



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - January 16, 2026

A New Semester Begins - Stay Connected with the NNN

Welcome back to campus and to the start of a new semester! With classes underway and activities ramping up, the *Northern News Network (NNN)* is here to keep you connected to everything happening at MSU-Northern. From student clubs and campus events to achievements and announcements, the NNN is your go-to source for campus news.

If your club or department has something coming up, please share it with us—I'll do my best to attend and highlight your event. When possible, be sure to take photos at your activities; especially if I'm unable to be there. This makes it possible for us to still feature your story in an upcoming edition. This semester, the NNN will be published every other week, so getting your information in early will help ensure it's included.

Jim Potter
Director of Communications and Marketing

Museum Re-Design Open House Hosted by NASX 215



Students in the NASX 215 Museum Studies course concluded their semester with a redesigned layout and new exhibit cases for the Louis and Antoinette Hagener Museum. The class showcased its work during a public open house held Friday, December 5, in the MSU–Northern Library.

The open house invited campus and community members to view newly designed exhibit cases featuring updated objects and interpretive labels. Students were available to discuss their design process and share insights into the reimagined museum layout, with refreshments provided for attendees.

Students Named to MSU-Northern's Fall Semester Dean's List

The Montana State University-Northern's Fall semester Dean's List contains 377 students. To be included in the Dean's List, students must carry a minimum of 12 credits and earn a grade point average of 3.25 or better. Students that received an incomplete or "F" during this semester are not included on the honor roll listing.

[Read more...](#)

Rodeo Spirit Shines at MSU–Northern's Cowboy Christmas Event



The MSU–Northern Rodeo Booster Club successfully hosted its annual Cowboy Christmas Fundraiser on December 5 in the Armory Gym. The festive event brought the community together for an evening of celebration, highlighting the achievements of the Northern rodeo team and recognizing their positive impact both on campus and throughout the Hi-Line. With strong attendance and enthusiastic support, Cowboy Christmas showcased the pride, tradition, and spirit surrounding Northern Rodeo while raising important funds to support the program's continued success.

Eyes on Montana's Higher Education Workforce



MSU-Northern Chancellor Greg Kegel recently represented the University at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Higher Education Summit in Washington, D.C., held December 15–16. Invited by Senator Becky Beard (MT SD38), Chancellor Kegel joined higher education leaders and policymakers from across the country to discuss how colleges and universities can better align academic programs with state and regional workforce needs.

From Northern's perspective, the conversations closely reflected the University's long-standing mission: preparing graduates for Montana's workforce—particularly in critical areas such as agriculture, trades, and applied technologies—while keeping education affordable and student-focused. "These national discussions reinforce the importance of delivering practical, high-value education that leads directly to meaningful careers," said Chancellor Kegel. Insights from the summit will help inform ongoing efforts at MSU-Northern to strengthen workforce pathways, improve student success, and serve Montana's long-term economic needs.

Lions Club Donation Advances Student Housing Improvements at Northern



From left to right: Marla Shulund, Director of Operations; Mackenzie Kuhn, Havre Lions Club Member; Jerry Kuhn, Havre Lions Club Member; Arleen Rice, Foundation Board Chair; Melanie Skoyen, Managing Director; and Toni Pedersen, Director of Finance.

The Havre Lions Club recently made a generous contribution in support of the Morgan Hall Renovations Project at Montana State University–Northern, reaffirming its long-standing commitment to both the campus and the Hi-Line community.

The donation will help fund updates to Morgan Hall, an important residence hall that supports student life at MSU–Northern. Planned renovations focus on modernizing facilities and creating a more welcoming, student-centered living environment.

“We are very grateful to the Havre Lions Club for their continued support of Northern,” said Melanie Skoyen, MSU–Northern Foundation Director. “Their investment in Morgan Hall directly supports our students and strengthens the future of our campus.”

The Havre Lions Club’s contribution reflects its tradition of service and dedication to education and community impact across the region.

Extended Library Hours Offer More Flexibility for Students

Great news for busy students! To better support student-athletes and those balancing classes with work, the Vande Bogart Library has extended its hours this semester, giving everyone more time and flexibility to study. Beginning

Sunday, January 25, 2026, the library will be open on Sundays from 1–9 p.m., with expanded evening hours Monday through Thursday. Whether you need a quiet place to focus, access to resources, or a late study session with classmates, the library is here for you. Stop by, settle in, and make the most of the new hours this semester!

Library Hours (Spring 2026):

- Sunday: 1–9 p.m. (starting January 25)
- Monday–Thursday: 8 a.m.–9 p.m.
- Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

(Holiday hours may vary.)

Campus + AI :

What You Need To Know...

By: Scott Guyant

When “Magic” Has a Metabolism: The Environmental Cost of AI

Part 1 of 2 on AI and the planet

Some users say using generative AI can feel like there's little cost since you type a prompt, an answer appears, and no one sends you a bill (unless you are paying for the monthly subscription for it). But for the work happening at these massive data centers on racks of servers they draw loads of power, consume massive amounts of water, and depend on a constant stream of new hardware. A recent United Nations Environment Programme story warns that AI is helping drive steep growth in data center electricity demand just as countries are trying to decarbonize their grids (United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP], 2025).

Those servers don't just use electricity. They also rely on fresh water for cooling equipment used and through the power plants that supply the power. A policy brief from the Environmental and Energy Study Institute estimates that U.S. data centers already use hundreds of millions of gallons of water a day, with demand expected to rise as AI-heavy facilities expand (Yañez-Barnuevo, 2025). Advocacy work from Food & Water Watch argues that this growth is especially worrying in already water-stressed regions, where AI's thirst competes with households, farms, and ecosystems (Murray & DiFelice, 2025).

These impacts often become more visible only after the facilities are built or expanded. Reporting in *Smithsonian Magazine* describes communities in Northern Virginia watching forests and farmland give way to sprawling data centers along with the higher power and water demands. Residents say they never really got to voice their opinions on whether or not they wanted a data center or even vote on them (Chen, 2025). Companies may publish polished global sustainability numbers while keeping site specific power levels and water data confidential (UNEP, 2025).

This story doesn't end at the data center fence line. High-end AI chips rely on critical minerals, energy-intensive manufacturing, and, eventually, disposal as e-waste. A report from the AI Now Institute traces how mining, manufacturing, and waste processing link AI's carbon and water costs to labor exploitation and environmental injustice in communities far from the data centers that enjoy AI "smart" tools (Kneese, 2023).

None of this means "never use AI." But it does mean our prompts are not free and we should consider just whether or not we should be relying on AI as much as we do. Even as universities and colleges rush and push for adopting AI for writing help, tutoring, and administration, we're also shaping demand for more data centers, more energy, and more water (UNEP, 2025; Yañez-Barnuevo, 2025).

This ends Part 1 which deals mainly with that cost. In Part 2, I'll look at the more hopeful side. How AI might even help with climate and conservation. Plus ask when those benefits can honestly outweigh the impacts outlined here.

Full references and further reading for this column are available at:

<https://libguides.msun.edu/c.php?g=1502960>

As always please reach out to me with questions, comments, or topic you would like me to address next.

Scott Guyant

Research Librarian

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Classes Monday – Jan. 19

Holiday ~ Martin Luther King Day ~ No Classes, Offices Closed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Back Cocoa Social – Jan. 21

Kick off the semester with something warm and sweet!

Stop by the Welcome Back Cocoa Social on January 21 at the MSUN Vande Bogart Library and enjoy free hot chocolate from 10 a.m. until it's gone. Take a study break, warm up, and reconnect with friends as we celebrate being back on campus. We're glad you're here—see you in the library!

Open Gym – Mon. – Thurs. (8-10 PM)

Come to the Armory Gym and enjoy playing pick up games of basketball, volleyball, ultimate frisbee and more. Gym is open Monday - Thursday from 8-10 PM.

We Love Northern Ball – Jan. 31

Get ready for one of Northern's most anticipated nights of the year! The 2026 We Love Northern Ball is happening January 31, 2026, in the SUB Ballroom, and it promises an unforgettable evening in support of Northern student scholarships. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with live music by Plowed Under, delicious catering by Bomgardner Catering, and an exciting mix of live and silent auction items you won't want to miss. Gather friends, alumni, and supporters for a night of celebration, community, and impact—all for a great cause.

Tickets or tables can be purchased online at the [Foundation's website](#), or for more information, call 406-265-3711. Join us and show how much you We Love Northern!

Voices from the Canyon – Feb. 6, 7, 13, 14 (7:30 PM)

A Tribute to the artists of Laurel Canyon

For this fifth tribute, the series turns its focus to Laurel Canyon, the unlikely hillside neighborhood that became a creative epicenter in the 1960s and '70s. Voices from the Canyon features music by artists such as The Byrds, The Mamas & The Papas, Crosby, Stills, Nash (& Young), Buffalo Springfield, Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, Eagles, Jackson Browne, and Carole King

whose harmonies, honesty, and songwriting helped define a generation. February 6, 7, 13, & 14 - 7:30pm MSUN/MAT Theatre

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

NEXT WEEK

Friday, January 16

- Skylights Basketball vs Carroll College - 5:00 PM
- Lights Basketball vs Carroll College - 7:00 PM

Saturday, January 17

- Skylights Basketball vs Rocky Mountain College - 5:00 PM
- Lights Basketball vs Rocky Mountain College - 7:00 PM

Monday, January 19

- Holiday ~ Martin Luther King Day ~ No Classes, Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 20

- Last day to Add classes *AND* to Drop classes without receiving a "W" grade
- Skylights Basketball vs University of Providence - 5:00 PM
- Lights Wrestling @ University of Providence - 6:00 PM
- Lights Basketball vs University of Providence - 7:00 PM

Friday, January 23

- Lights Wrestling @ Missouri Valley Collegiate

Saturday, January 24

- Lights Wrestling @ Missouri Valley Collegiate

MSU-NORTHERN

TidBit

By: William J. Lanier

If you are not familiar with Morgan Hall here is a write-up that was placed on the Northern website for the 75th anniversary.

"In the fall of 1957 male students moved into the newly constructed boys' dormitory located just north of the original boys' dorm. The building designed by Oswald Berg featured contemporary flat rooflines with extended window space in the dining room and lounge. Originally designed to house 114 men, an addition of a south wing in

1958 brought the number to about 300. In January of that year the dining hall

in Donaldson Hall was closed and all campus residents were served meals from a new food service facility in the new dormitory.

The building was named Morgan Hall in honor of a longtime faculty member and interim President of the college in 1953, Dr. Ellsworth A. Morgan. Morgan had taught German at the college for 26 years and was well known for his work in the community. The building was attractively furnished in contemporary style. Cost of the building was estimated in 1961 at \$1,050,000. Severe settling of the land in the northeast wing forced its closure in 1986 and some subsequent remodeling. The lobby area of the building was remodeled in the early 1990s to provide a non-denomination chapel space for the campus. Furnishings for the chapel were donated to the college by the Cowan family and had been stored for years in the attic of Donaldson Hall. An additional gift by the Cowans to the Northern Foundation provided funds for the remodeling and the space was dedicated to Mrs. Anabelle Cowan."

Note: The Chapel was removed about 15 years later.

Havre Daily News

The following is an article from the February 24th, 1954 issue of the Havre Daily News. This article provides background on who Dr. D.E. Morgan was and why the residence hall was named after him.

Men's Residence Hall at NMC Named Morgan Hall in Honor Of Veteran Member of Faculty

Northern Montana college's men's dormitory will be named Morgan hall. Dr. E. A. Morgan once was acting president for the Havre school and on its faculty more than 20 years.

Dr. Morgan, expressed his thanks today to the students and faculty of the Havre unit of the University of Montana, for naming the Men's Residence hall, and recalled his first days on the campus.

When I arrived in Havre in 1930 there were no buildings on the campus," he said. "All assemblies were held in the west end of Havre high school, but that didn't seem to make much difference to the students. They were interested in the dormitory as well as building a college, and they must have known that their hope would be fulfilled in the coming years."

During his many years in Havre Dr. Morgan taught German, mathematics, and selection courses. He has also handled courses in boxing, wrestling, and tumbling. And his quarter-century devotion to NMC athletics has been firmly demonstrated in his perfect attendance record at all Light home games.

Before coming to NMC, Dr. Morgan taught at the University of Wisconsin where he received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. He also spent seven years teaching at a Berlin language school in Germany before and during World War I. He now serves as professor of German and teaches courses in Education and math and science at NMC. He served as president of the college for six months in 1950.

Naming of the men's residence hall after the long-time professor has been a hope of NMC personnel for several years. Final action by the State Board of Education was reported yesterday.

Morgan hall was opened for use

in January, 1942. The building was a gift to the college from Hill county. After being moved to the campus, the structure was remodeled throughout and a third floor was added. A second remodeling program got underway in 1951.

Plans for a new men's dormitory are now being discussed by college administration officials. If financing of such a new residence hall can be worked out, the structure will be built as soon as possible. It will also be named Morgan hall after Dr. Morgan stipulated that the present men's dormitory carry his name, but that when a new men's residence hall is built, the name be transferred to the new structure.

The naming of the building marks the second time in recent years that NMC students and faculty have designated such structures for titles. In 1951 the Women's Residence hall was named after the late Jeanette Donaldson, faculty member who taught at Northern for several years.

Administration May Go Along With More Tax Cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high Republican leader said Wednesday the Eisenhower administration probably would go along later in this congressional session with some further individual income tax cuts.

But GOP congressional leaders threw no light on this prospect as they came out of a 1½ hour conference with the president at the White House.

House Speaker Joseph W. Martin Jr. said the subject of taxes did not come up in the conference. He told newsmen he knew of nothing in the works at this time beyond plans to consider in the next few weeks a general tax revision bill and a bill dealing with corporation and excise tax cuts now due to take effect April 1.

The following is an article from the October 3rd, 1956 issue of the Havre Daily News. This article describes the initial construction of Morgan Hall.

Work on New Men's Dormitory About to Start

With the object of getting as much work done as possible before winter weather arrives, crews of the Sletten Construction Company of Great Falls began moving on the Northern Montana College men's dormitory job this week.

A crew under the direction of Maurice McNinch, construction superintendent, began erecting a tool shed Tuesday, and some of the preliminary staking for the new building was done.

McNinch said the Baltrusch Construction Company of Havre was going to do the excavation work on the unit. Equipment of the Sletten company is expected to arrive the latter part of this week.

The superintendent said they planned to push construction as rapidly as possible to try to get as much enclosed as possible, so inside work could be continued in the more severe weather.

The unit, to be known as the new Morgan Hall, will be located on the eastern part of the campus. Contracts let call for the construction of the central administration unit and a northeast wing to house 114 college men. The dormitory section will be a three-story unit. The design is such that two additional wings may be added to the building at a later time to accommodate additional students as needed.

With Morgan Hall approaching 70 years of age, now is the time for all of us to donate to this project. If you have already donated, thank you. If you have not, please consider investing in Northern. I challenge every person who has ever lived in Morgan Hall over the past 70 years! I have made my donation, have you? Here is the link, one more time!

[Morgan Hall Renovation Project](#)

If you have any alumni friends, please consider passing this on to them. Thank you.

[Visit our website](#)

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