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OUTDOORS, B10



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BUTTE HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

MONSTER CROWD GREETSS EVENT



MEGAN NIELSEN PHOTOS, MONTANA STANDARD

People watch as Sir James Jones blows fire during the Butte Halloween Carnival on Broadway Street in Butte on Oct. 3.

After 6-year hiatus, spooky festival returns with its biggest crowd ever

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After a six-year hiatus, the Butte Halloween Carnival returned to Uptown Butte on Saturday night, drawing its biggest crowd yet.

The event offered a night of spooks, games and revelry.

“The original conception was something like the Christmas Stroll, but for Halloween,” said Gabriel Offutt, the carnival’s organizer.

Offutt said he was looking for a way to drum up business in between the summer tourism season and the holidays.

“I’ve always loved carnivals, so



People purchase tokens during the Butte Halloween Carnival on Broadway Street in Butte on Oct. 3.

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Limits on ballot initiatives struck

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The Montana Supreme Court on Tuesday unanimously struck down a quartet of laws it considered hurdles in the ballot initiative process, a decision intended to keep citizen lawmaking powers level with the legislative branch.

The decision upheld a district court ruling that found four laws passed by the 2023 Legislature were unconstitutional. One such law imposed a \$3,700 filing fee to run a ballot measure. Another elbowed out some room in the process for the Legislature to weigh in with a “support or oppose” designation on a ballot initiative proposed in the citizen-led process.

The Montana Supreme Court’s 7-0 opinion was authored by Justice Beth Baker, who is retiring after this year.

“If the Legislature substantially interferes with or burdens the people’s exercise of initiative power or inserts its own policy choices into the people’s initiated proposals, it unconstitutionally impairs the people’s independent power,” Baker wrote.

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Debates set for US House, Senate races

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As ballots hit mailboxes this week, candidates running for federal office in Montana will look to reach every voter they can in the final stretch to Election Day.



That’s likely to mean a surge in digital ads and mailers, more campaign events and, in some races, a debate.

Live, televised debates were once a fixture of campaign season, a chance for voters to see how candidates stack up head-to-head and how they respond under pressure. But they’ve become less common as candidates have figured out new ways to communicate with voters without opening themselves up to sound bites that could be fodder for future attack

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