



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**NORTHERN**

---

## Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - March 14, 2025

---

### Rylin Burns Named All-American

The Lights wrestling team have finished their NAIA National Championship Journey for the season. The Lights will leave with one All-American, Rylin Burns. Burns took seventh place and is now a two-time All-American. Travis Waldner and Austin Vanek fell short from All-American status by one match. All-American awards are awarded annually to the most outstanding athletes in the various sports in which the program is active. Selection criteria are implemented by each sport.

NAIA 165 - 13 Travis Waldner's place is unknown and has scored 3.0 team points

NAIA 184 - 14 Rylin Burns's place is 7th and has scored 11.5 team points

NAIA 197 - 10 Austin Vanek's place is unknown and has scored 3.0 team points

NAIA 285 - 14 Shane Mattson's place is unknown and has scored 3.0 team points



[Learn More...](#)

---

## MSU-Northern Hosts First Science Saturday Workshop



Montana State University-Northern launched its new “Science Saturday” workshop series last weekend, offering educators of grades 5-12 innovative tools to enhance STEM learning in classrooms across the Hi-Line. Participants earned five hours of Professional Development Units (PDUs) for each session attended.

The inaugural workshop, *Science Saturday I: Fluid Mechanics*, took place at the Little River Institute in the Student Union Building. Attendees explored fundamental concepts of fluid pressure and density, utilizing common tools to measure these properties. The session featured engaging hands-on activities, including the interactive “Kool-Aid Cult Party,” and discussions on adapting lesson plans for students with varying expertise levels.

Four educators participated in the workshop, representing Havre High School, St. Jude’s, Cottonwood North, and Rocky Boy Schools. The hands-on activities focused on fluid mechanics, specifically measuring fluid pressure. Using hydrometers, participants measured the density and specific gravity of various liquids, including diesel, kerosene, canola oil, and motor oil.

[Read more...](#)

---

## Take Northern with You Over Spring Break

Next week is spring break! Whether you’ve made plans to go home and relax, or to go somewhere fun and exciting, we’d love to hear about your time away from campus. Take a selfie while wearing Northern gear or holding a Northern

flag and share the photo with us by email ([potterj@msun.edu](mailto:potterj@msun.edu)), or by tagging us on social media @msunorthern (Facebook & Instagram). We'd love to feature your photos in a future edition of the NNN and on our social media pages!

## MSU-Northern Students Set to Explore London Over Spring Break



**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**NORTHERN**  
**Study Abroad Program**  
*London, England*

Two QR codes are displayed side-by-side. Below them are the social media icons for Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram. A larger QR code is positioned below the social media icons, featuring the Northern State University logo in the center.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING  
OUR STUDY ABROAD TRIP

Eleven MSU-Northern students, accompanied by faculty, high school teachers, and community members, will embark on an immersive study abroad experience in London over spring break. The trip is designed to expose students to different cultures, histories, and global perspectives through hands-on learning and exploration.

“We hope to give students the experience of traveling abroad, seeing the world, and immersing themselves in different activities, history, and food,” said Grant Olson, Assistant Professor of Communications and one of the trip’s organizers. “Understanding other cultures and ways of life makes them better global citizens.”

Follow them on Social Media:

[Read More...](#)

## Montana Actors' Theatre Brings *The Foal Monty* to Life



Montana Actors' Theatre presents *The Foal Monty*, a new farce by Martin Holt, as a lively dinner theatre event on March 14 and 15 at the Chuckwagon on the Hill County Fairgrounds in Havre. Catered by the same team behind *Death by Chocolate*, the evening featured a fun-filled performance packed with mistaken identities, gangsters in disguise, and unexpected romance.

Set in a high-society penthouse suite, the production followed Montgomery "Monty" Feely as he navigated chaos under the watchful eye of his soon-to-be father-in-law, Dominic Halligan. With quick-witted dialogue, slapstick comedy, and a touch of romance, the show provided an evening of laughter and entertainment.

The touring dinner theatre will continue with performances in Grass Range on March 22, Shelby on March 28, and Chinook on April 11 and 12.

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

---

## Fundraiser Supports MSU-Northern Students Studying Abroad



MSU-Northern's London Study Abroad students hosted an English High Tea fundraiser on March 9 at Donaldson Commons to express gratitude for community support. The event successfully raised over \$4,000 to support students traveling to London for their academic experience.

Approximately 50 attendees participated in the event, with an additional 15-20 community members contributing donations despite being unable to attend.

The success of the fundraiser was made possible by the generosity of several local businesses. MSU-Northern provided the venue, while MSU-Northern Catering prepared the sandwiches. IGA Bakery contributed the scones, Henny Penny donated the jam tarts and cookies, and Infinity Bakery also supplied cookies. With these generous donations, all event proceeds directly benefited the students.

The London team wants to thank every person who attended, donated, and contributed to making this event a success.

---

## Total Lunar Eclipse Created a "Blood Moon"

Last night, while many were sleeping, night owls witnessed the rare spectacle of a total lunar eclipse. Rather than disappearing into darkness, the moon took on a deep red hue, earning it the name "Blood Moon." The event began with a penumbral (partial shadow) eclipse around 10 p.m. on March 13, leading into a full eclipse, which occurred between 12:30 and 1:30 a.m. on March 14. These times were based on the most accurate astronomical predictions available at the time.

Interestingly, this celestial event coincided with the Jewish month of Adar, a time traditionally associated with joy and celebration leading up to Purim. In

Jewish tradition, lunar eclipses have often been interpreted as significant omens, particularly when they occur close to major festivals. The striking “Blood Moon” just before Purim may have reminded some of the themes of reversals and hidden miracles central to the holiday’s story.

---

## Student Spotlight: Macee Murphy



For Macee Murphy, MSU-Northern is more than just a college—it's a place where she can thrive both in the classroom and on the volleyball court. Originally from Ballantine, MT, Macee first heard about Northern through volleyball coach Jerry Wagner, who introduced her to the opportunities available at the university. “Coach Wagner really brought me here to continue my academic and athletic careers,” she says.

What truly sealed the deal for Macee was Northern’s close-knit environment and the incredible support from professors. “The ratio of students to professors and the flexibility to accommodate volleyball really made me want to come to Northern,” she explains. As an Elementary Education major, she appreciates the hands-on learning experiences that prepare her for her future in teaching. “The small community and opportunities to get firsthand experience in the classroom have been invaluable.”

One of the biggest highlights of her time at Northern has been the unwavering support of faculty and staff. “The professors are so accommodating—they really work with us as athletes to make sure we can travel and still keep up with our classes,” Macee shares. Two people who have had a particularly strong impact on her journey are Professor Gwen Hart and Carmen Lunak in Student Support Services. “Professor Hart has motivated me to always be positive and be a light. Every class I’ve had with her has shown me how interactive teaching can keep students engaged. And Carmen has helped me in so many ways to access opportunities I wouldn’t have had otherwise—she’s always willing to help with whatever I need!”

For students considering MSU-Northern, Macee has one piece of advice: “If you’re looking for a place where professors truly care, where you’ll be supported in both academics and athletics, and where you’ll get real-world experience in your field, Northern is the place to be.”

---

# STRONGER TOGETHER

Enhancing Health & Wellbeing at Northern

By Dr. Tiffany Vickers



## The Road to Resilience: Learning from Setbacks

Life and learning don't always go as planned. A tough exam, a missed deadline, or personal struggles can feel like roadblocks, but setbacks aren't the end of the journey—they're part of it. How we respond to challenges shapes our success far more than the challenges themselves.

Psychologist Martin Seligman, a pioneer in resilience and positive psychology, explains that our ability to bounce back depends on how we interpret setbacks. He identifies three key thought patterns that influence resilience:

- Personalization – Do you see failure as a personal flaw, or as a chance to learn? Resilient people recognize that setbacks don't define their abilities.
- Pervasiveness – Do you let one challenge overshadow everything, or do you keep it in perspective? A bad test score doesn't mean you're a bad student—it's just one moment in the bigger picture.
- Permanence – Do you believe difficulties will last forever, or do you see them as temporary? Growth happens when we understand that setbacks are steppingstones to success.

## Resilience is a Skill—Build It, Strengthen It, Use It

Resilience isn't something you either have or don't—it's a skill that grows with experience. When challenges arise, **reach out**—to professors, peers, and campus resources. Support is here if you need it.

At Northern, we lift each other up. **Every challenge you face is proof that you're growing.** Setbacks will happen—what matters is how you respond. Stand up, shake off the doubt, and take your next step forward.

**You've got this. We've got you. Stronger together.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### No classes next week for Spring Break

No classes next week but offices remain open

### No NNN Next Friday Due to Spring Break

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Oliver! – March 27-29, April 3-5

MAT, the MSU-Northern Community Orchestra, and Havre High School are once again collaborating to produce their version of the Broadway Musical “Oliver!” The show will be presented on the stage of the Havre High Theatre.

The streets of Victorian England come to life as Oliver, a malnourished orphan in a workhouse, becomes the neglected apprentice of an undertaker. Oliver escapes to London and finds acceptance amongst a group of petty thieves and pickpockets led by the elderly Fagin. When Oliver is captured for a theft that he did not commit, the benevolent victim, Mr. Brownlow takes him in. Fearing the safety of his hideout, Fagin employs the sinister Bill Sikes and the sympathetic Nancy to kidnap him back, threatening Oliver’s chances of discovering the true love of a family.

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



### Women’s History Month Documentary Series

**Date/time/location:** Mar. 4, 11, 18, and 25,  
3PM in the Vande Bogart Library near the  
main-level Northern Brew coffee shop

Description:

Throughout March the MSU-Northern Vande Bogart Library is celebrating Women’s History with a documentary film series. Attend film screenings on Tuesday each week at 3PM near the Northern Brew coffee shop on the



library's main level. Drop by and stay as little or as long as you like! To watch on your own, all films can be found on Kanopy through the library's A-Z databases.

- Mar. 18 - *Women Composers*
- Mar. 25 - *Electric Kingdom*

---

## **OTLE Brown Bag Lecture Series – Mar. 4, Apr. 2, 23**

Back by popular demand! The Office of Teaching and Learning Excellence is pleased to present their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Brown Bag Lecture Series. [Find out more.](#)

### ***Qach Rresh: A Neo-Assyrian (950-600 BCE) Site Full of Post-Assyrian (600-323 BCE) Trash on the Erbil Plain - Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>***

Don't miss this Brownbag Lecture where Dr. Kyra Kaercher will be sharing some of the findings from Qach Rresh, a rural site founded in the late Neo-Assyrian period, located just 15km south of modern-day Erbil (Iraqi Kurdistan) as well as exciting new ceramic research.

### **Idle Assets to Active Learning: Revitalizing Campus Resources for Student Engagement - Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

In this Brownbag Lecture, Aaron Riggin will share some of the ways he has retrofitted, updated and revitalized campus equipment to expand and enhance student learning and engagement.

---

## **Science Saturday Series - April 5**

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 II: Astronomy** – April 4, 8:30pm 10pm, April 5, 9am 12:30pm,

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

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

## NEXT WEEK

### Friday, March 14

- MAT presents THE FOAL MONTY Dinner Theatre, Chuckwagon, doors open @5:30pm, dinner @6pm, \$40/person, \$75/couple, \$350/table
- HAVRE ELKS' CLUB BINGO, 321 2nd Street, doors open at 6pm, BINGO starts at 6:30, \$20 to play, reservations recommended w/ Brandy 406.390.0091 Proceeds benefit Elks' Club Youth, Veteran & Community giving programs
- HAVRE ELKS' CLUB KARAOKE, 321 2nd Street, 9pm

### SATURDAY, March 15

- MAT presents THE FOAL MONTY Dinner Theatre, Chuckwagon, doors open @5:30pm, dinner @6pm, \$40/person, \$75/couple, \$350/table
- Craft Show - Holiday Village Mall – 10 am-4 pm

### Monday-Friday March 17-21

- Spring Break (No classes, offices open)

MSU-NORTHERN

**TidBit**

By: William J. Lanier

### (#432) Northern Alumni Scott Dawson

Northern Alumni Scott Dawson was recently awarded the Fritz Keller Spirit Award Winner by his employer Hill County Electric / Triangle Telephone!

Here is the write up that was on their Facebook page!

*“Congratulations to Scott Dawson – Fritz Keller Spirit Award Winner! At Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric, service is at the heart of everything we do. The Fritz Keller Spirit Award recognizes those who lead with kindness, commitment, and a true passion for helping others.*

*Scott Dawson embodies this spirit every day. Whether he’s supporting his community through Search and Rescue, his church, or being the go-to person*

*for both our cooperative and the people around him, Scott's dedication to others is truly inspiring.*

*Join us in celebrating Scott for this well-deserved recognition!"*



Here is a picture of Scott receiving the award and a picture of him from the 1996 *Northerner* (yearbook). Scott is married to Northern Alumni Serena Eckegren Dawson.

Congratulations Scott!

If there are any alumni that you would like me to highlight, please let me know by e-mailing me at [wjlanier1963@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlanier1963@yahoo.com) Thank you.

Visit our website

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

STAY CONNECTED



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