Remove from pan and cut into small squares.

Note: The bars can be hard to cut while in the pan. Line the pan with parchment paper and lift the bars out of the pan before cutting. Or run a knife around the edge of the pan and turn the bars upside down onto a cutting board.

### **CONTACT US**

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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

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### LOOK INSIDE FOR **INFORMATION ON:**

- Pipeline information
- Steps for safe digging
- Be aware of increased scam activity
- Holiday decorating tips
- Watch for overhead power lines
- Merry Mix-ups recipe

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# Pipeline right-of-way and markers

A pipeline right-of-way is the land governed by an easement agreement between a pipeline operator and a landowner or government agency. The right-of-way allows the operator to access the pipeline for maintenance, emergency response and inspections.

Markers show the approximate location of pipelines and identify the companies that operate them. The pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers, which is why it's important to always call 811 before digging.

## Pipeline Safety Facts

Pipelines are the safest way to transport energy products, including natural gas, crude oil and other fuels. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regulates pipelines with the help of state partners.

According to government and industry statistics, the most common cause of pipeline incidents is improper or unauthorized digging near a pipeline, which is why it's important to call 811 before you dig. Pipeline operators carefully build, maintain and monitor the integrity and security of their lines.

### Give the Gift of Energy

NorthWestern Energy Gift of Energy gift certificates are a great way to help a family member, friend, or colleague who may be struggling to pay their energy bill. For more information, visit northwesternenergy.com/giftofenergy.



# Energy efficiency tips for holiday decorating

Don't let your holiday energy consumption lead you to the naughty list. Here are some tips for saving energy over the holidays:

- Decorate with LED holiday lights LED lights use much less energy and therefore cost less to use than traditional incandescent lights. They also last longer.
- Use a timer Plug your holiday lights into an automatic timer so that they aren't on all night.
- Turn off ambient lights If your Christmas tree is all aglow, chances are you don't need all the other lights on in your house.



# Be aware of increased scam activity

We've seen an uptick recently in our customers being targeted by impostor utility scams. Here are some important facts to know:

- NorthWestern Energy sends multiple disconnection notices before shutting off service and offers several bill payment options. We never demand prepaid cards.
- If we need to upgrade or replace a piece of equipment, NorthWestern will contact you ahead of time. If there is a charge related to work on equipment, it will typically be included in your monthly bill or paid prior to installation.
- Any over payments will be applied to your NorthWestern Energy account and used to cover future charges.

If you've been contacted by a scammer claiming to be NorthWestern Energy, report it online at NorthWesternEnergy.com/scams



# Be cautious around overhead power lines

When putting up outdoor holiday decorations, watch for overhead power lines. Contact with power lines can result in serious injury or even death. Keep yourself, your ladder and any other equipment more than 10 feet from overhead power lines.



Know what's **below.**Tap, Click, or Call
811 Before you dig.

# How to use white markings in winter

Planning a digging project this winter? The first step before calling 811, is to mark your proposed excavation area with white paint. However, that can be tricky in the winter. If there's snow on the ground, pink is also an approved color you can use to mark the proposed excavation.

Once utilities are marked, be sure to hand excavate within 18 inches on each side of markings.