



Growing up, Black Sandy State Park has always been part of some special memories for Brandy Powers, Director Brand, Advertising & Customer Communications at NorthWestern Energy.

“Our family has visited the campground as long as I can remember, and it is a place now

that the tradition has carried on and my kids look forward to visiting every summer,” Brandy said.

Growing up in Colstrip, Montana, Black Sandy, located on Hauser Reservoir north of Helena, was quite the trek during Brandy’s younger days. Now it is just a quick trip from Butte, where Brandy works from the General Office with her Creative Services and Communications team.

“I’ve had the opportunity through my work to see the reservoir from a whole new view,” Brandy said. “Now I take pictures from the boat to help develop outdoor recreation safety messages and post epic sunsets on our social handles. I’ve had the opportunity to direct a video shoot that took place at the dam.”

Black Sandy State Park is one of the public parks on the shores of Hauser. This popular campground provides access for boating, waterskiing, walleye and trout fishing, and other water activities. NorthWestern’s Hauser hydroelectric facility is located a couple miles from the campground.

In her 18 years at NorthWestern, the focus of Brandy’s work has been on developing and managing the company’s brand through effective communication strategies and creative executions. Growing up in Colstrip sparked a passion early on for the energy industry. Her dad worked at the plant during its start-up and recently retired from NorthWestern with more than 40 years of service. Her husband Patrick works in Grid Operations “so there is a lot of energy talk around our dinner table.”

“We grill as much as possible during the summer – to keep the house cooler and just spend more time outdoors,” Brandy said.



One of Brandy’s favorite recipes came from a friend while they were camping last year at Black Sandy. “There is just something about breakfast while out camping that always tastes better – but I’ve made this at home too and it is just as great.”

## Breakfast Skillet (serves 6)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 package of breakfast sausage links
- 1 dozen eggs
- 4 c. hash browns (I love using freshly peeled potatoes, or the Idaho Spuds carton works great too!)
- 2 c. country gravy (I always use the powered package prepared with milk)
- 2 c. triple cheddar shredded cheese
- 1 red bell pepper, sliced into rings
- 2 Tbsp. butter

### DIRECTIONS

- 1 Brown breakfast links, cook hash browns until crispy, and prepare gravy according to package.
- 2 Heat butter on skillet, fry eggs in the middle of the red pepper rings to over easy - you want the eggs to be “goeey,” as my daughter would say.
- 3 Stack each plate with hash browns and sausage links, pour gravy on top, place egg on top of gravy and finish with a sprinkling of cheddar cheese.
- 4 Pairs best with a cup of freshly percolated coffee! Enjoy!

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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.

ပညာတော်အသုံးအဆောင်များကို ကျင့်သုံးရန်အတွက် အရေးကြီးသော အချက်အလက်များကို အသိပေးဆောင်ရွက်ရန်အတွက် အသိပေးဆောင်ရွက်ပါမည်။ အချို့သော အချက်အလက်များကို အသိပေးဆောင်ရွက်ရန်အတွက် အသိပေးဆောင်ရွက်ပါမည်။ အချို့သော အချက်အလက်များကို အသိပေးဆောင်ရွက်ရန်အတွက် အသိပေးဆောင်ရွက်ပါမည်။

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# Energy Connections

Customer Bill Insert  
**August 2023**

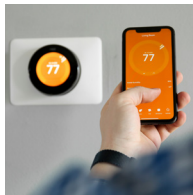
In this issue: Summer energy efficiency | Update contact info | Budget Billing | Breakfast skillet recipe



Bright ideas to save

## Stay cool - grill outside!

Using your oven and stove heats up your home. Cook outside instead.



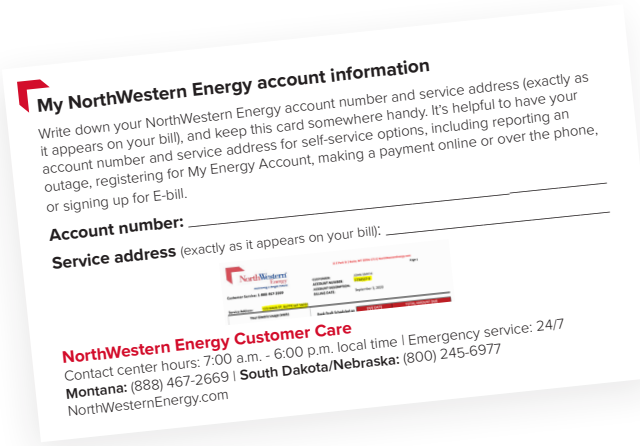
## Keep your home cool and your bill low

Here are some energy-saving tips for the hot days of summer:

- If you have air conditioning, set your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher in the summer to reduce how often you run your air conditioner.
- Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lower the thermostat setting when you return home and need cooling. A programmable or smart thermostat allows you to do this automatically.
- Vacuum your air intake vents regularly to remove any dust buildup. Be sure furniture and other objects are not blocking airflow through your registers.
- Change air filters regularly. A dirty air filter makes your AC system work harder, causing it to use more energy.
- Use shades and drapes to keep your house cool. Draw the blinds on any window that gets direct sunlight.

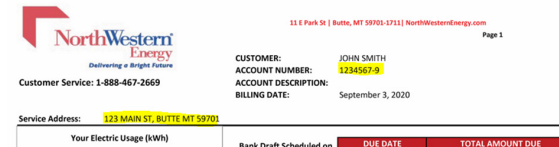
- Plant shade trees on the south and west sides of your home. The shade will help keep your house cool.
- Use ceiling fans in the counterclockwise direction to circulate air. This will create a cool breeze, making you feel cooler. Remember to turn off fans when you leave the room to conserve energy.
- Keep hot air from leaking into your home by sealing cracks around windows and doors. You can use caulk on windows and doors and weather stripping on doors.

Be sure to track and manage your energy use in the summer and year-round. Each bill includes a 13-month graph that compares your energy use this month with past months. Pay close attention to your energy use last month and your energy use during the same month one year ago. Are you using more energy? Think about what you're doing differently and how you might be able to cut back. Montana customers may be eligible for a Home EnergyCheck to help them better understand their energy use. Learn more at [NorthWesternEnergy.com/tips](http://NorthWesternEnergy.com/tips).



## Write down your account number and keep it handy

In this month's bill, you'll find a 3x5 note card where you can write down your NorthWestern Energy account number. Keep this card with your account number somewhere convenient. You should also record your address exactly as it appears on your bill. It's helpful to have your account number and address for self-service options, including reporting an outage, registering for My Energy Account, making a payment online or over the phone, or signing up for E-bill.



## Update contact info

When was the last time you updated your contact information with NorthWestern Energy? Do you still have an old landline listed on your account? Do we have your correct email address?

Having up-to-date contact information allows us to reach you about planned outages and share other important information.

Log in to My Energy Account, or give us a call.

## Budget Billing makes budgeting easier

Budget Billing takes the guess work out of your energy bill. It levels out the seasonal highs and lows and provides you with a predictable monthly energy bill to make it easier to budget for your energy costs.

With Budget Billing, your NorthWestern Energy bill is the same every month. We calculate your Budget Billing amount by using the past 12 months of usage history at the current rates. Your account will be reviewed periodically, not more than once per quarter.

Your budget billing amount may be adjusted to reflect any changes in your actual use and/or rates.

Learn more at [NorthWesternEnergy.com/budgetbilling](http://NorthWesternEnergy.com/budgetbilling) or give us a call.



## Worried about your bill? We're here to help

If you're concerned about paying your bill, reach out to us right away. We have billing and payment options that can help. We can also help determine if you qualify for assistance from various government and nonprofit programs.

Call Us: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday through Friday at (888) 467-2669 in Montana or (800) 245-6977 in South Dakota or Nebraska, or visit our website at [NorthWesternEnergy.com/assistance](http://NorthWesternEnergy.com/assistance).