



# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN

## Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - December 1, 2023

### Christmas Tree Lighting



On Tuesday, Nov. 28, Northern held its annual Christmas tree lighting event in the main entryway of Cowan Hall. This event kicks off the holiday season for the campus. Dr. Terri Hildebrand won the right to turn on the lights during the fall staff and faculty orientation. She had her grandson Easton McClintic flipped the switch that lit the Christmas tree lights. Corey Kopp, Lindsey Brandt-Bennett, and Casey Donovan provided the live holiday music.

## Decorations Around the Campus



MSU-Northern shares its holiday spirit with decorations around the campus. Here are a few of the many ways the various departments chose to decorate.

## Join the Students Reaching Students Initiative

*Join the Initiative!*

# STUDENTS REACHING STUDENTS

TELL YOUR NORTHERN STORY TO YOUR FRIENDS!

**GET PAID FOR YOUR TIME!**

**INFO SESSION:  
SUB FIRESIDE ROOM - WEDNESDAY 12/6 @6PM**

The recruiting office is looking for students who are interested in visiting their local high school(s) while they are home for the holidays to help promote Northern to friends and former classmates. The recruiting office will pay interested students for their time and mileage to speak with high schoolers about MSU-Northern and the advantages of a Northern degree. There will be an info and training session in the SUB Fireside Room next Wednesday, December 6, at 6:00pm open to all interested students.

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## **Sydney Hansen Receives Montana Athletes in Service Award**



Sydney Hansen received the Montana Campus Compact's Montana Athletes in Service Award for her community service activities. Through her participation in Northern basketball alone, she contributes to Havre and the surrounding communities year-round. Hansen has participated in nearly twenty service projects a year throughout her time at Northern. This year alone, she has helped the ASA clean a mile of highway in Northern's name, painted the Hello Walk on campus, helped with the Foundation's annual Alumni Auction, moved books for the Hill County Library, worked the NLSAF Pheasant Jamboree, and helped organize the Trunk or Treat. In addition to

all that, Hansen is also a primary teacher at her church.

Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) is a CEO-led coalition of colleges and universities that support civic engagement, service learning, and volunteerism across our state. Their work to improve community life and educate students about civic and social responsibility is critically important.

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## MSU-Northern Announces New Library Director







Please welcome Sarah Velk as MSU-Northern's new Director of the Vande Bogart Library.


Sarah is originally from Havre and holds a B.S. in Resource Conservation from University of Montana and an M.S. in Library Science from University of North Texas. Director Velk also holds two graduate certificates; one in Natural Resource Conflict Resolution, and one in Rural Library Management. Sarah brings a wealth of experience to the campus community, especially with respect to the development of engaging library programming, and she will undoubtedly enrich the learning experience for all of our students.

Welcome to Northern, Sarah!

## Four Skylights Named Daktronics Scholar-Athletes

**N Daktronics Scholar-Athletes 2023**

 <p><b>Jr. Emily Feller</b></p> <p>Helena, Mont. Major: Civil Engineering Tech. Sport: Volleyball</p>	 <p><b>Jr. Alana Graves</b></p> <p>Ballantine, Mont. Major: Nursing Sport: Volleyball</p>	 <p><b>Sr. Hailie George</b></p> <p>Billings, Mont. Major: Nursing Sport: Volleyball</p>	 <p><b>So. Macee Murphy</b></p> <p>Ballantine, Mont. Major: Elementary Education Sport: Volleyball</p>
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**MSU-Northern** 

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) released the 2023 Daktronics NAIA Women's Volleyball Scholar-Athletes. The Skylights Volleyball team have four Daktronics Scholar-Athletes. Senior Hailie George, Junior Alana Graves, Junior Emily Feller, and Sophomore Macee Murphy were among those honored.

[Read more...](#)

## Three Skylights Honored with All-Conference Honors



The Frontier Conference recently announced their All-Conference teams. Alana Graves was named part of the First Team All-Conference, Alyssa Pretty Weasel was part of the Second Team All-Conference, and Josie Hasler was named to the All-Freshman Team and was additionally named a Champion of Character.

[Read more...](#)

## Five Lights Honored with All-Conference



The 2023 All-Frontier Conference football teams and individual award winners have been announced. The award recipients are selected by the nine head coaches in the conference, who are not permitted to vote for their own players. The five Lights football players who were honored were Dylan Wampler, Braydon Cline, Lucas Thacker, Joshua Rose, and Aiden Perkins.

[Read more...](#)

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## Students Enjoy Great Prizes at Bingo Night



On Thursday, Nov. 30, the students at MSU-Northern attended Bingo night, an annual highlight of the semester. The evening drew a great turnout, most likely because of the impressive prizes. The event was made even more enticing by the fact that it was entirely free for students. The prize tiers ranged from valuable gadgets to substantial gift cards. Tier 4 prizes included sought-after items like Apple AirPods Pro, a \$100 Amazon gift card, a \$100 MSUN Books & Beans gift card, a \$100 Bow & Marrow gift card, and a \$100 Walmart gift card. Tier 3 prizes featured a Res Hall Set comprising a Keurig, Microwave/Air Fryer, and a 3.1 cu ft. Refrigerator, a Vizio 50" Class V-series 4K UHD LED Smart TV, and an Apple iPad (10th generation, 64GB, with case). Tier 2 prizes added to the excitement with a PlayStation 5 Disc Console Slim - Call of Duty Modern Warfare III Bundle and an Xbox. The grand prize, a showstopper, was the Apple 2023 MacBook Air Laptop with a 15.3" display, making the Bingo night an unforgettable experience for the fortunate winners.

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## MSU-Northern Assistant English Professor Announces Launch of Bear Paw Arts Journal



Montana State University-Northern professor Dr. Gwen Hart has initiated a creative endeavor with the launch of a new online literary journal, the Bear Paw Arts Journal. This platform is dedicated to showcasing poetry, flash fiction, and micro essays, aspiring to captivate readers with works that mirror the surprising and delightful nature of the Bears Paw Mountains in north-central Montana. Graphic Design students Mychaella Hall and Tana Gorecki designed the website and the first Issue. The Journal can be found at [www.bearpawartsjournal.com](http://www.bearpawartsjournal.com).

[Read more...](#)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**This will be the last NNN of the Semester**

[Click here for the finals Schedule](#)

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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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### **Brown Bag Lecture - "Mo' Sherds Mo' Problems? The Use of Ceramics in Archaeological Investigations." – Dec. 7**

Next week, MSU-N's Instruction, Research, & Faculty Development Committee, in partnership with OTLE, will continue its Fall 2023 Brown Bag Lecture Series with a presentation by Dr. Kyra Kaercher, Assistant Professor of Biology & General Science.

The event will be held on Thursday, December 7th from noon to 1:00pm in Hensler Auditorium/ATC. Sack lunches are provided but limited, so attendees are encouraged to RSVP for lunch by Tuesday, December 5th at

<https://www.msun.edu/otle/brownbag.aspx>.



The presentation is titled "Mo' Sherds Mo' Problems? The Use of Ceramics in Archaeological Investigations." Ceramics, because of their durability and preservation, play a pivotal role in archaeology as invaluable artifacts for understanding past cultures. These vessels offer insights into ancient technologies, trade networks, and social practices. Using sciences like geology and chemistry, we can look at the technology used to create these vessels, to better understand the people behind the ceramics. This presentation will focus on two case studies, the first from Dr. Kaercher's dissertation, focused on Islamic ceramics, and the second on her new project in Iraqi Kurdistan, the Rural Landscapes of Iron Age Imperial Mesopotamia.

This event is sponsored by the MSUN Office of the Teaching and Learning Excellence. We hope to see you there!

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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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## **24th Annual MSUN Cowboy Christmas - Dec. 9**

Join us for the 24th Annual MSU-Northern Rodeo Cowboy Christmas! The evening is the primary fundraiser for the MSU-Northern Rodeo Team. The evening takes place in the Armory Gym and starts at 5 pm. Tables are \$500-650 & individual tickets are \$60/per person. Tickets are available for purchase at Western Trailer Sales, Independence Bank, Norman's or from MSU-Northern Rodeo Team members.

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# **CALENDAR**

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## **Friday, December 1**

- Open Skate - Havre Ice Dome - 6:45-7:45pm, FREE to current MSUN students
- Gingerbread House Competition - 8pm – Morgan Hall

## **Saturday, December 2**

- National Play Outside Day - 1st Saturday of Every Month

- Skylights BB vs Concordia - Armory Gym - 5pm
- Lights BB vs. Concordia - Armory Gym - 7pm

### **Sunday, December 3**

- Skylights BB vs. Valley City State University - Armory Gym - 4pm
- Open Skate - Havre Ice Dome - 5-6:30pm, FREE to current MSUN students

### **Monday Dec 4 – Friday Dec 8:**

- De-Stress Fest - SUB Ballroom 8am-8pm

### **Wednesday, December 6**

- Students Reaching Students Training Meeting – SUB Fireside – 6pm
- ASMSUN Student Senate Meeting – 7:00 pm

### **Thursday, December 7**

- Brown bag lecture Hensler Auditorium 12-1pm
- Skylights Basketball vs University of Alberta-Augustana 10:00 am
- Wrestling Dual vs Dickenson – 7:00pm

### **Friday, December 8**

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

### **Saturday, December 9**

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

### **Monday, December 11-14**

- Fall Semester Finals Week

### **December 15 – January 8th**

- Semester Break
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MSU-NORTHERN

# TidBit

By: William Lanier

**(#401)**

## Fall 2023 Student/Athlete Recognition

With the fall sports season having come to an end, there are several student/athletes that should be recognized. It is no small feat to be a college student and to perform at a high level both on the field/court and in the classroom.

Would like to congratulate those student athletes who have been recognized for their accomplishments.

The Skylights Volleyball team had four student/athletes recognized.

- Alan Graves - 1st Team All-Conference
- Alyssa Pretty Weasal - 2nd Team All-Conference
- Josie Hasler – All Freshman Team
- Josie Hasler – Champions of Character Award

In the Classroom the following were recognized as Daktronics Scholar Athletes

- Hailie George, Senior
- Emily Feller, Junior
- Alan Graves, Junior
- Macee Murphy, Sophomore

The Northern Lights Football Team had six student/athletes recognized

- Dylan Wampler – 2nd Team All-Conference
- Nikolas Hunchak – 2nd Team All-Conference
- Brayden Cline – Honorable Mention All-Conference
- Lucas Thacker – Honorable Mention All-Conference
- Joshua Rose – Honorable Mention All-Conference
- Aiden Perkins – Champions of Character Award

This is Dylan Wampler's fourth All Conference team that he has been since arriving at Northern. He joins Bomont Somerfeld, Marc Samson, Don Saisbury and Stephen Silva as four time All-Conference performers. The most recent recipient prior to Dylan was Stephen Silva in 2012.

I may be a bit biased, but both Dylan and Nikolas should have been 1st Team All-Conference. Dylan was definitely one of the best defensive players in the conference. Nikolas is arguably one of the best punters in the entire NAIA.

Montana Tech punter Andrew Amos received the nod for Frontier Conference 1st team All-Conference punter and Nikolas was named to the 2nd team. With the new system that the NAIA uses for statistics it hard to find all the stats for the special team performers in one place. In article on the buttesports.com website (November 20, 2023) The Montana Tech Sports information department stated that "...Almos, from Great Falls, led the league and the nation in punting averaging 44.3 yards per punt." The NAIA football team statistics page for MSU-Northern had Nikolas Hunchak with an average of 43.4. This comes out to an 11 inches per punt more for Andrew Amos over Nikolas Hunchak. But punting average is only one statistic of many that are tracked.

You be the judge by looking at the numbers. Total Punts Nikolas 79, Andrew 26; Total yardage Nikolas 3429, Andrew 1152; Longest punt Andrew 72, Andrew 67; Number punts inside the 20 yard line Nikolas 28, Andrew 17; Fair catches Nikolas 3, Andrew 3; Touch backs Nikolas 8, Andrew 4. Neither Nikolas or Andrew had one of their punts blocked this year. The fewest number of punts in a game for Nikolas was 5 (Arizona Christian) and the most was 11 (College of Idaho). In 9 of 10 games this year Nikolas had punts over 50 yards. By looking at these numbers Nikolas Hunchak should have been the Frontier Conference 1st Team All-Conference Punter.

On a side note Andrew Amos high school football coach at Great Falls High was former Northern Head Football Coach Mark Samson and his current head coach on Montana Tech is Northern Athletic Hall of Famer Kyle Samson.

Nikolas Hunchak set two school records this year. First was number of punts in a season with 79 breaking Don Saisbury record of 76 punts (2007). The second record he set was punting average in a season at 43.4, thus breaking the previous record of 41.6 yards also held by Don Saisbury (2007).

Congratulations to all the student/athletes who were recognized for the accomplishments.

With this being the last Northern Network News for 2023 we wish you a joyous and healthy holiday season.

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

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)

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