



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**NORTHERN**

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - March 6, 2026

## MSU-Northern Turns Heads at Frontier Tournament



Photos by: Cassandra Olszewski

The MSU-Northern Lights and Skylights left their mark on the 2026 Frontier Conference Basketball Tournament with spirited performances and memorable moments before the conference crowned its champions Monday night at the Butte Civic Center.

The **Skylights** opened postseason play with an electric performance, knocking off the **Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears** 82-74 in the quarterfinals behind a red-hot shooting night, including 14 made three-pointers and a 30-point outing from Becky Melcher, who also pulled down 11 rebounds to lead the balanced attack.

Northern's women advanced to the semifinals but ran into powerhouse **Dakota State Trojans**, falling 73-57 as Dakota State took control after the first quarter and sealed a berth in the title game. Northern finished its season with a 17-12 record and several highlight performances on the tournament stage.

On the men's side, the **Lights** electrified the bracket with back-to-back upsets, first topping No. 2 Bellevue and then stunning No. 3 **Carroll College** 80-76 in the semifinals behind a furious second-half comeback and clutch free-throw shooting down the stretch.

That set up a championship clash with top-seeded **Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears**. Rocky Mountain led 39-30 at halftime. MSU-Northern's defense tightened after halftime to force a 71-71 tie at the end of regulation play. Rocky went on to capture the tournament crown, with a two-point win in overtime.

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## Lights Send Six to NAIA National Wrestling Championships



The Montana State University-Northern Lights wrestling team is headed to the national stage after a strong showing at the Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) Championships.

The Lights finished seventh as a team with 72.5 points and saw six wrestlers secure spots at the NAIA National Championships — five earning automatic bids and one receiving an at-large selection.

Leading the way were runner-up finishers Justin Windauer (165 pounds) and Shane Mattson (285 pounds). Windauer advanced to the championship match before falling 5-2 in a hard-fought decision, while Mattson battled to a 4-1 sudden victory decision in the heavyweight finals to claim second place.

Kolten Powers (133 pounds) delivered an impressive performance, going 3-0 on the final day to earn a third-place finish and an automatic national berth.

Three Lights wrestlers added fourth-place finishes to round out the qualifiers: Cade Gubler (184 pounds), Orion Thivierge (174 pounds), and Ryan Graves (157 pounds). Gubler secured his national spot with an automatic qualification, while Thivierge and Graves each punched their tickets with strong tournament performances. Powers earned the at-large selection to complete the group of six.

The Cascade Collegiate Conference received the highest number of automatic national qualifiers among NAIA conferences this year, with 47 total bids awarded.

With momentum on their side, the Lights now turn their focus to the NAIA National Championships as they prepare to compete against the best in the country.

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## **Eva Stokes Named Pure Gold**

Eva Stokes, Director of Facilities Services at MSU-Northern, has been recognized with the Montana State University Pure Gold Award for her outstanding leadership and service to the university.

With more than 20 years of experience in Facilities Services, Eva brings invaluable institutional knowledge, professionalism, and attention to detail to every project. Following the recent passing of former Director Dan Ulmen, she stepped into her leadership role during a difficult time, guiding her team with strength, compassion, and determination.

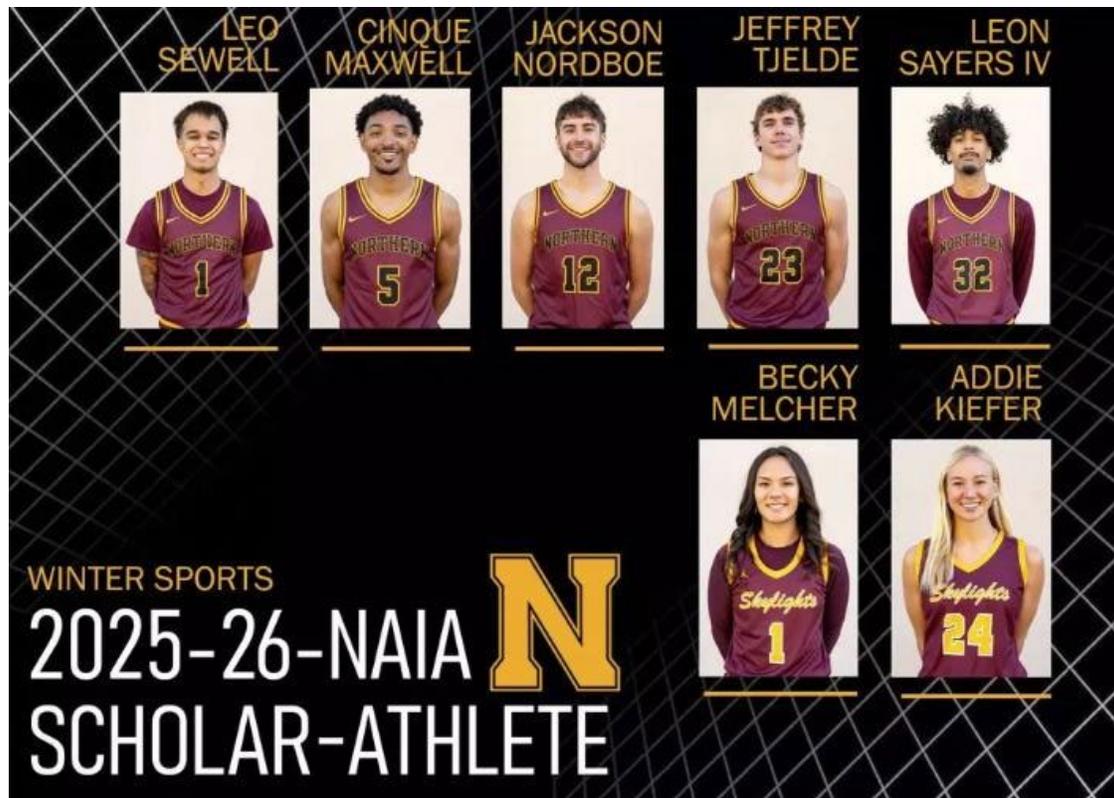
Eva has expressed deep pride in her team for their efforts during this transition, reflecting her collaborative leadership style and commitment to excellence.



The Pure Gold Award, presented by the Office of the President of the MSU system, honors individuals for exemplary contributions to their campus communities.

Congratulations, Eva — you make Northern proud!

## MSU-Northern Athletes Receive Academic Recognition



Student-athletes at MSU-Northern continue to prove their excellence extends far beyond competition, earning multiple honors from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics that recognize achievement both in the classroom and in athletic performance.

**Academic All-Conference** recognizes student-athletes who maintain at least a 3.5 GPA while competing in their respective athletic conference.

[Lights Basketball Academic All-Conference Recipients...](#)

[Skylights Basketball Academic All-Conference Recipients...](#)

**NAIA Scholar-Athlete** honors junior and senior student-athletes with a 3.5 GPA or higher, distinguishing them among the top academic performers nationwide in the NAIA.

[Northern Basketball NAIA Scholar-Athletes...](#)

**All-Conference** recognizes outstanding athletic performance within a team's conference during the competitive season.

[Lights Basketball All-Conference Honors...](#)

[Skylights Basketball All-Conference Honors...](#)

**All-Tournament Team** is The 2026 Frontier Conference Men's Basketball All-Tournament Team honors the top players who delivered the most outstanding performances throughout the Frontier Conference men's basketball tournament.

[2026 Frontier Conference Teams](#)

## MSU-Northern Community Sweeps the Ice at MSUN Open Curling Event



During finals week last semester, members of the Montana State University–Northern community traded textbooks for brooms and stones at the MSUN Open Curling event held December 8, 2025 at the Havre Ice Dome. Hosted by Student Activities, the event welcomed students, faculty, and staff for an evening of learning, friendly competition, and winter recreation.

Fourteen participants took to the ice to learn the fundamentals of curling before putting their skills to the test. The session began with instruction on delivery technique, sweeping, and strategy, followed by team play. Participants then formed four teams and competed in a spirited round of games that emphasized teamwork, communication, and plenty of laughter.

Joshua Meyer played a key role in the success of the event. As part of the organizing team, Meyer led the instructional portion of the evening and managed the flow of activities

on the ice, ensuring participants felt confident in learning the sport while keeping the games running smoothly.

Student Activities staff members Tammy Boles and Taryn Wallon coordinated the event, helping create an inclusive and engaging experience during one of the busiest weeks of the semester. Special recognition also goes to Kaiya Doney, who designed promotional materials that helped generate interest and participation.

The event came at a time when curling continues to capture national attention, particularly following Team USA's strong showing on the international stage. At the most recent Winter Olympics, the U.S. men's team finished fifth, the women's team placed fourth, and the mixed doubles team earned a silver medal — a performance that has kept enthusiasm for the sport high across the country.

The MSUN Open Curling event provided a welcome break from finals stress while introducing participants to a sport that blends precision, strategy, and camaraderie. Organizers hope the success of this event will inspire future opportunities for the campus community to stay active, try something new, and connect with one another through shared experiences.

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## Montana Actors' Theatre Launches Touring Dinner Theatre with Comic Mystery



Montana Actors' Theatre invites audiences to enjoy an evening of food, fun, and fast-paced intrigue as it launches its new touring dinner theatre production, *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* by Ken Ludwig. Blending suspense with comedy, the production brings a fresh and hilarious twist to the classic tale inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

In this madcap mystery, five actors portray more than 40 characters in a whirlwind of wild chases, eerie moorland scenes, and outrageous disguises. The result is a lively, high-energy performance that delivers both laughs and suspense while keeping audiences guessing until the very end.

Guests will enjoy a full dinner while attempting to solve the mystery alongside the world's most famous detective. The menu features broasted chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and dessert — all served as the mystery unfolds.

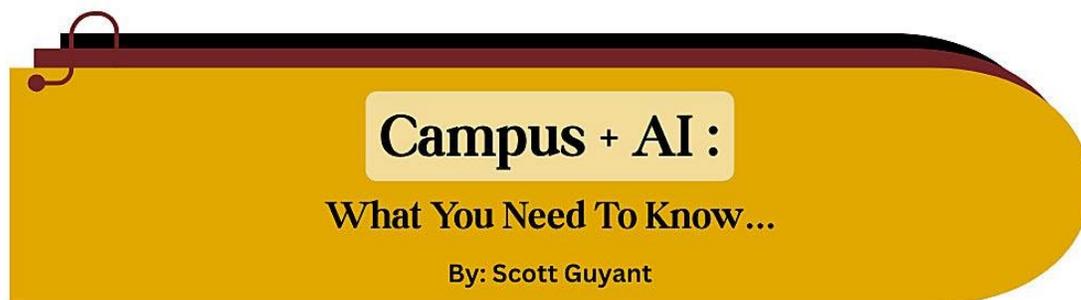
With its inventive staging, quick-change comedy, and engaging audience experience, Montana Actors' Theatre's touring dinner theatre offers a unique night out for communities across the state. Guests are encouraged to come hungry, bring their detective instincts, and see if they can crack the case before Holmes does.

The tour opens in Havre, with performances March 6–7 and March 13–14 at Vic's Place. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Following the Havre debut, the dinner theatre will travel to communities across north-central Montana:

- **Chinook — Blaine County Fairgrounds: March 20–21**
- **Winifred High School: March 27**
- **Grass Range High School: March 28**
- **Great Falls College: April 18**
- **Shelby Dessert Theatre: April 19**

[Click here to get your tickets...](#)



## **AI and Citations: What You Should Cite, What You Shouldn't, and How to Document use!**

If you're a student, the citation question can feel overwhelming: "If I used AI, how do I cite it? Is it the same as a book?"

If you're faculty, it's basically a mirror image: "If they used AI, what do I need to see to evaluate the work fairly?"

The simple answer: Cite your sources for your claims and document the tools used for the process.

The more complex answer: Cite (or otherwise acknowledge) AI when you quote, paraphrase, or reproduce AI-generated text, images, code, or other content in your submitted work, because that material isn't "from you" in the usual sense. MLA, APA, and Chicago all converge on including the same key elements: name the tool, name the company, identify the version/model when possible, and record the date the output was generated. Here are links to each guide to help you along.

<https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai-updated-revised/>

<https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/cite-generative-ai-references>

<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html>

When should you not cite the AI tool: do not cite AI as a substitute for real sources. If the AI supplies facts, quotations, statistics, or references, your job is to find, verify and cite an original, credible source (article, book, dataset, policy, website). A chatbot can point you in the right direction, but it can't serve as a reliable source. Always verify sources for your underlying claim. Stanford's (along with other universities) library guidance makes this distinction plainly: cite the AI when you use its output; but also verify and cite the real sources for the information.

What to document (even when you don't "cite" it): As my previous column pointed out for many assignments, especially when AI use is allowed for brainstorming or editing, a short "AI Use Note" can be enough. Chicago style even notes that, depending on context, a simple acknowledgement in the text may suffice, with a more formal note used when needed.

Here is a Ready-to-Copy template (works for students and faculty)  
AI Citation and Documentation Mini-Rule

1. If AI wrote words/images/code that appear in my work: I cite or note the AI tool (tool + version/model + company + date generated).
2. If AI gave me facts/quotes/citations: I verify and cite the original sources (not the chatbot).
3. If AI helped behind the scenes (brainstorming, outlining, editing): I add an AI Use Note describing what it did and what I changed/verified.
- 4.

**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 topics you would like me to address next.

**Scott Guyant**

Research Librarian

Assisted by ChatGPT 5.2 Thinking model

Edited by **Professor Valerie Guyant**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Now Accepting Student Excellence Nominations

The Student Excellence Awards recognize Northern students who have exemplified a commitment to the pursuit of high academic achievement and significant student engagement. These students hold themselves and others to a high standard, strive for integrity in all areas of their lives, and model for others a commitment to holistic learning and engagement.

This year, we will be awarding students as part of the Awards Day celebration, scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for submissions is March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

[Click Here to nominate a student ...](#)

If you have any questions please contact Taryn Wallon, Dean of Students.

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### Northern Network News Disclosure:

The NNN is produced with the assistance of ChatGPT

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Brown Bag Lecture Series

**Thursday, March 12, 2026,  
Teachers' Pathways to the Profession and Their Attitude Towards  
Diverse Classrooms**

Dr. Praveen K. Dubey, Assistant Professor of Education and Director of Clinical Experience and Partnerships, will present *“Teachers’ Pathways to the Profession and Their Attitude Toward Diverse Classrooms”* on Thursday, March 12, from 12–1 p.m. in the ATC Hensler Auditorium.

Drawing on data from the 2018 Teaching and Learning International Survey, Dubey examines two major K–12 trends: professionals transitioning into teaching and increasingly diverse classrooms. His findings highlight differences between first- and second-career teachers’ perspectives, as well as gender differences in priorities and

approaches to diverse learning environments, with implications for teacher recruitment and preparation.

Dr. Dubey's research focuses on multicultural education, diversity and inclusion, digital equity, STEM education, and teacher quality. He has presented nationally and uses advanced statistical methods to improve learning experiences for diverse student populations.

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 12 pm-1 pm in ATC Hensler Auditorium - Presented by Dr. Kasthuri Udayakumar**

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## **Winter Wellness Workshop: Mindful Journaling – Mar. 26**

Date: March 26<sup>th</sup>

Time: 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Location: Vande Bogart Library Makerspace (Main floor by the study rooms!)

The Winter Wellness Workshop Series concludes with a mindful journaling session using the handmade books created earlier in the series. Participants will explore journaling and mindful doodling as creative, low-pressure ways to reflect and unwind.

This session is beginner-friendly and open to all, with no expectation to share or write in any particular way. All materials are provided, and no prior experience is required.

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## **Annual Casino Night – Mar. 25**

ASMSUN is excited to host its Annual Casino Night on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

Student registration begins at 5:30 pm, with the Casino and Lights Lounge opening at 6:30 pm. The gaming floor will close at 9:30 pm. This year's theme is **Speakeasy/Great Gatsby**, and guests are encouraged to dress the part. Prizes will be awarded for standout costumes, adding to the fun and festive atmosphere.

ASMSUN is also seeking volunteers to help make the evening a success. Opportunities include serving as game dealers, mocktail bartenders, cashiers, and faculty/staff hosts to mingle and engage with students.

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**Spring Break – March 16-20**

**Registration Begins – March 27**

**Spring Fling – April 3**

**First S.O.A.R. – April 10**

**Scholarship Ceremony – April 17**

**Wowwow – April 24-25**

**Finals Week – May 4-8**

**Commencement – May 9**

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## **CAMPUS SCHEDULE**

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### **Friday, March 6**

- Lights Wrestling @ NAIA National Championships
- *Sherlock Holmes Mystery* – Vic's Place 5:30 PM

### **Saturday, March 7**

- Lights Wrestling @ NAIA National Championships
- *Sherlock Holmes Mystery* – Vic's Place 5:30 PM

### **Thursday, March 12**

- Brown Bag Lecture: Teachers' Pathways - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

### **Friday, March 13**

- *Sherlock Holmes Mystery* – Vic's Place 5:30 PM

### **Saturday, March 14**

- *Sherlock Holmes Mystery* – Vic's Place 5:30 PM

**March 16-20 - Spring Break**

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MSU-NORTHERN

# TidBit

By: William J. Lanier

## (#454) Northern Wrestling by the Numbers 2026 Edition

With the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual National NAIA National Wrestling Tournament coming up this weekend, here is my annual "Northern Wrestling by the Numbers – 2026 Edition."

1984- Dr. Dave Greenwood was named the NAIA District 12 Coach of the Year

1983- Northern finished in 17<sup>th</sup> place at the NAIA National Tournament

1982- Northern placed 22<sup>nd</sup> at the NAIA National Tournament

1976-. Dave Greenwood was named the Frontier Conference Wrestling Coach of the Year

168- Number of career wins by Isaac Bartel, placing him 1<sup>st</sup> all-time in Northern history

136- Number of wins by Tyson Thivierge as a Northern Lights wrestler (5<sup>th</sup> all-time in Northern history)

112- Number of career pins by former Northern Light Ethan Hinebauch (most in NAIA history and second most in collegiate history)

92.6% - Turk Lord's career winning percentage here at Northern (126-10)

91.1% - Emmett Willson's career winning percentage here at Northern (163-16)

91.1% - Brian Hilt's career winning percentage here at Northern (51-5) from 1982-84

90.3%- Isaac Bartel's career winning percentage here at Northern (168-18)

56- Number of years Northern has had a wrestling team (began in the fall of 1970)

50- Number of wins by former Light Emmett Willson in 2004

44- Consecutive years Northern has had at least one All-American

44- Consecutive years Northern has finished in the top 22 at the national tournament (1982-2025)

41- Number of Academic All-Americans Northern has produced

33- Individual national champions from Northern (4<sup>th</sup> all-time in NAIA history)

30 - Number of times Northern has finished in the top 10 at the national tournament

17- Number of times Northern has finished in the top 5 at the national tournament

14- Number of times Northern has finished in the top 3 at the national tournament

8- The number of Northern wrestlers who earned the Gorriaran Award at the NAIA National Tournament.

7- Number of national championships by Turk Lords (4 individual and 3 team)

7- Number of individuals who were four-time All-Americans in the history of Northern

6- Number of Northern wrestlers that will be participating at the NAIA National Championships this year.

6- National team titles won by Northern (4<sup>th</sup> all-time in NAIA history)

5- Number of Head Coaches who have coached the Northern wrestling teams

(Dr. David Greenwood, Jason Liles, David Ray, Dan Troupe, and Tyson Thivierge)

5- Number of All-American finishes by Isaac Bartel

4- National individual titles won by Turk Lords

3- National individual titles won by Emmett Willson

3- Number of Northern Lights wrestlers that are in the NAIA Hall of Fame (David Ray, Emmett Willson, and Turk Lords).

3- Number of Northern Lights that won a National Championship and went undefeated the same year (Randy Street, Emmett Willson, and Isaac Bartel)

2- National individual titles won by Corey Borges and Stryder Davis

1- Dan Hodge Trophy winners by Northern (Emmett Willson, still the only NAIA wrestler to ever win this award). *It was 22 years ago!*

If there are any additions or corrections to this list, please let me know by emailing me at [wjlanier1963@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlanier1963@yahoo.com). Thank you.

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