



NURSES THE RESULTS ARE IN!

the heart of health care

Many nurses were nominated. Ten finalists were chosen. Introducing the 10 honorees of the 2026 Nurses the Heart of Health Care!

See the honorees inside today's paper or view the publication online: helenair.com/special_sections/



Independent Record

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

helenair.com • \$3

ST. PETER'S HEALTH

'DEKE WOULD LOVE THIS'



THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Bikers ride around St. Peter's Health on Monday honoring Darrin "Deke" Yoder, who donated his organs after a motorcycle crash last week.

Helena teen donates organs after motorcycle crash, bikers rev engines in tribute

CHRISTINE COMPTON
christine.compton@helenair.com

It was a little surreal when Madi Ring heard dozens of motorcycle engines rumbling Monday from the St. Peter's Health parking lot, a last goodbye to her friend who'd soon donate his organs.

They came in waves, bikers in patched vests and full body gear revving engines like rolling thunder before they dismounted. Some embraced the group of teenagers watching from across the street.

"Deke would love this," Ring said. She pulled in a friend for a hug.

Darrin "Deke" Yoder, a 19-year-old man, was severely injured in a crash last Thursday evening.

At around 6:30 p.m., Yoder on his motorcycle and another driver in a Subaru Outback were both driving eastbound on Lyndale Avenue near the intersection with Rodney Street when the Subaru slowed to make a turn, Helena Police Lt. Adam Shanks said.

Please see **CRASH**, Page A11



COURTESY, ANDREA FITCH

Helena man Darrin "Deke" Yoder, 19, donated his organs Monday after a severe motorcycle accident.

Bar owner still baffled over alleged killer's motive

Brown accused of slaying four people in Anaconda

DUNCAN ADAMS
duncan.adams@mtstandard.com

ANACONDA — David Gwerder said he remains mystified about what led Michael Paul Brown to enter the Owl Bar on the morning of Aug. 1 and, as alleged, shoot and kill the bartender and three patrons.

By all accounts, Brown knew the victims.

But Gwerder, who has owned the Owl Bar on East Third Street in Anaconda for about 30 years, doesn't believe the shootings can be explained by Brown being allegedly mentally ill.

"That's the only defense he has," Gwerder said Sunday during an interview at the bar. "You gotta play the game. He knew exactly what he was doing."

Brown, now 46, allegedly entered the bar on the morning of Aug. 1 with a burning pizza box ostensibly meant to



Brown

Please see **BROWN**, Page A9

Windy Boy removed from committee assignments

SEABORN LARSON
seaborn.larson@lee.net

A bipartisan group of legislators on Monday removed a Democratic state senator from his interim committee assignments following allegations of sexual abuse and harassment against him.

Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy, D-Box Elder, is no longer on the State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee, the education Interim Budget Committee or the School Funding Interim Committee following succinct proceedings on Monday to strip him of those assignments. Sens. Jacinda Morigeau, D-Arlee, Laura Smith,



Windy Boy

Please see **WINDY BOY**, Page A11

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

Breezy in afternoon
High 50 • Low 34
Forecast • A12


Inside

In Focus	A2	Opinion	A5-6
Obituaries	A10	Comics	Lively 3, 5
Advice/TV	Lively 4	Markets	A9



\$3 • TT • Volume 82, Issue 125 • A Lee Enterprises Newspaper • Copyright 2026

Follow us online: [f/helenaironline](https://www.facebook.com/helenaironline) [x/helenaironline](https://www.twitter.com/helenaironline) [i/independentrecord](https://www.instagram.com/independentrecord)



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

