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Annual Bronson Trunk or Treat attracts hundreds of children



The crowd of children and parents at Bronson Trunk or Treat stretched for more than 100 yards as the event starts. The line continued to grow.

Story and Photos

By Terry Witt, Senior Staff Writer © Oct. 30, 2017 at 3:37 p.m.

(with two guest photos, one by Jeff Hardison and one by Sharon Hardison)



BRONSON -- More than 600 children dressed in costumes as ghosts, goblins, princesses, fairies, trolls, policemen, firefighters, a murderous hockey-mask wearing guy, dinosaurs and many other types of storybook, horror and movie characters as they participated in the annual Trunk or Treat celebration in Bronson on Saturday evening and night (Oct. 28).

Mason Smith, 2, came dressed as a dinosaur.

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Talicia Hankerson, 6, casts a wary glance at a scary character in the haunted house as her mother, Talicia Mitchell holds her hands. The lights were turned on for small children in the haunted house.



Matalyne Nicholson, 10 months, and mom Kensi Nicolson, made their rounds through the candy stand. Matalyn is dressed as a ladybug.



Levy County Commission Chairman John Meeks stands next to his mother Mary and County Commissioner Lilly Rooks (both seated) as they were handing out candy at Trunk or Treat.

Bronson Fire Chief Dennis Russell said he counted 625 children that passed by the town's fire engine as he and other firefighters gave away close to 2,500 pieces of candy to children.

"This is all I have left out of 2,500 pieces; a lot of, a lot of, a lot of kids," He said. Russell didn't have much candy left over.

Fire Chief Russell said his department accepted \$90 worth of donation in tickets for a 50/50 raffle to benefit a program that gives backpacks of food to school children. Half of the money went to the purchaser of the winning ticket, and the other \$45 goes to the backpack program.

Trunk or Treat is sponsored by the Town of Bronson as a fun event to give children a safe alternative to walking door-to-door in costumes. Most of the children were from Bronson.

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Children happily reach for candy in the trunk of Shelby O'Steen's car. She can be seen in the background. She isn't a businesswoman but takes part in Trunk or Treat every year for the benefit of the kids.



Businessman Jimmie Jerrels hands candy to Kirra Pitts, 7. Jerrels owns a paving business and takes part in Trunk or Treat every year. Business was brisk at his candy stand.

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Councilman Robert Partin and town maintenance worker Glen Smith flip burgers and hotdogs at the food concession.



Jeff Hardison and his wife Sharon hand out decorative stickers at the *HardisonInk.com* Trunk or Treat stand.

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Levy County Commission Chairman John Meeks stands (at right) next to Sharon Hardison at the *HardisonInk.com* Trunk or Treat stand.

(Photo by Jeff M. Hardison)



Jeff M. Hardison sits at the *HardisonInk.com* Trunk or Treat stand.

(Photo by Sharon Hardison)

The majority of the people who gave away candy in Bronson on Saturday night were local business owners. Scott Wilkerson Construction won the prize for Best Trunk. Jeff and Sharon Hardison of HardisonInk.com gave away Halloween stickers.

There were exceptions to business owners being distributors of candy and other treats. Bronson resident Shelby O'Steen, who doesn't own a business, filled her car's trunk with candy and let children reach in and get what they wanted.

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“I do it every year. It’s just for the kids,” she said.

Levy County Commissioners Lilly Rooks and John Meeks, and Meeks’ mother, Mary, handed out candy. Meeks said he was participating as a commissioner as well as representing Bronson Ace Hardware, his other place of employment.

The town sponsored a scary Halloween house for those children brave enough to enter, along with a cake walk (musical chairs) competition and a Halloween costume contest.

Bronson Town Councilwoman Katie Parks, dressed as a 1920s flapper, handled the costume contest duties on stage as a group of judges assessed the costumes from below. The judges and Parks didn’t use the names of the children, referring to them by their number.

For those who were hungry, the town ran a food concession. Recently sworn-in Councilman Robert Partin and town maintenance man Glen Smith flipped burgers and hotdogs. Town Parks and Recreation Director Curtis Stacy made the sandwiches and Deputy Town Clerk Susie Robinson, along with a group of volunteer helpers, sold the food.

Town Clerk Pamela Whitehead said the town hosts the event at James H. Cobb Park for the community. She said Bronson Parks and Recreation also benefits from the food stand.

“It’s a safer than door-to-door,” she said of the Halloween event. “We just do it for the community.”