



Independent Record

Helena's first DIY 'Selfie Studio' puts clients behind the camera lens

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Swan Lake landowners float proposal to restrict wake boats

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Thursday, March 26, 2026

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

SOUNDING THE ALARM FOR MONTANA'S RIVERS



MEGAN NIELSEN, MONTANA STANDARD

The Jefferson River, a tributary of the Missouri River, is pictured near Cardwell on Wednesday.

Panelists in Helena say action, money needed to help keep waterways healthy

DUNCAN ADAMS
duncan.adams@mtstandard.com

The chairman asked for succinct and Jim Keane of Butte delivered.

"We're in trouble," he said.

Keane, a former legislator, is a citizen member of the Environmental Quality Council. It met Wednesday morning in Helena to discuss Montana's rivers and hear

from the members of three panels — one focused on river health, one tackling river recreation and a third addressing nutrient pollution and algae.

Two themes emerged: Time is of the essence. And solutions are going to take money.

Please see MONTANA RIVERS, Page A7

School district to ask voters for \$3.4M

Helena trustees approve three levies for ballot in upcoming school election

BLAIR MILLER
blair.miller@lee.net

Helena voters in May will have to decide whether to increase their taxes again to send about \$3.4 million to Helena Public Schools after the school board on Tuesday unanimously approved three mill levies for the upcoming schools election.

The bulk of the money — \$2.4 million — that would come through two of the levies is intended to fund the increasingly expensive licenses the district uses for things like computers, software and state testing, according to district and board officials.

It's not a light ask of city taxpayers who just months ago approved \$283 million in bonds to pay for a new Helena

Please see SCHOOL LEVIES, Page A4

SOS pays for controversial mailers with federal grant

VICTORIA EAVIS
victoria.eavis@helenair.com

After months of unanswered questions on the funding source for a controversial mailer campaign from the Montana secretary of state, the office quietly paid that invoice earlier this month using federal grant money.

The postcards, which feature Montana Republican Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen and President Donald Trump side by side, started hitting mailboxes around the new year. The nearly half a million mailers inform Montanans that Jacobsen's office is implementing a new tool by partnering



Please see MAILERS, Page A7

C.R. ANDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Paraeducator accused of sexually assaulting student



Huber

BLAIR MILLER
blair.miller@lee.net

A paraeducator at C.R. Anderson Middle School was arrested Tuesday night on allegations he sexually assaulted a student on multiple occasions over the past three months.

James Michael Huber, 52, was

booked into the Lewis and Clark County Detention Center around 9:30 p.m. Tuesday after being arrested on a warrant that includes three counts of sexual intercourse without consent, one count of indecent exposure to a minor and one count of sexual abuse of children, all felonies.

Huber made his first appearance before Judge Michael Swingley in county justice court on Wednesday afternoon. His bond was set at \$200,000 and he was still listed in the detention center as of press time.

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