



*March 14, 2022*



### **NETWORK SWITCH UPGRADES**

Network Services is planning to do the Natural Resources Building Network Switch Upgrades the week of Spring Break, **March 14–18**. There will be intermittent network outages affecting the whole building while the switches are replaced.

### **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

Montana Tech will be walking in the St. Patrick's Day parade on **March 17, 2022**. If you are interested, please email Jodie DeLay at [jdelay@mtech.edu](mailto:jdelay@mtech.edu). We would love to have a large group of faculty, staff, and students walking.

### **STAFF SENATE LUNCH & LEARN**

Join the Montana Tech Staff Senate for a Lunch & Learn on **March 21, from 12:00-1:00 pm** in the Copper Lounge! Learn all about the Montana Tech Staff Senate and how they can serve you! Please email [staffsenate@mtech.edu](mailto:staffsenate@mtech.edu) if you plan to attend. We ask for your RSVP by March 18, 2022. We hope to see you there!

### **STAFF SENATE ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD**

The Staff Senate wishes to invite you to participate in nominating a deserving staff member for the prestigious Above and Beyond Award. The award recognizes individual staff members who consistently go above and beyond to serve individuals and the campus community, making exceptional efforts to achieve Montana Tech's mission. Staff at Montana Tech are employees in non-teaching roles of various types in support of the educational, research, and service programs of the University. Some of them are in front-facing offices and others are hidden gems. Nominations are due by **March 27, 2022**. Rules and nomination forms are available [here](#) or on the Staff Senate [website](#). Please honor a staff member for always going

above and beyond by submitting a nomination. Chancellor Cook will announce the winner of the Above and Beyond Award at the Campus Awards Ceremony on April 19, 2022.

## SUMMER SURF PROJECTS

The Undergraduate Research Program committee is accepting proposals for summer SURF projects. The guidelines were emailed to the campus and can also be found on the research office website. The deadline is **March 31, 2022**.

## RANSOMWARE

Ransomware is a type of malicious software, or malware, designed to infect computers and encrypt files until a sum of money or other form of ransom is paid. After the initial infection, ransomware will attempt to spread to connected systems, including shared storage drives and other accessible devices.

Malicious cyber actors commonly distribute ransomware through phishing emails or “drive-by downloads.” Phishing emails are messages that appear to be from a legitimate organization or a contact familiar to the victim, which can entice the user to click on a corrupt link or open an infected attachment. A “drive-by download” is a program that automatically downloads from the internet without the user’s consent and often without their knowledge. It is possible the corrupt code may run after download, without user interaction. After the code has run, the computer becomes infected with ransomware.

### Why Should You Care?

Consequences of a ransomware attack can be severe, and there is no guarantee a user will recover their data, even if they chose to pay the ransom money. On a personal level, an infection can result in financial damage or disclosure of sensitive information. On an organizational level, ransomware can cause business operation disruptions, financial damage from a payout or costly investigations, and reputational damage causing loss of current or potential customers.

Additionally, the goal of ransomware is not always to get money but potentially to serve as a distraction for other malicious purposes. These distractions could be hiding a traditional attack against the network, covering traces of an earlier attack, providing cover while data is stolen from the network, or even limiting or destroying productivity of the system while the IT team is busy dealing with a very visible ransomware infection.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**3/15** Movie: *Encanto* | 6:30 pm | Library Auditorium

**3/17** St. Patrick's Day Parade | 12:00 pm | Meet at the Lexington Gardens at 11:30 am

**3/21** Staff Senate Lunch & Learn | 12:00 pm | Copper Lounge

**3/22** Movie: *Onward* | 6:30 pm | Library Auditorium

**3/24**

HOPES Mentor Session | 3:00 pm-4:30 pm | Register [HERE](#)

Scholars Reception | 5:00-7:00 pm | SSC

Movie: *Onward* | 6:30 pm | Library Auditorium

**3/25** Digger Con | 9:00 am-4:00 pm

**3/27** Staff Senate Above and Beyond Nominations Due | [Nominate here](#)

**3/31**

HOPES Mentor Session | 3:00-4:30 pm | Register [HERE](#)

Spring Book Club (Chapter 6) | 3:00 pm | Copper Lounge

Deadline for Summer SURF Projects

**4/14** HOPES Mentor Session | 3:00-4:30 pm | Register [HERE](#).

**4/19** Faculty/Staff Awards Reception | 4:00 pm | ??

**4/21-23** 27th Annual John "Jocko" Evans Technical Symposium and Golf Tournament

**4/23** Miners Ball Auction

**4/28**

Techxpo | 1:30-5:30 pm | HPER

Spring Book Club (Chapter 9 & 10) | 3:00 pm | Copper Lounge

**4/29** Tech Day | 9:00 am-4:00 pm

