



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**NORTHERN**

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - November 17, 2023

## Great Progress on the Proficiency-based Education System



On behalf of MSU-Northern's Education Department, Dr. Amy L. Smith, Associate Professor of Education, was awarded a \$30,000 grant in the spring semester from Montana State University Bozeman to focus on proficiency-based education (PBE). Great progress has been made and the department is excited to share how Northern education students will benefit from the grant. During the summer, a team of faculty and recent alumni attended a two-day training in Denver Colorado with the Marzano Academy to learn how to effectively implement and transition to a PBE system.

[Read more...](#)

## Washington Foundation Donates 20K for Dynamometer Computer



Michelle Martin, HR Director for Modern Machinery, presented MSU-Northern with a \$20,000 grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to help purchase new computer systems for the Engine and Chassis Dynamometers. Currently, the program is using the original computer systems that came with the dynos, which were bought in 2006 and 2010 and support for the current software expired in 2019. The existing system will

not run the latest version of the software, so this donation is a critical addition to bring the equipment up to current industry standards. The total cost of replacing the systems (including computers and associated hardware & software) will be in excess of \$100K.

The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation strives to better the human condition by supporting programs and services that give people tools to enhance the quality of their lives, and to benefit society. Funding for the Foundation comes from personal contributions from the Washington family, and annual contributions from The Washington Companies.

Each Washington Company is unique, though they all share the same ethic of giving back to their communities. Employees of the Washington Companies annually donate significant time and resources to impactful projects in the communities in which they live and work.

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## MSU-Northern Honors Our Veterans

On behalf of MSU-Northern's faculty, staff, and students, we want to thank our Veterans for your unwavering service and bravery. Your sacrifices have not gone unnoticed, and we are immensely grateful for the dedication and courage you have displayed in defending our nation.

As a show of our appreciation, MSU-Northern TRiO programs, Veterans Upward Bound and Student Support Services, hosted a lunch for our Veterans and their families on Tuesday, Nov. 14, in the Veterans' Lounge in Cowan Hall. May this expression of gratitude serve as a reminder that your contributions are not only acknowledged but appreciated by the MSU-Northern community.

Once again, thank you for your service. Your sacrifices are the foundation upon which our freedom stands, and we are forever indebted to you.

## **MSU-Northern Foundation Hosts Wine-Tasting for the Ball**



On November 15th, the MSU-Northern Foundation hosted a wine-tasting in Donaldson Hall. Four staff, three foundation board members, and one community member came to sample the wine. The goal of the event was to select three wines for the three-course wine pairing menu for the upcoming “We Love Northern Ball” in February.

The Foundation hosted Brian and Roxanne McGuire, owners of the Willow Mountain Winery in Corvallis, Montana. Willow is the premier winery in Montana, and they brought eight different wines to sample. The eight judges scored each of the wines on a scale of one to ten. Three winners clearly emerged. Their Sapphire Sparkling Wine scored 9.6 and will be paired with the appetizer. Their GSM (a blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre) scored 8.25 and will be paired with the main course. Their Marquette scored 8.5 and will be paired with the dessert.

The Ball is scheduled for Saturday, February 24th, 2024, in the Armory Gymnasium. Now that the wines have been chosen, the next step is to choose the three courses that will complement the wine.

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## **Pepsi Cola of Great Falls Commits \$118,000 to MSU-Northern**



Alan Volk, Area Business Manager from Pepsi Cola of Great Falls, presented a generous check for \$118,000 to MSU-Northern's Chancellor, Greg Kegel, earmarked for student scholarships and special projects at MSU-Northern. The commitment is inclusive of a one-time signing bonus, negotiated as part of a new seven-year contract recently established between Pepsi Cola of Great Falls and MSU-Northern.

[Read more...](#)

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## Modern Machinery Days Provides Real Life Demonstrations



Modern Machinery brought 13 industry trainers, recruiters and personnel on campus last week to conduct an info session, several equipment training sessions, and interview potential employees. On Monday they provided an Info Session in the SUB Ballroom. On Tuesday, the two trainers provided several equipment training sessions on Komatsu equipment (a D51 EXi-24 Intelligent steel-tracked dozer and a WA270 wheeled loader) in the DTC. The training session covered Intelligent Machine Controls, Emission controls, hydraulics and Hydrostatic Transmissions.

Finally, they conducted job interviews (for both co-ops and full time positions) on Tuesday and Wednesday. Modern Machinery funded the transportation of the equipment both in and out of Northern (the dozer was trucked in from Boise, ID, and was returned to Pocatello, ID) which shows a very high level of commitment from Modern Machinery for the diesel technology program at Northern.

Modern Machinery began in 1944 with a single location in Spokane, Washington. Today, Modern operates full-service branches in Missoula, Billings, and Columbia Falls, Montana; Boise, Jerome, and Pocatello, Idaho; Kent, Spokane, and Rochester, Washington; and Portland and Eugene, Oregon.

## SSS Celebrates First-Generation College Students



November 8 was National First-Generation College Celebration Day, when institutions across the country recognize and celebrate the achievements of first-generation students, faculty, staff, and alumni. According to the Department of Education's definition of "first generation" college students used for TRiO programs like MSU-Northern's Student Support Services (SSS), a "First-Gen" student is someone whose parents/guardians had not completed a baccalaureate degree by the time the student was 18. First-generation students face numerous barriers to entering college, can struggle with persisting in college once they enroll, yet are essential parts of our Northern community and often represent the best of our institution. SSS sponsored a simple open-house celebration to recognize the achievements of First-Gen folks at Northern and encourage pride for the way that First-Gen students, staff, and faculty shape our school. If you are a First-Gen student and looking for support and community on campus, stop by Cowan Hall 211 to connect with Student Support Services.

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## The Highway2menTribute Concert Rocks the Little Theatre



On Nov. 3 & 4, local bands came together in the MSU-Northern Little Theatre to present an unforgettable night of pure country magic and pay homage to the legendary supergroup, The Highwaymen! An evening transported the audiences back to the golden age of country music, celebrating the iconic voices and timeless songs of Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, and Kris Kristofferson. The live local bands included The Milk River Band, The Steads, and MSUN's own Corey Kopp.

## MSU-Northern Community Orchestra Shares "Big Jazz on Campus"



Pictured above is the MSU-Northern Community Orchestra and Mike Bober playing a tenor sax solo during a song titled *Pass the Hot Sauce* by Brad Ciechomski.

The MSU-Northern Community Orchestra provided an enchanting evening of jazz tunes on Nov. 9. The event, titled "Big Jazz on Campus," was directed by Rhonda Minnick and took place at the MSU-Northern Little Theater.

The orchestra presented the audience with a diverse repertoire of jazz classics and contemporary compositions, including: *1/3 Off* by Rod Blumenau, *Mack The Knife* arr. Dave Wolpe, *The Egg* by Dan Kramlich, *C-Jam Blues* (arr. Mark Taylor), and *It Don't Mean a Thing* (arr. Mark Taylor)

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## Newsies the Musical Opens this Weekend



Joyce and Charles Finn present: the Montana Actors' Theatre Youth Production of Disney's Broadway musical, "Newsies" in the Havre High Theatre on November 16-18 & 24-25 at 7 pm and November 18-19 & 25 at 2 pm.

Step into the vibrant world of "NEWSIES," where a band of courageous newsboys takes center stage, defying the odds and fighting for justice. Based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899, this Tony Award-winning musical is a triumph of heart, soul, and unbreakable spirit. With show-stopping choreography, unforgettable melodies, and a story that will touch your heart, NEWSIES is a theatrical sensation not to be missed.

Music by ALAN MENKEN - Lyrics by JACK FELDMAN- Book by HARVEY FIERSTEIN Based on the Disney Film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White

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



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Registration for Spring 2024 Semester is Underway

Registration for Spring 2024 is officially underway, and we want to ensure you have all the information you need to secure your spot in the right classes. Here are a few key points to consider as you navigate the registration process:

### **Timely Program Completion:**

Planning is key to graduating on time. By registering early and working closely with your advisor, you can map out your academic journey and ensure that you are on track to complete your program in a timely manner.

### **Flexibility for Your Schedule:**

We understand the importance of flexibility in managing your time effectively. Take advantage of the variety of class times and formats available to ensure that your schedule aligns seamlessly with your commitments and responsibilities outside the classroom.

### **Advisor Consultation:**

It's crucial to have a conversation with your faculty advisor to ensure that you are enrolling in the right courses to meet your program requirements. Advisors are here to guide you and help you make informed decisions about your academic path.

### **Act Now - Classes Filling Up Fast:**

Classes are in high demand, and spots are filling up rapidly. Don't wait until the last minute to register, as this could impact your ability to get into the classes you need. Take proactive steps to secure your seat in the courses that will contribute to your success.

### **Contact the Registrar's Office for Assistance:**

If you have any questions or encounter challenges during the registration process, our dedicated Registrar's Office is here to assist you. Feel free to reach out for guidance and support.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## Puss in Boots – Dec. 8-9, 14-16 & 21-23

Get ready to embark on an enchanting journey like no other with the most charming feline in the land! Join us for an unforgettable Christmas Panto

experience as we bring you the timeless tale of Puss in Boots in a dazzling holiday twist.

This Christmas Panto is presented by Frank and Bettie Barber in the MSU-Northern Little Theatre on December 8-9, 14-16, & 21-23 7pm

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

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## CALENDAR

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### **Monday, November 20**

- Thanksgiving Break (No Classes, Offices OPEN)

### **Tuesday, November 21**

- Thanksgiving Break (No Classes, Offices OPEN)

### **Wednesday, November 22**

- Thanksgiving Break (No Classes, Offices OPEN)

### **Thursday, November 23**

- Holiday ~ Thanksgiving\* ~ No Classes, Offices Closed

### **Friday, November 24**

- Holiday ~ Thanksgiving\* ~ No Classes, Offices Closed

### **Tuesday, November 28**

- Christmas Tree Lighting

### **Wednesday, November 29**

- ASMSUN Student Senate Meeting – 7:00 PM

### **Wednesday, December 6**

- ASMSUN Student Senate Meeting – 7:00 PM

### **Friday, December 8**

- Puss in Boots – 7:00 PM – MSUN Little Theatre

### **Saturday, December 9**

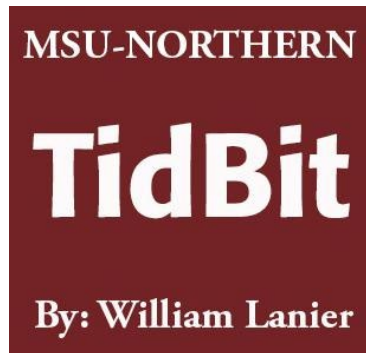
- Puss in Boots – 7:00 PM – MSUN Little Theatre

## Fall Semester Finals Week

- Monday, December 11-14

## Semester Break

- December 15 – January 8<sup>th</sup>



## Celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> TidBit

Back in January of 2007, I was talking with Jim Potter, about various Northern things. During this discussion we were talking about current Northern employee and NMC Alumnus, Betty Clark and that she was the first female MOA sanctioned basketball referee in Montana. It was then and

there that Jim had this idea to have a section in the Northern Network News "A Northern Tidbit". I agreed, because there were so many amazing, cool, interesting things about Northern that many did not know.

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Here is the very first NNN TidBit as it appeared in the January 26, 2007, Northern Network News.

### A Northern Tidbit

Betty Clark was the first female MOA (Montana Officials Association) sanctioned basketball referee in the state of Montana. Her officiating jersey is currently in the west display case in the Cowan Hall North entryway (This Northern Tidbit was provided by Northern's own trivia guru Bill Lanier. I hope to make this a weekly column so keep watching)

To see the entire January 26, 2007, Northern Network News, please click on this link: <https://www.msun.edu/news/pr-2007/NNNJan26-07.pdf>

The MSU-Northern web page has a section that has all the Northern Network News articles since January 12, 2007. Here is a link to visit that section: [NNN Archives](#)

Also of note is that the name Northern Network News was originated by none other than Jim Potter's wife, Belinda Potter.

Thus 6,139 days later (Or nearly 17 years) we are at NNN TidBit #400. I never would have imagined that this would have gone this far. Thank you to Jim Potter and all who have assisted over the years and to all of you for reading the NNN and the NNN Tidbit.

if you have an idea for the NNN TidBit, send me an e-mail at [wjlanier1963@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlanier1963@yahoo.com)

if you have an idea for the NNN TidBit, send me an e-mail at [wjlanier1963@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlanier1963@yahoo.com) .

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

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