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## A multitude of people visit James H. Cobb Park for Halloween fun in Bronson



Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Oct. 30, 2016 @ 8:17 p.m.

**BRONSON** – The Town of Bronson provided an excellent setting for a multitude of children and adults this year as the place that is the heart of Levy County held its Halloween fun again when it hosted another Trunk And Treat event on Saturday night (Oct. 29).

**One of the many costumed children preparing to enter the park shows some of the great makeup and design work that was seen that night.**

This fifth year the tradition for Bronson Parks and Recreation again grabbed the attention of the whole town of Bronson and surrounding communities. This year the event was

not on Halloween, but on the Saturday night before.

Town employees participating to make the event succeed were Parks and Recreation Director Curtis Stacy, Town Clerk Pamela Whitehead, Deputy Town Clerk Susie Robinson, Public Works Director Eric Wise, town workers Russell Mitchem and Glen Smith, and Bronson Fire Chief Dennis Russell.

People entering the Trunk And Treat area started at one spot and Chief Russell's group were the first set that was seen.



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**Bronson Fire Rescue Department members participating in the Trunk And Treat event (many who are seen here holding bags of candy that were given away) are Chief Russell, Safety Officer Jesse Baggett, Firefighter Jacob Arnold and support personnel - Christopher Kaspar, Brandi Hibbard, Corey Palmer, Timmy Goedeck and Cindy Waters.**

Another first responder group that was giving out candy was the Levy County Sheriff's Office, represented by LCSO Deputy Keith Osteen.



**Seen in front of an LCSO cruiser at the event are (from left) Jarquez Myhand, LCSO Deputy Keith Osteen, Bronson High School student Glenn Cooper (wearing an authentic inmate costume), Bronson Elementary School teacher Caryl Osteen and (behind the scary mask) Carrson Whippy.**

There was a very wide range of decorations on the trunks, but this year the costumes were the attraction. Children and adults dressed as all sorts of ghouls, goblins, ghosts, vampires, witches, space-oriented folks, policemen, firemen, and everything else under the sun, moon and stars.

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Cars were parked throughout a one-mile radius around James H. Cobb Park, which was formerly known as the Bronson Sports Complex.

The first two Bronson Town Council members on the scene and working to help residents and visitors enjoy the night were Vice Mayor Beatrice Roberts and Councilwoman Katie Parks. Vice Mayor Roberts and Public Works Director Wise were the first hotdog cooks for the event.

Everything came together. It was an outstanding community event as hundreds and hundreds of children collected candy and other treats, and enjoyed the night. There was even a costume contest for children of different ages.

The children of Bronson literally frolicked in the park as they ran, did cartwheels, played tag and had fun.

Dottie Wachtel of Nanna's Place Academy had a presence with a decorated trunk. Another significant mover in Bronson – the Bronson Community Access Center – also helped children go home with candy.



**An outstanding decorated trunk area is seen here, where Anna King (left) and Carol Ruth captured the disco era.**

Many other area business and church interests were involved, including Bronson United Methodist Church, Bronson Living Hope Church (and Chainless Youth Group), Ken Sheffield's Pump Service, EAS Printing, Bronson Pharmacy, Do Right Cookin' Restaurant, Holder Brothers Property Improvement, Miller Real Estate, the Dixie-Gilchrist-Levy Board of Realtors, NAPA (Jess Vorhees), Darkside Tattoos (Stephen Williams and Jess Vorhees), the Levy County Public Library System (with Youth Service Coordinator Jenny Rodgers giving out candy, toys and fortune cookies), Jimmy's Hauling and

Grading (with Jimmy Jerrells and Sean Rodgers giving out candy, although Sean also helped his wife Jenny with giving out candy from the library's booth), and Amanda Jerrells Dog Grooming.

The Children's Table was well represented at the event. Bill Brown, Verna Brown, Freda Freeman and other individuals volunteered to give out candy.

Earlier that day, The Children's Table had delivered food to 98 families. During any month, this group fees 8,000 people as it serves eight counties by visiting 21 distribution points – even beyond its Bronson location, which shows activity each Monday.

Just like in the previous two years, this became the biggest free Halloween party ever for the town that serves as Levy County's seat of government.

And similar to last year, the Food4Kids Backpack Program collected canned goods and donations to help that worthy cause, where children at Bronson Elementary School are given food to help them have something to eat during the weekends.

And like they do every year for this festival and many other events, the LCSO Citizens On

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Patrol volunteered to help with traffic control.

Meanwhile that Saturday night, there was a lot of candy given to costumed children in Chiefland at the Haunted House, which was operated by the Chiefland Police Department, Suwannee Valley Rotary Club, Chiefland Rotary Club and Chiefland Fire Rescue.

And another of the many events on Saturday night in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties was the Spaghetti Dinner at First United Methodist Church. According to reports Sunday, the United Methodist Men, with help from several women in the church, and one accordion-playing star, fed and entertained the masses once again this year.



**Standing in front of the decorated 'Taxi' racecar #23, which is in the strictly stock class of racers are (from left) Frank Osteen, Shelby Osteen (in her taxi driver costume) and Frankie Osteen.**



**Strictly stock racecar # 15 is decorated at the event too.**

**Representing Bronson United Methodist Church at the event are (from left) Sharon Tomes, Da'Whitley Stephens and Angelika Schulz. (Not pictured, but helping with the decorations and candy distribution, is Angelika Schulz.)**



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**Ken Sheffield stands next to the truck that brings pump service and water filtration service to people. He brought plenty of candy to give away Saturday night.**



**Representing the town and wearing her scarecrow costume and makeup, Bronson Town Councilwoman Katie Parks stands in the area the town had for distributing candy. Deputy Town Clerk Susie Robinson is seen here checking her notes on different age groups for the costume contest.**

**In the background, some of the first of many hundreds of visitors are seen visiting the different trunks. Meanwhile, Vice Mayor Beatrice Roberts and Public Works Director Eric Wise pause before preparing to cook lots of hotdogs.**

