

43rd Annual **SAA Auction** April 24, 2026

43rd SAA Auction

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026
CARROLL COLLEGE PE CENTER
 DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
STUDENT-ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIPS!

 **Independent Record**

L&C County sending out ballots for May 5 school, hospital election

PAGE A3



Diving catch preserves Helena Senators' opening day sweep

PAGE B1

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

helenair.com • \$3

BIG BLUE BATTLE OF THE BANDS

'REALLY TALENTED AND CAPABLE KIDS'



GARY MARSHALL PHOTOS, BMGPHOTOS.COM

The Capital High band Brutus won the first Big Blue Battle of the Bands on Saturday night at East Helena High School.

Capital High's Brutus takes 1st place at inaugural music contest in East Helena

THOM BRIDGE
 thom.bridge@helenair.com

It was a night of rock through the ages on Saturday at East Helena High School for the first Big Blue Battle of the Bands competition.

The event drew four bands: Brutus from Capital High, which took first place; Sk@zz from Capital High; Goldstrand from Helena High and The Clearance Rack from East Helena High.

The bands played one cover song from each of the 80s, 90s and 2000s eras, as well as a song of their choice — four in total. The bands were only judged on the three era-specific songs.

Brutus won with their renditions of

Please see **BANDS**, Page A3



Capital High's Sk@zz hits the stage with songs from Reel Big Fish during the first annual Big Blue Battle of the Bands on Saturday night at East Helena High School.

Forecasters: Next weeks 'critical' to water supply

Reports detail Montana's summer drought outlook

BLAIR MILLER
 blair.miller@lee.net

Drought and water officials say Montana is in the midst of its sixth straight year with abnormally dry-to-severe drought conditions and that they are closely watching the next few weeks of precipitation to see if the state will be in store for a low-water and drought-filled summer.

It's already been well-documented that many parts of Montana had their warmest winters on record and that the state's low-elevation snowpack melted about a month earlier than normal.

But according to several reports released this month, December's unseasonably warm temperatures — which caused inches of rain to fall instead of snow across much of the state — might have been a boon

Please see **SNOWPACK**, Page A4

UM dashboard tracks health data across Montana

NICOLE GIRTEN
 nicole.girten@ravallirepublic.com

MISSOULA — Researchers at the University of Montana created a dashboard to make health data more widely available, with the hope that state policymakers, health officials and other researchers can use it to inform their own work.

A team at the School of Public and Community Health created an interactive online map of the state to visualize anonymized health data, like the number of hospitalizations for cardiovascular diseases or asthma, collected from counties and the state, according to a UM press release on Friday.

Please see **DASHBOARD**, Page A4

GET THE FULL BENEFITS OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!


Activate your digital account to get updated stories, videos, and hundreds of additional puzzles and comics. Visit helenair.com/activate and download our app for the E-edition and breaking news on the go!

Weather
 Very warm, cloudy
High 83 • Low 51
Forecast • A10

Inside

In Focus	A2	Opinion	A5-6
Obituaries	A9	Comics	Lively 3, 5
Advice/TV	Lively 4	Markets	A7





Your Solution to Great Skin

- General Dermatology
- Skin Cancer Surgery and Treatment
- Cosmetic Dermatology

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

(406) 443-7200

Located in Helena, MT
epiphanydermatology.com

