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Bear Aware?

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Take the quiz online at mtbearaware.io/2025

Or scan the QR code. Contest registration form is available at the end of the quiz.



Independent Record

Duane Ankney, storied Montana lawmaker, miner from Colstrip, dies at 79

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Helena primary election and public school bond ballots due Tuesday

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW MALOY

MOON RISES THROUGH THE CATHEDRAL SPIRES IN HELENA

The moon rises between the spires of the Cathedral of St. Helena on Sept. 5.

Helena Public Schools board trustee resigns

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Helena Public Schools district trustee Rachel Robison has resigned from her position on the board after she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Robison was diagnosed with breast cancer in July after reading into possible symptoms of the disease, despite her doctor telling her it was not common for her age. She says she pondered the decision to resign for months.



Robison

Robison was elected by acclimation to the board in 2024 for a three-year term and filled a vacant seat created by former trustee Terry Beaver.

She noted her background in finances through her work with The Federal Reserve and wanted to serve on the board partially due to her three children in the elementary district.

In a resignation letter dated Aug. 19, Robison said, “It is with heavy heart that I submit my resignation from my position

Please see **ROBISON**, Page A3

Businesses push back as city mulls parking fee hikes

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Helena is considering a blanket hike in parking fees, but some business owners are staunch it is unaffordable.

“As soon as my lease is up, I’m leaving because of parking, and I’m tired of my customers being ticketed,” Bobbi Lambertson said. She owns Bobbi Salon on the Walking Mall.

At a Sept. 3 administrative meeting, parking officials presented a list of potential raises to parking permits and violation fees.

A big drive of the changes is a general need to balance the budget, Transportation Systems Director David Knoepke said.

Years of deferred maintenance have wracked up cost needs, he said. There is also over \$650,000 in debt. Some of the highest paid positions in parking have been cut to help the problem, he said, but fees need to be raised to “keep up.”

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