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Bronson provides Halloween fun for children; *Other cities do too*



Some of the many people at the event in Bronson on Saturday night (Oct. 27).

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Oct. 29, 2018 at 12:08 p.m.

BRONSON – The Town of Bronson provided an excellent setting for at least 500 children and adults this year on Saturday (Oct. 27) as the place that is the heart of Levy County held its Halloween fun again this year.



A scary trunk ornament is part of the decorations on the *HardisonInk.com* PT Newser that had its hatchback decorated.

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An animated skeleton fish that moved its jaws and tail and lit its eyes joins an animated moving spider with lit eyes as they sit on 500 bags of candy and Halloween stickers that were presented to children at the event. A spider web with 'blood' stains on it was part of the decorations at the *HardisonInk.com* PT Newser, and there was a globe that sent a moving set of light figures on a screen in the back of the vehicle, which became more noticed after sundown.



The Beast was among the costumed characters at the event in Bronson.

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With the sky showing fall colors, part of a line of people sojourn around the area where trunks were decorated and treats were distributed.



Here are a few of the hundreds of amazing children who were dressed for the event.

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After the sun went down, the ambiance of the event became even more festive.



The dinosaur costume looked even better in real life than as it is captured here. There could easily have been 500 photographs from this event.

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Sparky the mascot of Bronson Fire Rescue strolls the grounds, which made several children happy. You go, Sparky!

In Chiefland, the Chiefland Police Department's Haunted House included a trunk and treats event on Saturday.

In Inglis this year, the South Levy Area Marketplace's third annual celebration included Halloween fun as well.

Several other churches and cities across the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties conducted festivals for children to have fun on Saturday.

Some places are scheduled for events on Halloween (Oct. 31). (Please remember that if you want an announcement in the Community Calendar, it needs to be sent via email to hardisonink@gmail.com.)

This event in Bronson on Saturday heralds the seventh consecutive year for the Town of Bronson to grab the attention of residents and visitors of Levy County for a Halloween event, although this year it was on the Saturday before Halloween (which is really Oct. 31).

This fun event is similar to the Bronson's amazing annual Fourth of July fireworks, which also happens at the James H. Cobb Park.

Leading the organization for the event this year was Bronson Town Councilwoman Katie Parks. Joining her in the effort to bring it to fruition were Town Clerk Shirley Miller (who recruited her husband Randy), Deputy Town Clerk Melissa Thompson, Parks and Recreation Director Curtis Stacy (who worked Saturday afternoon to prepare the park), Public Works Director Erik Wise, and city workers Russell Mitchem and Glen Smith.

Members of the Bronson Fire Rescue Department joined Chief Dennis Russell to

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show the fire engine and give out candy to children.

Sparky the BFR mascot also was in attendance, to the delight of children.

Cars were parked throughout an area around James H. Cobb Park, which was formerly known as the Bronson Sports Complex.

The Trunk For Treats event proved to be extremely successful again this year in Bronson.

Everything came together. It was an outstanding community event as hundreds of children collected candy and other treats, visited a haunted house, and participated in a costume contest.

While the haunted house this year was in a permanent structure on the park, members of the former Bronson Chamber of Commerce constructed, and then disassembled, the temporary haunted house out of PVC and dark polyethylene plastic sheeting seven years ago.

Among those early haunted house builders in Halloween of 2011 were Robbie Cooper of Bronson Lube, John Meeks of Ace Hardware, Charlie Kennedy of Gainesville Roofing, Jeff Hardison of HardisonInk.com (although he observed more than worked) and Jason Kennedy of Complete Sleep & Furnishings.

The Bronson Chamber of Commerce has since disbanded.

There was everything a child could want for an extremely fun Halloween celebration in Bronson on Saturday night. Two sides of one of the soccer fields at James H. Cobb Park had cars, trucks and SUVs decorated for the event.

Countless people gave candy, cookies, bags, trinkets and stickers to children.

The variety of imaginative decorations by churches, business owners and private individuals was as broad of a spectrum as anyone could imagine. Likewise, the range of costumes by children, young people and adults was very extensive.

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.