



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**NORTHERN**

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## Northern Network News

**The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - May 1, 2025**

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### **Last NNN of the Semester**

Another school year is coming to an end, so this will be the last issue of the Northern Network News for the 2024-25 academic year. I want to express special thanks to everyone who contributed information, articles, and photos to the NNN. I especially want to acknowledge contributors Bill Lanier, Colton Tash, MaeLea Willis, Tiffany Vickers, Jennifer Brown, Shawn Huse, Tammy Boles, Amber Spring, Randy Bachmeier, Sierra Woodward and Christian Oberquell. I would also like to thank my proof readers, (ye who shall not be named). Finally, I want thank Marianne Hoppe for working diligently on the NNN archives, and helping to make sure that the stories are working correctly on our website. Have a great summer break. The Northern Network News will return in the fall. - Jim Potter, Director of Communications and Marketing and Editor of NNN.

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### **Campus Challenge: Ice Bucket for Mental Health Awareness - Today at 2:00**

Yesterday, Suzanne Tilleman, Dean of the College of Business at the University of Montana, nominated MSU-Northern on Instagram to take part in the Ice Bucket Challenge to raise awareness for Mental Health.

We now have 48 hours to respond — and we are in!

MSU-Northern's Vice Chancellor and Provost, Dr. Jennifer Brown, has accepted the challenge and will lead the charge in this campus-wide event.

**Join us tomorrow at 2:00 PM in front of the SUB** to take part in the Ice Bucket Challenge. Everyone is welcome to participate or cheer others on! Food Services will provide the buckets and ice water — just bring your courage and your support for mental health awareness!

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## MSU-Northern Kicks Off Summer with First SOAR Event



MSU-Northern launched its summer series of SOAR (Student Outreach, Advising & Registration) events on Friday, April 25, with the first in-person session welcoming incoming students to campus. These events help new students register for classes, connect with advisors, and learn about the many support services available at Northern.

SOAR will continue throughout the summer with a mix of virtual and in-person sessions. Virtual attendees can choose to participate via Zoom or over the phone, and all participants will receive helpful resources—including short videos highlighting student services.

Upcoming SOAR sessions include:

**Virtual:** May 16, June 27, July 25, and August 1

**In-Person:** June 13, July 11, and August 18 (as part of Navigate Northern Orientation)

Students are encouraged to register early and watch for important fall dates, which will include housing and orientation options.

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## Bow and Marrow Crowned 2025 Beast Burger Champion



The votes are in, and the crown goes to Bow and Marrow! With a sizzling 53% of the vote, their breakfast-inspired beast burger—featuring sausage and beef patties, hash browns, bacon, pepper jack, hot honey, maple syrup, and pancakes for buns—has officially claimed the title of Havre’s Best Beast Burger for 2025.

A big thank you to all six incredible restaurants who brought the heat in this year’s Third Annual Battle of the Beast Burger: The Stack, 40Below, PJ’s Restaurant and Casino, Murphy’s Pub, and Parker’s BBQ Pit. Your creativity and culinary chaos made this one mouthwatering competition!

Until next year—stay hungry, Havre!

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## MSU-Northern Honors Student-Athletes at Year-End Banquet



MSU-Northern’s Athletic Department held its annual year-end banquet last week, celebrating the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments of its student-athletes.

The evening featured a slideshow of photos from the year, a competitive 19-question trivia game, and a dinner served before each team’s season recap was shared by their coach. A new tradition, “**The Northies,**” brought fun and laughter as each team presented a unique award to a teammate—such as

Football's "Workhorse" Award to Colter Woldstad and Women's Basketball's "Queen of Quotes" to Shyan Krass. Athletic Trainers also joined in, giving "Iron Will" Awards to Orion Thivierge and Savannah Toms.

Special guests Laura Gomez, Taryn Wallen, Tammy Boles, and Pam & Dave Wilson were recognized for their continued support of Northern Athletics. The evening concluded with Chancellor Kegel and coaches presenting senior watches, a heartfelt thank-you to graduating athletes for their commitment to their teams, the university, and the community.

## 2025–26 Student Senate Sworn in at Recognition Reception



The 2025–26 Associated Students of MSU-Northern (ASMSUN) Senate was officially sworn in during the Student Recognition Reception on Wednesday afternoon. Graduating members, Bridger Beach (Student Body President), Hunter Velk (Senator) and Garret Bliss (Senator,) as well as outgoing Senator Jordan Ketcham, were honored for their service.

Martin Manuel, Loren Lane, Tithen Fitzgerald and Boston McLaughlin will continue to serve until the Fall/Homecoming elections in September, when three First-Year and two At-Large seats will be up for election.

The newly elected ASMSUN Senate members are:

- President: Aiden Perkins
- Vice President: AJ Harris
- Business Manager: Ashton Grover
- Administrative Assistant: Kaiya Doney
- Senators At-Large: Allec Knapton, Deserae Toombs, Jonathan Wamsley, Sterling Shelton, and Tabitha VanDalen

Congratulations to all the new student leaders.

In addition to swearing in the new student senate members and acknowledging the Student Excellence Recipients they also awarded three new awards. Those awards and their recipients were:

- The Residential Education Leader of the Year went to Kaiya Doney
- The Resident Assistant of the Year went to Kaiya Doney
- The Orientation Leader of the Year went to Elaine Reed

[Read more...](#)

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## Voices of the Hi-Line Brings Poetry and Language to Life



On the evening of April 29, the Cowan Hall Theatre came alive with the sound of poetry and songs from around the world during the annual Voices of the Hi-Line International Poetry Reading. This year over 20 languages were represented, including: Russian, Spanish, Math, Cree, Akkadian, French, Oglala, Lakota, Dothraki (Game of Thrones) Malayalam, Hawaiian, Chickewa-Malawian, Arabic and more. Co-organized by MSU-Northern English professors Valerie Guyant and Gwen Hart, the event invited students, faculty, staff, and community members to share and celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity. Participants read or performed poems, songs, and chants in languages other than standard modern English, including ancient, modern, and even fictional tongues. The event offered a vibrant showcase of global expression and connection through the power of language.

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## Brockmann Staircase Handrail Undergoes Safety Upgrade



Work is underway to replace the deteriorating handrail on the north-side exterior staircase of Brockmann Center at MSU-Northern. The original 1970 handrail had developed structural concerns due to aging metal posts and brackets, prompting a much-needed upgrade.

The project is funded through the State of Montana's Risk Management & Tort Defense Division (RMTD) Loss Mitigation Expense Fund, which supports safety improvements aimed at reducing future liability and property claims.

Among those working on the project is Kale Reno of Highline Custom Metal, a 2023 MSU-Northern welding certificate graduate.

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## **MSU-Northern Student Honored with Montana Student Volunteer Award**

Amanda Hagerty of Montana State University–Northern was recognized with the 2025 Montana Student Volunteer Award during a virtual ceremony held on April 24. The award, presented in partnership by the Governor’s Office of Community Service and the Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement (MCNCE), honors college students across the state who demonstrate exceptional community service while pursuing a degree or certificate.



Hagerty was celebrated for her extensive volunteer work, including serving on the Board of Directors for the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, coordinating the Livingston Food Resource Center, participating in the Wildlife Society, and contributing to the Montana Environmental Education Board. Her service was completed alongside academic success in MSU-Northern’s Community Leadership program and a professional career.

Josh Vanek of the MCNCE praised the awardees, saying, “These students help us remember that even with our busy lives, it’s possible to give back in thoughtful and significant ways.” Recipients received certificates signed by Governor Gianforte and their respective college presidents.

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## Capture the Beast Scavenger Hunt Crowns Winning Team



MSU-Northern students raced across campus during the "Capture the Beast" scavenger hunt, which kicked off at the SUB front desk and concluded with teams submitting photo and video evidence of their discoveries. The event wrapped up with the Bear Paw Beast After Party and awards ceremony in the SUB Lights Lounge.

The winning team which earned the most points, won \$50 Havre Chamber of Commerce gift certificates. Another set of prizes was awarded to the team with the best costumes.

### Team Winners

- De'amoni (Deebo) Wright
- Damien Wall
- Tyshaun Raine
- Jake Knoll
- Moses Jones

### Best Costume

- Kaiya Doney
- Bridger Beach
- Aiden Perkins
- Ashton Grover
- Garret Bliss

## 2025 Founders' Excellence Awards Celebrate Distinguished Honorees



On Friday, April 25, the Northern Alumni Foundation honored the 2025 recipients of the Founders' Excellence Award during a special celebration at the MSU-Northern Student Union Building. This year's honorees were Don Holst, T. Wayne Koepke and Renelle Braaten, along with a posthumous award for Arnold and Joy Hokanson.

The Founders' Excellence Award recognizes individuals whose professional accomplishments, loyalty, and service have made a lasting impact on the advancement of Montana State University–Northern. The evening included a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the award presentation.

[Read more...](#)

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## Student Spotlight: Baily Egan



Baily Egan grew up in Colstrip Montana. When Baily first heard from MSU-Northern, it was through a call from volleyball coach Jerry Wagner. That call would set her on a path she hadn't quite anticipated—but one that has since shaped her college journey and future.

"I had never been to Havre before my recruiting visit," Baily admits. "But once I was here, I just had a gut feeling that Northern was the right place for me." Drawn in by the small-town atmosphere, affordability, and the chance to continue playing volleyball, she made the leap—without even touring beforehand.

For Baily, the transition from homebody to college student came with challenges. "I was really nervous about being away from home," she says. "And not knowing what to expect was scary. But Northern's coaches and staff helped me get settled and feel supported." That sense of support has only grown over time. "The community here has exceeded anything I ever expected."

Northern's close-knit campus and hands-on approach have given Baily the tools to grow both personally and professionally. She credits small class sizes and accessible faculty with helping her truly understand the practical side of engineering. "The labs and the resources here really prepare you—if you take advantage of them," she says. "I've learned to be resourceful and to manage my time, especially balancing a tough academic schedule with volleyball."

Volleyball has been a cornerstone of Baily's college experience, not just for the sport, but for the friendships it brought. "It gave me some of my best friends, and honestly, that's been the best part of college," she says. Some of her favorite memories are the simple ones—sunset drives, music, and moments shared with those close to her.

Last summer, Baily interned at Westmoreland Rosebud Mine, an opportunity that opened her eyes to the range of possibilities within the civil engineering field. While she's still figuring out her post-graduation plans, she's confident in her foundation. "I don't know exactly where I'll be in five years," she says, "but I trust that things will work out the way they're meant to."

Her advice to future students? Don't judge Northern by first impressions. "Havre might catch you off guard, but once you're here, you start to see what makes it special. You just learn to love it."

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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## Final Exam Week

[Click here to download Final Exam Schedule](#)

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## Science Saturday Series - May 3

The “Science Saturday” series provides teachers of grades 5-12 with tools to grow STEM opportunities in classrooms across the Hi Line. Participants can earn 5 hours of Professional Development Units each Saturday. This series is offered at no cost to participants.

**Science Saturday III: Medicinal Plants of Montana** May 3, 2025: 10am 4pm

[Click Here for more information...](#)

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## Finals & Flapjacks (May the 4th be with you) – May 4

Take a break from studying and join us for MSU-Northern’s Late Night Breakfast on Sunday, May 4, from 9 to 10 p.m. in the dining hall! Enjoy pancakes and your favorite breakfast foods served by campus staff and volunteers—including our legendary “Master Pancake Flippers,” Steven Don and Chad Spangler. Fuel up, have fun, and get ready to ace your finals!

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## Nurses Pinning – May 9

The annual Nurses Pinning will occur at the Prairie Farms on May 9. This event is by invitation only as it has limited space available for guests. Please family and friends of the Nursing graduates only.

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## Graduation – May 10

Graduation is scheduled for May 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Armory Gymnasium. This year’s Commencement speaker is Chris Faber. After graduation, there will be a Student Symposium adjacent to commencement in the Library breezeway.

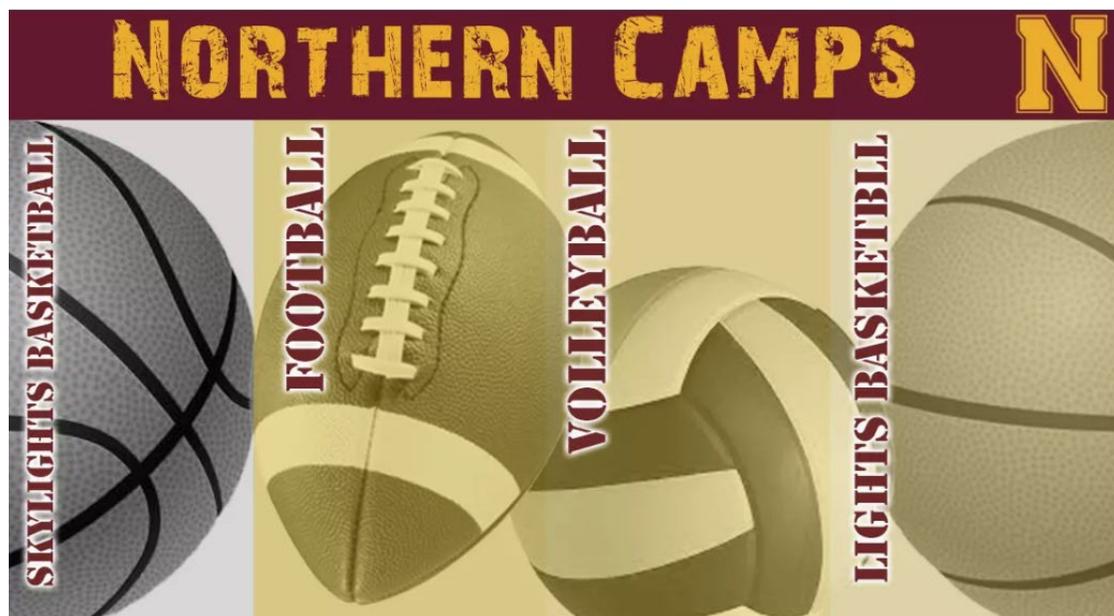
\* Attention all required attendees: please meet in the basement of Cowan Hall no later than 9:30 a.m. to line up and process into commencement.

## Montana Constitution Roadshow Coming to MSU-Northern – May 13

Upper Seven Law will present the Montana Constitution Roadshow on Tuesday, May 13, from 12:00–1:00 PM in Hensler Auditorium at MSU-Northern.

This engaging, hour-long presentation explores Montana's unique constitution, government transparency, and the rule of law. Hosted by nonprofit law firm Upper Seven, the event invites everyone to join the conversation about what makes our state's foundation of government so distinctive.

[Click here to register for the free event...](#)



## 2025 Summer Sports Camps at MSU-Northern

Most of the Lights & Skylights teams hold youth summer camps. The Montana State University-Northern Sports Camps provide an outstanding opportunity for young people to develop their athletic skills in a safe and fun environment.

In addition to the fundamental instruction, campers are exposed to sport specific strategies and the chance to improve in their individual areas. MSUN coaches and players provide instruction and feedback that help campers improve their athletic performance and develop the skills necessary for success as well as giving kids a great opportunity to learn from role models. We look forward to seeing young campers and are excited to have them on our campus!

[Click here to see the summer sports camps schedule...](#)

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## NEXT WEEK

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### **Saturday, May 03**

- MSUN Rodeo @ University of Montana
- Science Saturday - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### **Sunday, May 4**

- Late Night Breakfast – 9 PM-10 PM

### **Monday, May 05**

- Finals Week

### **Tuesday, May 06**

- Finals Week

### **Wednesday, May 07**

- Finals Week

### **Thursday, May 08**

- Finals Week

### **Friday, May 09**

- Finals Week
- Spring Semester Ends
- Nurses Pinning

### **Saturday, May 10**

- Commencement 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
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MSU-NORTHERN

# TidBit

By: William J. Lanier

## (#437) A look at MSU-Northern by the Numbers - 2025 Edition

For those of you who like numbers here are some interesting facts, figures, and numbers about Northern and the people that make up Northern.

1929 – The year classes began for Northern (September 24<sup>th</sup>).

955 – All-time number of wins by the Skylights Women's Basketball Team.

518 – Number of Student Excellence Awards that have been awarded since the first group in 1982.

437 – Number of NNN TidBits (including this one) since the first NNN TidBit on January 26, 2007

244 – Number of seats originally in "The Pit" in Hagener Science Center.

168 – Number of career wins by Isaac Bartel placing him 1<sup>st</sup> all-time in Northern history

119 – Number of Founder's Excellence awards given out since 1978.

115 – Number of acres that make up the Northern Campus in Havre.

111 – Number of days until Fall Semester 2025 classes begin.

90.1 – The call numbers for our College Radio Station - KNMC.

98 – Number of inductees in the Northern Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame (plus 4 teams).

96 – Number of years Northern has been in existence

48 – Number of Annual Sweet Grass Society Pow Wows that have been held on the Northern campus (including this year's).

43 – Number of years Chancellor Greg Kegel has worked at Northern

41 – Total number of former Northern faculty who have been bestowed the honor of being named Emeriti Faculty.

44 – Number of years that the Student Excellence Award has been given to Northern students.

44 – Consecutive years Northern has had at least one Wrestling All-American

35 – Number of flags hanging in the Vande Bogart Library foyer.

4 – Number of Native American Tribal flags hanging inside the Vande Bogart Library.

I would like to thank Jim Potter, Marla Shulund and Christopher Markus for their assistance this year with the NNN TidBits.

I would also like to thank all who have read, commented, enjoyed, suggested and disagreed with the NNN TidBits this year. If you have any suggestions, please let me know by e-mailing at [wjlanier1963@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlanier1963@yahoo.com) Again thank you and hope to see and hear from you this summer and Fall!

Visit our website

Montana State University-Northern | 406-265-3700 | [www.msun.edu](http://www.msun.edu)

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