



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - October 10, 2025

Alumni Auction Draws Big Crowd and Bigger Generosity



The 2025 Alumni Auction, a beloved MSU-Northern tradition for more than 30 years, was held on Friday, October 3, in the SUB Ballroom and brought in an enthusiastic crowd of about 180 guests. The evening featured more than 120 generously donated items and introduced a new twist—exciting live auctions where participants had the chance to grab a paddle and join in the action themselves!

Guests enjoyed a lively mix of live, silent, and the always-popular Dollar Auctions, all while bidding in support of student scholarships. Thanks to the incredible generosity of alumni, local businesses, and community members, the MSU-Northern Foundation not only met but exceeded its fundraising goals this year—making a direct impact on the futures of MSU-Northern students.

The Foundation extends its deepest gratitude to everyone who donated, volunteered, and attended. Your support continues to open doors for students and strengthens the Northern community.

Education Department Hosts Open House for New Teachers' Lounge and Resource Lab



The Education Department at MSU-Northern hosted an open house to celebrate the opening of its new Teachers' Lounge and Resource Lab. The event coincided with World Teachers' Day, highlighting the department's ongoing commitment to supporting current and future educators.

Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education, Dr. Beth Durodoye, shared that the new space was created to provide students with opportunities for mentoring, networking, tutoring, and professional development. The lounge features a calm, creative environment designed to support students both in person and online.

Provost Dr. Jennifer Brown praised the department for its dedication in bringing the project to life, calling it "one of the nicest spaces on campus." The Teachers' Lounge and Resource Lab is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with extended in-person hours on Wednesdays. A special thank you to Henny Penny for providing the cupcakes and Valley Furniture for providing the couch.

[Read more...](#)

Hundreds of Students Explore Hands-On Learning at TekNoXpo & ShowCASE



More than 400 high school students from across North Central Montana visited MSU-Northern on October 8 for the annual TekNoXpo & ShowCASE event—a day designed to give future college students a firsthand look at the hands-on programs Northern has to offer.

Students explored ten different academic tracks based on their personal interests, ranging from diesel and automotive technology to agriculture, graphic design, civil engineering, and nursing. Participants had the chance to operate diesel equipment, interact with livestock, create digital projects, and even work with simulated patients in Northern's state-of-the-art nursing lab.

"TekNoXpo is all about showing students what learning looks like at Northern," said Director Shaughn McKeon. "It's engaging, applied, and directly connected to real-world careers."

TekNoXpo & ShowCASE continues to be one of Northern's most successful outreach events, connecting high school students with the skills and experiences that shape their future. The day wrapped up BBQ Hamburgers provided by Tom Patrick Construction.

Career Fair Employers Welcomed at Wine and Cheese Reception



MSU-Northern kicked off its annual Career Fair with their traditional “Wind-Up” Event. This wine and cheese reception was held on Wednesday evening, October 8, honoring the many employers who came to campus to meet with students.

Sponsored by the Career Center and the Chancellor’s Office, the event provided a relaxed opportunity for visiting employers to connect with university administrators, faculty, and staff ahead of the fair. The reception fostered valuable networking and strengthened relationships between MSU-Northern and their industry partners.

Students Explore Internships and Jobs at Fall Career Fair



MSU-Northern's annual Fall Career Fair was held on Wednesday, October 9, in the Armory Gymnasium, drawing strong participation from both students and employers. The event brought together 52 companies representing a wide range of industries from across the Hi-Line, Montana, and beyond.

Employers set up booths and spent the morning engaging with students, discussing potential career paths, co-op and internship opportunities, and full-time professional positions. Many companies also conducted on-campus interviews, giving students valuable experience and an important step toward securing future employment.

Career fairs continue to play a vital role at MSU-Northern by connecting students with industry professionals and helping them prepare for life after graduation.

This year's Gold Sponsors were Wartsila North America and Wabtec Corporation, while Maroon Sponsors included Barnard Construction, Sibanye-Stillwater, Benefis Health System, and Butler Machinery Company.

Criminal Justice Students Learn Firearm Safety and Marksmanship



MSU-Northern's Criminal Justice Students had a hands-on learning opportunity this month when Dr. Frank Zuccala, a POST certified firearms instructor and deputy sheriff for the Liberty County Sheriff's Office, who also serves as an adjunct training officer for the Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA), led a Firearm Safety and Fundamental Marksmanship workshop. The training took place on October 4, 2025, at the Chester, Montana, shooting range.

The session introduced students to the types of firearms most commonly used in law enforcement, including semi-automatic pistols, carbines, and pump-

action shotguns. Participants learned essential skills such as safe handling, loading and unloading procedures, and basic marksmanship techniques.

Zuccala said the workshop was designed to give students a realistic understanding of firearm safety and the responsibilities that come with handling weapons in law enforcement. “There was a mix of students—some with prior hunting or shooting experience and others who had never used a firearm before,” he said. “The goal was to ensure everyone left with a solid foundation in safety and confidence in their skills.”

The workshop was conducted as part of Dr. Jack Bieger’s Criminal Justice course, providing students with practical, field-based experience that complements their classroom learning.

This unique training opportunity reflects MSU-Northern’s commitment to blending hands-on instruction with professional insight, preparing students for future careers in criminal justice and public safety.

Montana Actors’ Theatre Heads to New York with “The Harvest”



The Montana Actors' Theatre (MAT) is taking its original production *The Harvest* to New York City this November for a month-long run at The Chain Theatre in Manhattan. Written and directed by MAT's Executive Artistic Director Jay Pyette, the show will perform locally in Havre for one weekend before heading east.

Pyette, who began writing the play nearly eight years ago, describes *The Harvest* as a heartfelt story about six adult siblings returning to their family farm during harvest season. "It's really about family, coming home, and the struggles that come with it," he said.



The invitation to perform in New York came from the Manhattan Repertory Theatre, which recognized the authenticity of MAT's Montana-grown production. "We'll bring a level of realism they couldn't create on their own," Pyette said.

The New York debut marks MAT's first-ever performance in the city and a major milestone for the Havre-based company. "It's exciting to share a real Montana story on a national stage," Pyette added.

Local audiences can catch *The Harvest* in Havre before it makes its way to Manhattan this November.

[Read more...](#)

Advisory Boards Strengthen Industry Connections at Northern



Professionals from the automotive, diesel, and welding industries recently visited MSU-Northern to take part in advisory board meetings aimed at strengthening the connection between classroom learning and real-world application. Next week we will host Agriculture and Civil Engineering advisory boards. During the sessions, board members heard presentations on curriculum updates, media promotion, and recruiting strategies, and participated in breakout discussions focused on specific program initiatives.

Nearly every program at MSU-Northern has an advisory board that helps ensure students are being prepared to meet the evolving needs of industry partners. These boards provide valuable input that helps shape program development within the College of Technical Sciences. Next semester MSU-Northern will host advisory boards for automotive, diesel, civil engineering, also plumbing/pipefitting, electrical, business, and design drafting/manufacturing programs.

Updates to the Louis and Antoinette Hagener Museum of the Northern Montana Plains Indian

Have you ever been in the Vande Bogart Library and wondered what is in the dark room off to the side on the main floor? Did you know you can go in there? This is the Louis and Antoinette Hagener Museum. It celebrates and preserves

the cultures and histories of the Indigenous Peoples of the Northern Plains Region. It was founded by multiple collections donated to MSUN throughout the 1900s, and became a museum in 2014 with the generous support of the Hagener Family. Conservation work, supported by the Montana History Foundation has ensured that the materials are preserved, hence the dim lighting to help protect the textiles in the museum.

As with many institutions that hold Indigenous collections, the museum's mission extends beyond preservation, it also involves reflection and responsibility. In the spring of 2025, we submitted the entire collection to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Office (NAGPRA). This submission is part of the NAGPRA federal law which requires museums and federally funded institutions to inventory Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and cultural objects in order to consult with tribes for their return, as well as appropriate handling, display, and research purposes. By filing our collection with the federal NAGPRA office, we hope to maintain open dialogue with tribal representatives and honor their perspective to continue to serve as a space where communities learn with and not just about one another.

As we proceed with this new chapter in the museum's history, we look forward to collaborating with other entities both on campus and in the community, to create a museum that bridges past and present, and celebrates the cultural identities and histories of the Indigenous Peoples of the Northern Plains.

Student Spotlight – Holly Olson

Meet Holly Olson from Lewistown, Montana! Holly is pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Community Leadership and is on track to graduate in Spring 2027.

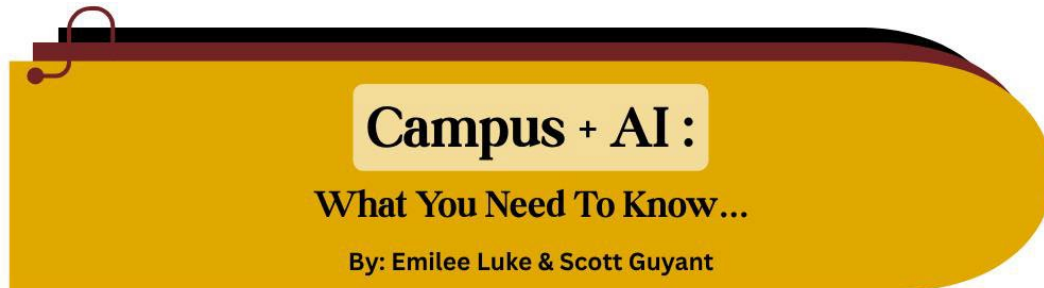
Holly chose MSU-Northern because it's the perfect fit for both her schedule and her career goals. The flexible classes allow her to balance school with work, and her roots in Lewistown—and her past involvement in sports in Havre—make Northern feel like home. She also values being in a community where she already understands the culture, resources, and opportunities, which will help her build strong professional connections.



Alongside her studies, Holly works as a Law Enforcement Information System Specialist (Dispatcher) with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The teamwork, communication, and dedication required in dispatch have given her valuable insights that carry over into the classroom. "Understanding the effort

that happens behind the desk and computer screen gives me a different perspective,” she explains. “It helps me connect what professors teach to real-world experience.”

Her summer work with Border Patrol has strengthened her commitment to a career in law enforcement and inspired her to set her sights on becoming a Division Chief for the Border Patrol as a civilian. Holly is excited to continue blending her academic knowledge with hands-on experience, preparing her to serve communities across the country.



What is AI?

Artificial Intelligence or AI for short, what is it and how does it work? Webster Dictionary defines AI as the capability of computer systems or algorithms to imitate intelligent human behavior. So, what does this mean in more simple terms? Google’s AI defines and simplifies it to the ability of a computer or machine to perform tasks that would normally require human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving, decision-making, and understanding language.

There are three main types of AI.

1. Machine learning
2. Large language models
3. Generative AI

Machine learning is AI that enables computer systems to learn from data and change or improve their programming without having to be programmed for each task. Large language model AI is a system trained on vast amounts of text data to understand, generate, and process human language. This type will see patterns and rules from the vast amounts of data to be able to predict or answer questions or make summaries. Finally, Generative AI is similar to large language models in that they use vast amounts of data but instead of seeing patterns and rules to predict answers. It creates original content like text, images, audio, and video.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fall Break Schedule

No NNN Next Week – for
Oct. 16, 17 – No classes offices opened
Library Hours for Oct 16, 17 8am – 5pm

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

Indigenous Peoples Day – Oct. 13

This Monday, October 13 is Indigenous Peoples Day. Take time to explore the Louis and Antoinette Hagener Museum, located inside the Vande Bogart Library at MSU-Northern.

Fall Break – Oct. 16-17

MAT Announces 2025 Season

Montana Actors Theatre unveiled an exciting lineup for their 2025 season during their annual fall fundraiser:

- The Harvest – Oct. 22–27 (Havre), Nov. 3–23 (New York)
- The Rocky Horror Picture Show Shadow Cast – Oct. 31 & Nov. 1
- Hill Country Christmas Variety Show – Dec. 5–6, 11–13, & 18–20
- Laurel Canyon Tribute Concert – Feb. 6–7 & 13–14
- Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery – Touring March & April
- The Government Inspector – Apr. 10–11, 16–18, & 23–25
- The Hunchback of Notre Dame – May 14–16 & 21–23

- A Comedy of Errors – June 19–21 (Ren Faire)

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

The Harvest – Oct. 22-27

Written and Directed by Jason Pyette
October 22-27 Havre, November 3-23 New York

The Harvest tells the story of a Montana farm family coming to grips with a changing world. Six adult children face the reality of aging parents, the grim economics of a small family wheat farm, and the conflict of their own personalities and histories as they return home to help cut the crop.

NEXT WEEK

Friday, October 10

- Mid Term Grades Due – all day
- MSUN Cross Country @ Yellowjacket/Batt... All Day
- Skylights Volleyball vs Carroll College 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 11

- Lights Football vs Montana Tech 12:00 PM
- Skylights Volleyball vs Rocky Mountain College 5:00 PM

Wednesday, October 15

- Lights Wrestling Maroon vs Gold - 7:00 PM

Thursday, October 16

- Fall Break (no classes, offices OPEN)

Friday, October 17

- Fall Break (no classes, offices OPEN)
- Skylights Volleyball @ Mayville State University - 5:00 PM

Saturday, October 18

- Lights Football @ Mayville State University - 12:00 PM
- Skylights Volleyball @ Valley City State University - 1:00 PM
- Lights Wrestling Alumni Dual - 2:00 PM

Monday, October 20

- Spring 2026 Graduation Applications DUE

Friday, October 24

- MSUN Cross Country @ Glendive Open
- Lights Wrestling @ North Idaho College - 7:00 PM
- Skylights Volleyball vs Bismarck State College - 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 25

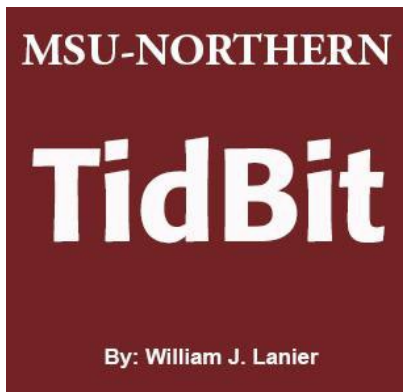
- Lights Football vs Rocky Mountain College - 12:00 PM
- Skylights Volleyball vs Dickinson State University - 5:00 PM

Monday, October 27

- Last day to drop a class and receive a "W" grade

Friday, October 31

- Registration for Spring 2026 Begins
- Skylights Volleyball @ Bellevue University - 5:00 PM



(#442) Time Machine – October 3, 1975 (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band Part II)

In a continuation of last week's 50th anniversary of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's concert, here are the concert reviews. These appeared on page 2 of the October 15th, 1975, NoMoCo.



Nitty Gritty Reviewed

by Sheila Ausen

Signs that read, "No Smoking, No toking" greeted the crowd that came from the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band on October 3, 1975 at the NMC Armory Gym. Tom Bross, SUB Board Chairman, reports spending the total sum of \$6543.30 for the concert. That sum included the back-up band; Kajsa Ohman and the Roughriders; advertising; and police patrol.

Total profit on the sale of tickets, advanced and at the door, was \$5617.80, leaving a loss of \$925.50. Bross said the concert was a success as far as they were concerned because it was well supervised and no trouble broke out.

Businesses downtown prospered from the concert. It was reported that the Pizza Hut made over \$1000 that night. There was also a rush at the 300 Club with people standing everywhere for lack of room to sit.

When asked what they thought of the concert, most people said it was "pretty good" and expressed a desire for another concert. Some could not remember what happened at all. Shame! Shame!

by McKay

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band was really different, good but not great. Their warm-up group was not so good, but they served their purpose. The female lead had a nice voice, but their music was all pretty much the same, and it got very monotonous.

The force of authority was very evident by the concert squad, in the form of the Havre police. Some people were asked to leave and others were separated from their six-packs of 7-Up and one person was even relieved of his thermos of water?

People seemed to enjoy the concert as a whole, although it was not nearly as **high** or as **inebriated** as concerts in the past. Frequently the sweet smell of something burning and the tinkle of breaking glass filled the air, if one really tried to find it, but at times it seemed to find you.

No one was hurt and everyone was having fun at the end. A big "Yeah" to Central Board for a job well done. Let's have more in the near future.

According to the NoMoCo, the concert generated \$5,617.80, but incurred expenses of \$6,543.30, resulting in a net loss of \$925.50. Ticket prices were \$4.50 for NMC students, \$5.00 for advance tickets, and \$6.00 at the door. In today's world, that would equate to approximately \$27.00, \$30.00, and \$36.00, respectively. For comparison, in 1975, a stamp cost \$0.007, and today it costs

\$0.78. Sorry, last week's edition, I inadvertently said that stamps in 1975 were \$0.70. I want to thank Northern Alum, Jack Wardell, for the e-mail pointing that out.

I also want to share Jack's entire e-mail. His e-mail says exactly what I hope the Northern Network News and the NNN TidBit strive for with all our Alumni and Northern friends!

"First, as an alumni, I love seeing the continued growth and energy of the NMC community. It holds a fond place in my heart. The articles and celebrations of students, staff, facilities and awards and events are uplifting in these times of so much negativity and division. Thank you to all."

Side note on the TidBit price comparison of stamps at the end of the NittyGrittyDirtBand article.. 1975 stamp prices were either \$.05 or \$.07 not the posted \$.70.

Also, as a Central Board member back in early 70s, I don't think that many of our sponsor concerts made money. But they also weren't targeted to bring in big bucks but to provide normalcy to our remote college campus ... and, that they did. Love and miss my first college"

Jack Wardell

Again, thank you, Jack!

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

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