



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**NORTHERN**

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## Northern Network News

**The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - Aug. 29, 2025**

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### **Welcome to the Northern Network News!**

The Northern Network News (NNN) is your go-to source for staying informed about all the exciting happenings at MSU-Northern. This year, the NNN will be delivered to your inbox every other Friday for the month of September and then every Friday morning throughout the school year, except for vacations and holidays.

If you have something you'd like featured in the NNN, please send your submission to [potterj@msun.edu](mailto:potterj@msun.edu) by noon on Wednesday, and be sure to include "For NNN" in the subject line. Your updates are invaluable, and I aim to attend as many events as possible. If I can't make it, feel free to snap a few pictures on your cellphone and email them to me. Thank you in advance for your contributions and suggestions—I'm excited to share the latest news with you!

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# During The Summer

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## Book Proceeds Help Launch Scholarship for Vocational Students at MSU-Northern



Representatives from Montana State University-Northern's Foundation proudly accept a symbolic check for the first proceeds from the book. Pictured (L to R) Arleen Rice, Chair; Marla Shulund, Director of Operations; Clem C. Pellett, Author; Melanie Skoyen, Managing Director; Toni Pedersen, Director of Finance.

Montana State University–Northern hosted a check presentation marking the first proceeds from a remarkable true-crime memoir, *Murder on Montana's Hi-Line*, authored by Clem Pellett. The funds will support the Clarence C. Pellett Memorial Endowed Scholarship, which is dedicated to helping students from Montana's Hi-Line access life-changing educational opportunities in high-demand trades.

[Read more...](#)

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## MSU-Northern Foundation Pays Off Football Stadium Loan with Final Check Presentation



*Pictured (L to R) Toni Pedersen, Director of Finance; Marla Shulund, Director of Operations; Melanie Skoyen, Managing Director; Bill Keller, President and CEO, Independence Bank; Matt Wertheimer, Chief Lending Officer, Independence Bank*

The Northern Foundation is proud to announce that the loan for the Lights Football field has been paid in full. In a celebratory moment this week, campus and community leaders gathered at Tillemann Field for a ceremonial check presentation, marking the official payoff of the \$1.69 million project. A total of just over \$3 million was raised for this project.

Looking ahead, the next phase of campus life and athletic development will be the construction of a new recreation center on the south side of Tillemann Field, which will also include new home bleachers for Lights fans. This facility will continue to enhance the student and fan experience while further strengthening the connection between MSU-Northern and the Hi-Line community.

[Read more...](#)

## MSU-Northern Receives TRIO Grant to Support Student Success



Montana State University–Northern has received renewed funding from the U.S. Department of Education to continue offering TRIO Student Support Services (SSS). This grant helps low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities stay in school, earn their degrees, and build successful careers.

[Read more...](#)

## MSU-Northern Hosted STEM Summer Institute Program



MSU-Northern, in partnership with Fort Peck Community College hosted the 2025 Summer STEM Institute from August 4-7, 2025 at Northern. This

workshop brought together fifteen K-12 educators from Poplar, Wolf Point, Brockton, and Frazer, for hands-on place-based science, technology, engineering, and math training. Funded through the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP), the workshop aimed to strengthen STEM education through collaborative research, fieldwork, and culturally responsive teaching strategies.

Participants explored the Bear Paw Mountain's unique geology, performed water flow analyses, studied invertebrates in Beaver Creek, and created spectromscopes and solar cars in the lab. The institute featured keynotes from Rod Benson (retired Harlem Science Teacher; NMC 1981) and Teresa Olson (Retired Rocky Boy Science Teacher; NMC 1996) who shared innovative approaches to making STEM accessible and engaging in the classroom.

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## Northern Lights Up the Night at 5th Annual Aurora Borealis Festival



As part of Welcome Weekend, MSU-Northern students kicked off the semester at the 5th Annual Aurora Borealis Festival on Tuesday, August 19. The campus came alive with the glow of food truck lights, the laughter of lawn games, and the buzz of students connecting with campus clubs, local businesses, and community organizations.

The festival has become a favorite tradition—bringing together students, staff, faculty, and community members for an evening that celebrates both Northern pride and Havre hospitality.

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## **Diesel Golf Scramble Powered Up Over \$9.5K for MSU-Northern**

MSU-Northern's Diesel Advisory Board teed off with its ninth annual Diesel Golf Scramble on July 26, raising more than \$9,500 in support of Northern's nationally recognized diesel program.

The two-day event drew ten competitive teams and featured a Calcutta auction the night before, where generous local and out-of-town businesses donated prizes that fueled the excitement. Every hole on the course had an industry sponsor, showing the remarkable support the diesel program continues to receive from partners who know how critical these students are to the future workforce.

When the final putt dropped, Shanty Bar, led by Brandon Matson, claimed first place, followed by Bogeman, captained by Kerry Olson, in second, and Independence Bank, with Denali Solomon, in third.

This wasn't just a golf tournament—it was an investment in the students who will drive the diesel industry forward. The funds raised went directly toward enhancing the program, strengthening hands-on training, and ensuring that MSU-Northern graduates remain among the most skilled diesel technicians in the nation.

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## **Wet Willy: A Welcome Week Favorite!**

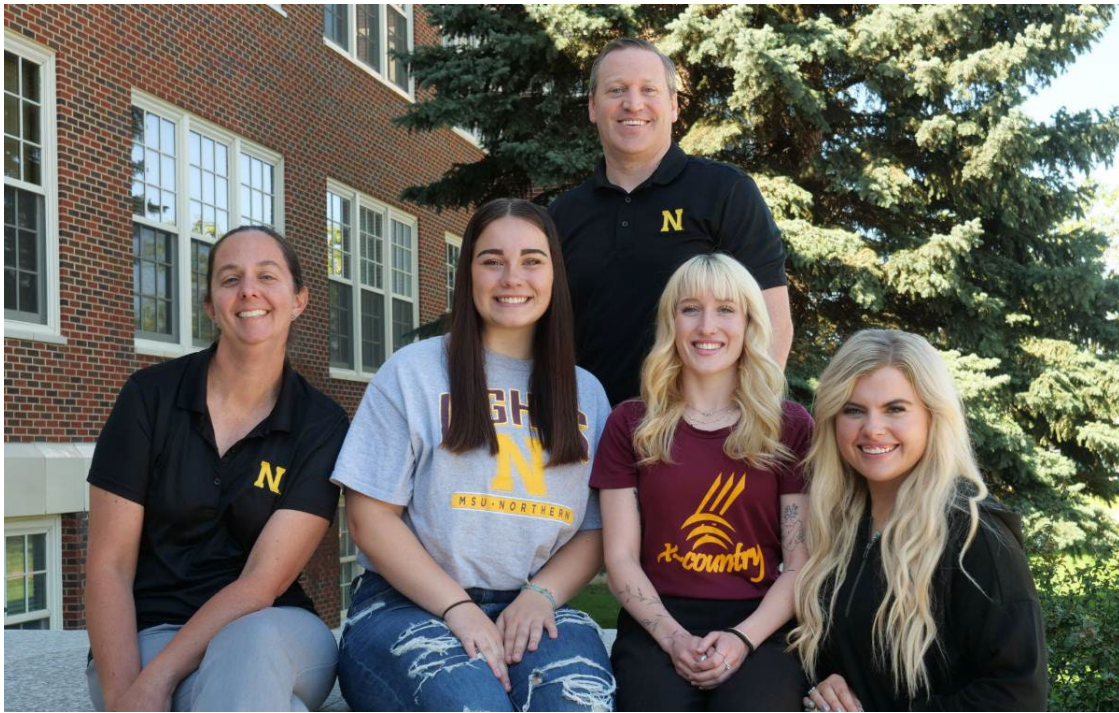


Since 2008, Wet Willy has been a Northern Welcome Week tradition, sending students slipping and sliding down Northern's North Hill for an unforgettable good time!

This year, the event was scheduled for Wednesday (Aug. 20) but was hailed out and posted until Thursday. Some die-hard students went down anyway. Sponsored by Chi Alpha, the event is all about laughter, community, and kicking off the year with energy. Interested in more fun? Chi Alpha is a welcoming, non-denominational Christian club that meets every Thursday at 7:30 PM in Morgan's Red Room—stop by to connect, make friends, and be part of the excitement!

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## Meet MSU-Northern's New Recruiting Team



Behind every new student who finds their place at MSU-Northern is a dedicated team of recruiters and admissions staff. From the very first campus tour to helping with applications, scholarships, financial aid, and class registration, this team walks alongside future Lights and Skylights every step of the way. They answer questions, calm nerves, and celebrate milestones—making sure students feel welcomed, supported, and confident about choosing Northern.

Whether it's visiting high schools across Montana and beyond, hosting college fairs, or welcoming families on campus, MSU-Northern's Recruiting and Admissions staff are passionate about showing all the ways Northern can be

the right fit. They do more than help students enroll—they help them start a journey toward success.

Pictured above (L to R): Jessica Myers, Ellen Collins, Shaughn McKeon, Brooke Hollard, and Erika Arnold.

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## National Night Out Brought Community Together



On August 26, 2025, Havre hosted its annual National Night Out, uniting families and law enforcement for an evening of food, music, and activities. Held on the East Lawn of the Student Union Building, the event featured a free barbecue provided by the Havre Lions Club, live music from local band Blind Luck, and displays from the Army National Guard. Kids enjoyed a miniature BNSF train ride, families explored classic cars, and community members connected with local agencies including the Havre Police Department, Hill County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Border Patrol, and others. The night celebrated community spirit, safety, and partnership.

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## Counting Coup Performed Free Concert at MSU-Northern

On Friday, August 22, Counting Coup brought their blend of Americana, blues, country, folk, and rock to the SUB Lawn for a free community concert. Sponsored by the Little River Institute, the event drew students, families, and community members who enjoyed live music, summer weather, and a festive kickoff to the new semester.

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## Staff and Faculty Orientation



MSU-Northern's annual Staff and Faculty Orientation kicked off the new academic year with presentations from Chancellor Greg Kegel, Provost Jennifer Brown, Vice Chancellor Lindsey Bennett, and Interim Dean of Students Taryn Wallon. The program also recognized employees celebrating service milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years—honoring their dedication and hard work.

### **Door Prize Winners:**

- **Northern Brew Gift Certificate – Jennifer Anderson**
- **Bookstore Gift Certificate – Tyler De La Vega**
- **Food Service Gift Certificate – Christian Oberquell**
- **Cowan Hall Tree Lighting: Flip the Switch – Katie Friede**
- **Reserved Parking Space – Matt Erdel**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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### **September 1, 2025 – No Classes, offices closed**

Labor Day, is celebrated in the United States on the first Monday of each September, is the nation's official commemoration of its workers' contributions to national strength, prosperity and well-being.

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## Library's hours for fall 2025

Monday & Thursday 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

Tuesday & Wednesday 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday – Closed

Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

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## Pure Gold Nominations

Pure Gold is accepting nominations for the fall semester.

The Pure Gold program provides an opportunity to recognize faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends from any of the Montana State University affiliated campuses for their contributions to the university. Whether it's an individual act, or a sustained effort of exemplary service, nominate outstanding MSU faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends using the form below. Acknowledge their commitment to our university; they are Pure Gold.

<https://www.montana.edu/puregold/>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony - Aug 29

Join us for the 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony! This year's inductees are Jacy (Thompson) Overstreet, Zach McKinley, Daniel Murphy and Chris Mouat.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with the ceremony beginning at 7 p.m. Appetizers and a no-host bar will be available. Inductees will also be recognized during halftime of the Lights' football game on Saturday, Aug. 30, against Carroll College. Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

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## NEXT WEEK

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### Friday, August 29

- 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony - 6:00 PM

### Saturday, August 30

- Skylights Volleyball vs Medicine Hat College – 1:00 PM
- Lights Football vs Carroll College - 1:00 PM

## Monday, September 1

- Fall Deferred Payment Schedule: 25% Due
- Holiday ~ Labor Day Holiday ~ No Classes, Offices Closed

## Friday, September 5

- Skylights Volleyball @ Rocky Mountain College – 6:00 PM

## Saturday, September 6

- Lights Football @ Montana Western - 1:00 PM
- Skylights Volleyball @ Carroll College - 1:00 PM

## Wednesday, September 10

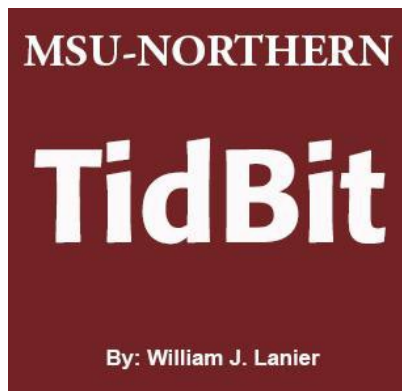
- Skylights Volleyball vs University of Providence - 7:00 PM

## Friday, September 12

- Skylights Volleyball vs Valley City State University - 7:00 PM

## Saturday, September 13

- Lights Football vs Dickinson State University - 12:00 PM
- Skylights Volleyball vs Mayville State University - 5:00 PM



## (#438) Welcome (Back) to the NNN

The NNN TidBit would like to wish all Northern students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Northern a SAFE and enjoyable new school year. For those of you who are new to the NNN, welcome! To returning readers, welcome back. The NNN TidBit is a weekly column centered on Northern, alumni, or various other Northern connections.

This is the 438<sup>th</sup> edition of the NNN TidBit, which first appeared in the January 26, 2007, issue of the Northern Network News. In case you were wondering, that would be 6,791 days ago or 18 years, 7 months, and 4 days!

The hope is that the TidBit is something that you, the reader, will enjoy and look forward to each week. I want to thank all who have sent me e-mails in the past. PLEASE, if you have an idea for the NNN TidBit, send me an e-mail at [wjlanier1963@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlanier1963@yahoo.com)

Have a great year!

Visit our website

Montana State University-Northern | 406-265-3700 | <https://www.msun.edu/>

STAY CONNECTED



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