



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - September 26, 2025

Students Help Keep Our Highway Clean

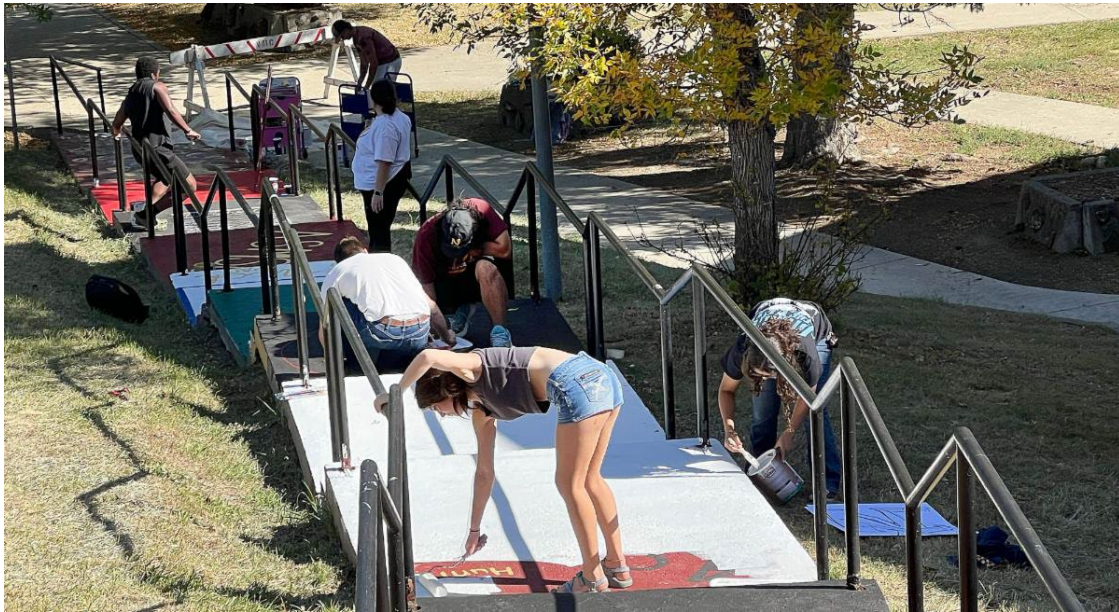


Our student-athletes once again showed their commitment to our community by helping keep our highways clean and beautiful. Earlier today, about 75 athletes turned out to clean the mile stretch of highway at mile marker 1 by First Lake as part of our Adopt-a-Mile program.

This marks the fourth year of our partnership with the program, and the turnout was incredible! Athletes from Football, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Wrestling, Volleyball, and Cross Country all pitched in to make a visible difference.

We're proud of their dedication both on and off the field—and to the community we call home.

Hello Walk Tradition Showcases Northern's Campus Life



Students, clubs, and athletic teams came together last week for the annual tradition of painting the Hello Walk as part of MSU-Northern's Homecoming celebration. Nearly every student organization on campus took part in refreshing the colorful steps that connect the lower and upper campus, just west of the Student Union Building.

The Hello Walk began as a student art project, encouraging everyone who passes by to greet one another with a simple "Hello." Over the years, it has grown into a vibrant showcase of campus life, highlighting the creativity and spirit of MSU-Northern students.

MSU-Northern Lights Up the Festival Days Parade



MSU-Northern was honored to once again be part of Havre's annual Festival Days Parade on Saturday, September 20. With a vibrant showing of student clubs, athletic teams, and academic programs, Northern proudly celebrated alongside our friends and neighbors. The enthusiasm and spirit on display reflected both the pride our students have in their university and the strong connection Northern shares with the Hi-Line community. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who walked, rode, through candy and cheered alongside us—you made Northern's presence truly unforgettable this year!

Beast Run Brings Fun, Fitness, and Community to Festival Days



The 4th Annual Beast Run took over Northern's campus on Sunday as part of Havre's Festival Days, drawing more than 175 runners and walkers of all ages. The event has quickly become a favorite tradition, offering a fun, family-friendly way to celebrate the community and showcase our beautiful campus.

This year's run raised between \$750 and \$1,000 for the MSUN Food Pantry and Community Center, with funds to be matched by the Town Pump Charitable Foundation. Many participants said they are already looking forward to next year!

As always, the quirky “re-fueling stations” stole the show. Runners were treated to donuts from Infinity Bakery and Stokes Market, bacon from ASMSUN Senate (with President Aiden Perkins dressed as “Piggy”), candy from Residential Education’s “Candyman” Cannan Smith, a couch potato station hosted by the CARE Team, and water provided by BNSF Maintenance of Way.

Dozens of volunteers made the morning possible, from registration and medical staff to students who set up, cheered on runners, and cleaned up afterward. Special thanks to the Havre Chamber of Commerce, Triangle Communications, and Patrick Construction/MSUN Athletics for their support. Costume awards went to Aspen Crawford (Best Beast) and the “Trash Panda” family (Best Inner Beast).

Sweet Victory: Beast Treat Competition Ends in a Tie



MSU-Northern partnered with the Havre Chamber of Commerce for the Annual Beast Treat competition leading up to Festival Days. Local businesses showed off their creativity with delicious entries, including 40 Below Public House, Gram's Ice Cream & Candy Shoppe, Grace & Grit Coffee Company, PJ's Restaurant & Casino, and Xcel Havre.

On Wednesday, the Chamber announced a tie for first place between 40 Below and Grace & Grit.

- 40 Below served up a gooey s'mores flatbread—chocolatey, marshmallowy, and topped with teddy bear graham crackers.
- Grace & Grit impressed with The Prickly Beast—a pairing of apple cider infused with blackberry and prickly pear, served alongside creamy cheesecake topped with fresh blackberries, apple slices, blackberry drizzle, and even a sugar “glass shard” for dramatic flair.

Thank you to everyone who supported our local businesses during this fun and tasty competition. Stay tuned this spring for the Beast Burger contest!

Brown Bag Lecture Explored Ranked Choice Voting



Dr. Casey Donovan, who teaches MSU-Northern's Contemporary Mathematics (M105) course, presented a Brown Bag Lecture on the benefits and pitfalls of ranked choice voting. The general education class introduces students to less common math topics with practical applications, including logic and social choice theory.

During the lecture, Donovan outlined four different methods of ranked choice voting and explained how they differ. He also highlighted the work of Nobel Prize-winning economist and mathematician Kenneth Arrow, whose research examined the fairness of voting systems.

MSU-Northern Joins System-Wide AI Workshop



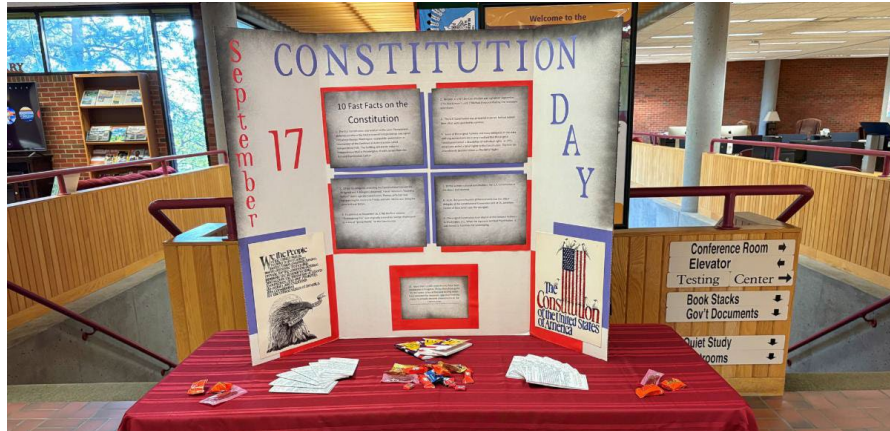
Last Friday, September 19, five administrators and faculty from MSU-Northern traveled to Montana Tech to connect with colleagues from across Montana's colleges and universities. Together, they explored the opportunities—and challenges—of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in higher education. This session kicked off a series of collaborative discussions aimed at shaping Montana University System-wide policies and strategies for the responsible use of AI on campus.

To make AI more accessible for our campus community, MSU-Northern will offer a series of workshops and articles in the NNN designed to help staff and faculty use AI responsibly and ethically.

We're especially excited to invite all staff and faculty to OTLE's "AI Playday" on Friday, September 26 in the Cowan 113 computer lab. This hands-on event will let you explore generative AI tools in real-world higher education scenarios. Three sessions are available to fit your schedule: 9–10 a.m., 11 a.m.–12 p.m., and 2–3 p.m. Don't miss this chance to get ahead of the AI curve.

[Click here to register...](#)

MSU-Northern Celebrates Constitution Day



MSU-Northern's Vande Bogart Library recognized Constitution Day on September 17 with a special display honoring the nation's founding document. Students, faculty, and staff were invited to stop by for a free piece of candy and a pocket-sized copy of the U.S. Constitution. In 2004, Congress officially designated September 17 as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, encouraging schools and institutions nationwide to celebrate and reflect on the importance of the Constitution.

Constitution Day recognizes the signing of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787, in Philadelphia. The Constitution established the framework of the federal government, outlining the separation of powers, checks and balances, and the rights of citizens. More than two centuries later, it remains the cornerstone of American democracy.

A Ton of Books, A Ton of Support from Northern Athletics



Last week, MSU-Northern's men's and women's basketball teams rolled up their sleeves to support the Havre-Hill County Library. Together, they moved more than a ton of books to help set up the library's annual Festival Days Book Sale. The hard work of our student-athletes not only made the event possible but also showed Northern's commitment to supporting our community.

Who Will Wear the Crown? Find Out at Halftime on Tilleman Field!

Get ready, Northern fans—Homecoming Saturday is almost here! Join us at 12:00 p.m. on Tilleman Field as the Lights take on Eastern Oregon University in the big Homecoming football game.

The excitement doesn't stop at kickoff—at halftime, we'll crown this year's Homecoming Royalty, chosen by the student body. Come cheer on your classmates and see who will take home the crown!

This year's outstanding candidates include:

- Ashton Grover, ASMSUN Senate
- Tabitha Van Dalen, ASMSUN Senate & Residence Hall Association
- Caedon Seymour, Chi Alpha
- Jonathan Wamsley, Chi Alpha
- Kyan Calderera, KNMC College Radio
- Damon Petroff, KNMC College Radio
- Owen Smith, Residence Hall Association
- Tithen Fitzgerald, SkillsUSA
- Kaitlyn Tabbert, SkillsUSA
- Cannan Smith, Student Family Association
- Harlee Burns, Sweetgrass Society
- Talia Goes Ahead, Sweetgrass Society

Bring your Northern spirit, wear your maroon and gold, and be part of the action!

11th Annual Suicide Awareness Walk



The Northern community gathered at 6:30 p.m. in the courtyard between Cowan Hall and the Gym for the 11th Annual Suicide Awareness Walk. At 7 p.m., speakers shared messages of hope and remembrance, followed by a gentle one-mile loop around campus. Participants designed shirts, made banners, shared memories, and walked together in support of suicide awareness and prevention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Attention Northern Campus,

We would like to let you know of a change at the Vande Bogart Library. Our Library Proxy Login will look different. Instead of the old blue screen that asked you for your NetID and Password:

Montana State University Libraries
Bozeman Billings Northern Great Falls College

Use these credentials:

NetID ([info](#))
Other options ([info](#))

NetID:

Password:

☐ Warn me before logging me into other sites.

LOGIN **CLEAR**

Security Notice:
Remember to logout and close your web browser when finished with the Library.

[Passwords, Information, and Help](#)

Single Sign-On for Library - logging into this page gives you single sign-on access to many MSU Library resources and applications.

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you will now see the same page as you see when you're logging into your MyInfo page.






LOGIN

NetID:

7 characters, starts with a letter (e.g. a11b222)

Password:

☐ Don't Remember Login

Login

Trouble logging in?

[Reset your password](#)

[Contact your campus Help Desk.](#)

Security Notice:
Remember to log out and close your web browser when finished.

Montana State University is now offering Duo Two-Factor authentication. Students, Faculty and Staff can enroll here: <https://www.montana.edu/uit/duo/>

You will still login with your NetID and Password but now you will be asked to also Duo authenticate just like you would for accessing MyInfo. This does not change any of our services or any access to what we offer. It just allows for more security by multi-authenticating. We hope this doesn't cause any issues but if you come across a problem, please reach out to us so we can try and fix it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

The Vande Bogart Staff.

AI Resources Now Available

OTLE has created an [AI Resources Hub webpage](#) that can act as a reference for utilizing AI in your own role or providing resources to students. While we are not experts on AI, we've provided the limited research we've gone through to provide a comprehensive resources webpage. This includes different AI tools, AI prompt library, how to use AI ethically, and a variety of resources for students, faculty, and staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS



OTLE Presents - AI Playday – Today – Sept. 26

Attention faculty and staff, curious about AI and how it's transforming higher education? Don't miss OTLE's **AI Playday**, a hands-on, interactive exploration of generative AI tools designed to spark creativity, streamline workflows, and enhance learning. Whether you're a beginner or

already dabbling in AI, this event is your chance to see these tools in action—and think about how they could impact your role as faculty, staff, or administrator.

Why attend?

- Try AI tools for writing, research, visual creation, and more.
- Learn what students are already using and how it affects teaching and learning.
- Explore ethical considerations, capabilities, and limitations firsthand.
- Gain practical ideas for integrating AI into your work and courses.

This event will be held today, Friday, September 26th. Three different times to choose from: 9–10 am, 11 am–12 pm, or 2–3 pm in the Cowan 113 Computer Lab.

Spaces are limited to ensure personalized guidance for all experience levels.

[Click here to register...](#)

MAT – Death by Chocolate Sept. 27

Join Montana Actors Theatre for their annual Sponsorship Drive and Gala of Friends, Denim, Black Ties, & City Lights where Montana meets Manhattan! September 27 5:30 pm St Jude's Gym, Community Awards – Fantastic food – Show Auctions – Prizes – Dancing

Costumes Encouraged! Dress for Montana formal or Manhattan formal!
Individual Tickets \$50/per person or \$90/Couple

[Click here for tickets...](#)



Alumni Auction – Oct 3

MSU-Northern Foundation annual Alumni Auction will be held on Friday, Oct. 3 in the SUB Ballroom. Doors open at 5:30 pm. They will have Live Auction, Silent Auction, and their infamous Dollar Auctions. Proceeds go to student scholarships.

Tickets are \$25 or \$500 for a table of 8, meal is included. Contact the Foundation office for tickets at 265-3711 or go to our website

[Click here to purchase tickets or a table...](#)

NEXT WEEK

Friday, September 26

- OTLE Presents - AI Playday 9 AM, 11 AM, 2 PM
- Skylights Volleyball vs Dakota State University - 7:00 PM

Saturday, September 27

- Lights Football vs Eastern Oregon University - 12:00 PM
- Skylights Volleyball vs Bellevue University - 5:00 PM

Wednesday, October 1

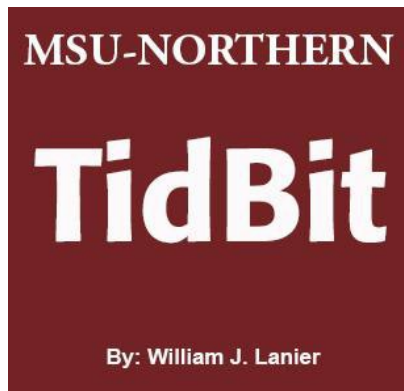
- Fall Deferred Payment Schedule: 50% Due

Friday, October 3

- Alumni Auction – 5:30 – SUB Ballroom
- MSUN Cross Country @ Bengal Invitational
- Skylights Volleyball @ Montana Western 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 4

- Skylights Volleyball @ Montana Tech 5:00 PM



(#440) Remembering Lanny Wilke

Two years ago, on June 22, 2023, Northern lost a dear community member, Mr. Lanny Wilke! In memory of our friend, colleague, teacher, mentor, and scone booth extraordinaire, funds had been requested to purchase a tree and a plaque. Earlier this year, we had secured the funds to get the tree from Frontier Lawn and

Landscaping and a plaque from J.M. Donovan Designs.

Both of these businesses are owned and operated by Northern Alumni. In July of this year, the MSU-Northern Physical Plant staff were able to get it set. This tree and plaque are situated on the northwest corner of the Brockmann Center, adjacent to the northeast of the Armory Gymnasium complex. This specific location was selected as these buildings were two of the places that Lanny had spent many hours over the past three decades.



A Northern Alum, Lanny Wilke, taught at Northern for 27 years. During that time, he had a lifelong impact on many who crossed his path. Throughout a person's life, they cross paths with many others, but certain ones leave a lasting impact like very few others. Lanny Wilkie was one of those.

Here is a quote from one of his former students, Tara Townsend, that sums up Lanny Wilkie!

"Mr. Wilkie One if the only reasons I passed college the second time with an infant and toddler in tow. Always a smile. Always a "it's okay, this can wait, your child cannot". Midnight emails after I finally rocked a sick one to sleep and the first for a hug when I grabbed my diploma. He never let a day go by he didn't tell me how proud of me he was and worked with me through some of my hardest times when I returned to college.

He was a huge proponent in cancer research and appropriating funds the correct way through organizations who funded treatment centers and never let a waiting child or St. Jude's Children's Hospital go without his support.

*He was what I hope and wish to be to children and young adults who need a pat on the back and a boost of encouragement each and every day. He loved big. He smiled bigger.
He'll be greatly missed."*

Tara is just one of many former Northern students who have expressed similar sentiments.

Suppose you missed the opportunity to contribute to the tree and plaque. In that case, it is not too late to honor Lanny Wilke, as the MSU-Northern Foundation is still accepting donations for the Lanny Wilke Memorial Scholarship. If you are so inclined, donations may be sent to MSU-Northern Alumni Foundation, PO Box 1691, Havre, MT 59501. Please state that the donation is for the Lanny Wilke Memorial Scholarship. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the MSU-Northern Alumni Foundation office at 406-265-3711.

Thank you to all who have contributed funds in memory of our friend, Lanny Wilke.

If you have an idea for the NNN TidBit, send me an e-mail at wjlanier1963@yahoo.com

Visit our website

Montana State University-Northern | 406-265-3700 | www.msun.edu

STAY CONNECTED



MSU-Northern | 300 13th Street West | Havre, MT 59501 US