

HardisonInk.com

4th Annual Bronson Blueberry Festival livens up the 'Heart of Levy County'



Welcome to James H. Cobb Park and the 4th Annual Bronson Blueberry Festival. Seen here (from left) Bronson Fire Chief Dennis Russell, real estate salesman Tommy Harrington and Bronson Town Councilwoman Katie Parks visit with one another.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © May 19, 2018 at 3:28 p.m.

BRONSON – Even though Friday brought thunderstorms and torrential rain to the Tri-County Area, Saturday (May 19) was a good day to be in the parks of North Central Florida.



The bounce house was a big attraction for children visiting the event.

HardisonInk.com



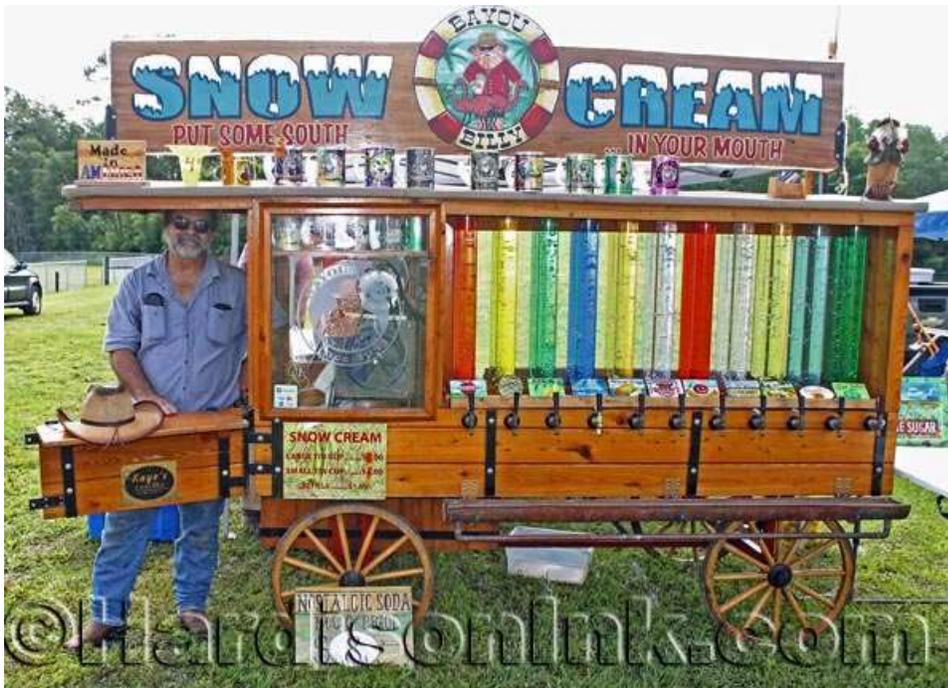
Levy County Clerk of Court Danny Shipp was on hand to greet people and tell all about the services he and his staff members provide.



Among the various vendors selling blueberries at this festival is (from left) Donna Hulett, Seth Hulett Sr. and Tina Hulett. Donna Hulett said her husband the late Bart Hulett started the blueberry crop in the 1980s. The Hulett family owns Wekiva Road Nursery and Wekiva Blueberry Farm, where they sell blueberries, blueberry plants, ornamentals, native plants, trees and aquatics.

HardisonInk.com

Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones was present to help voters revise their information, change parties and the like. She also was there to register Levy County residents who want to vote.



Among the many food and drink salespeople at the festival was Robert Arnold, who with his wife Lynda Arnold (not pictured) own the Bayou Bill concession seen here. This is New Orleans style of shaved ice. Another person with a couple of tents of delectable carney types of

treats was Tom's Kettle Korn, and he was selling lemonade as well as other drinks too.

HardisonInk.com



Roxanne Conn and Michael Conn of Trenton man their tent as sellers of Archangel Pastries. These homemade baked treats were among the many items for sale by several vendors. Other selling entities and people provided products and services included Bronson United Methodist Church's Thrift Store; Wayne's Wood (handmade wooden items); Episcopal Children's Services; Paparazzi Jewelry; Thrive (all-natural mind clarity and weight management) by Erica Holt of Bronson; Stephanie Wachter of Newberry who was selling crochet rag rugs and crafty critters; and Scoooder Stones - natural stone designs from Bronson.

Bronson Elementary School Principal Michael Homan (left) stands next to Gloria Walker, a candidate for Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Judge. Julie Waldman, another of the three contenders for the one judge seat, had a person at the event too.

Walker mentioned that she has 15 years of experience in the state and federal courts as well as in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.



HardisonInk.com



Levy County Department of Public Safety EMT J. Matchett (left) stands with County Commissioner Rock Meeks at the blueberry festival. Matchett and LCDPS EMT M. Fowler were manning the tent to speak especially with children about fire safety. Other tents being manned by vendors included Trigger Happy Designs, where Pam Owens of Gulf Hammock was showing her jewelry made from bullet shells and shotgun shells; Cedar Key Scrubs, where Emily Colson and Stephanie Beckham were showing people all of the excellent locally made products that they have; Johnny and Sue Mitchell of Newberry were serving roasted corn; Angelle Raines of Bronson was providing people with Mary Kay brand of items; and representatives of Mount Dora Wild Blueberry Honey – Just Country Farms of Spring Hill (owned by Ken Kircker) were selling honey; and Nathan Comstock of Comstock Nursery was prepared to help people meet their plant needs.

On Saturday, some people went to Gilchrist County for the groundbreaking of Camp Valor at Otter Springs Park and Campground.

Some people went to the Newberry Watermelon Festival in Alachua County.

And some people went to the James H. Cobb Park in Bronson.

The Annual Bronson Blueberry Festival in the Heart of Levy County proved to be another successful event where Bronson Town Councilwoman Katie Parks serves as the chair for events.

"It's a beautiful day," Parks said as she spoke with Bronson Fire Chief Dennis Russell and real estate salesman Tommy Harrington of Century 21 Dianne Chewing & Associates of Old Town. "The sun is out and it's a great day for a blueberry festival. I've been praying all week to God for good weather for the festival."

It was held in the park named for the man who died in the line of duty as a town worker, when heat stroke led to his death. The park is also known as the Bronson Youth Complex.

HardisonInk.com



Blake O’Neal a technician with Likwid Communication s stands near one of the vehicles that group had in the parking lot. Fiber-optic Internet connections through Likwid have not come to fruition yet in Levy County, although the

service continues strong in Citrus County.

Publicity for the blueberry event was a bit shy in contrast with the past few years, Councilwoman Parks explained, because former Deputy Town Clerk Susie Robinson has left the city's staff. Therefore, town staff members have been even more pressed than usual to keep the regular town operations flowing as normal, not to mention the added work from a festival.

A parade and pageant traditionally have been part of the blueberry fest events in Bronson in past years too.

Parks sees hope to fill that deputy town clerk vacancy in the near future, and then when the town holds events there is a stronger likelihood of letting more people know via information released to the press.

Even without a lot of publicity, and despite the previous day of weather that was not good for an outdoor activity, many people on Saturday drove to Bronson to enjoy the blueberries, bounce house, music, food, crafts and political pitches from people seeking election or reelection.

As in the previous three years, a good time was had by all.