

'Hunger Games' fanatics collect food, calm hunger

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It was all about "The Hunger Games" last Friday night at the Cleveland Mall.

Tona Dahiquist, Extras Casting Coordinator for "The Hunger Games" - a movie premiering in March based on the popular Suzanne Collins' trilogy, and featured extras from the film hosted an event last Friday night, Feb. 10, helping to ease the hunger pangs in Cleveland County by collecting non-perishable food.

The community was welcomed by extras when donating food for the cause and also got to join them in a "Hunger Games" Costume Contest. The public was encouraged to come dressed as someone from the books. There were 13 adults and three kids who participated in the event.

Winners represented participants from all over North Carolina. In the kid's division Mia McAbee, 10, was second runner-up, Ashley Miller, 10, was first runner-up and Alexa Masiello, 13, won first place. McAbee dressed as a member of the "Hunger Games" Capitol, Miller came as a member of "District 12" and Masiello dressed as a child from the "reapings" - a momentous event in the storyline where children are culled from the crowd, picked randomly to fight other children to the death for the

Capitol's amusement.

In the adult competition Christina Edwards from Asheville and Matthew Sara from Charlotte tied for first runner-up and a three-way tie was decided by the judges for first place featuring TC (Toochukwu Anyachonkeya) from Charlotte, Jennifer Trudrung from Asheville, and Andrea Craven from Greensboro, who were all dressed as characters from the Capitol.

With parts of the movie filmed in Cleveland County, Dahiquist and her team looked into cities including Kings Mountain for people yearning for the spotlight. The Outtens were one of two families from Kings Mountain chosen to show their talent in the upcoming picture.

"It was so much fun," Katherine Outten said.

Katherine and her two sons, Joseph and Miller, were selected to make an appearance as community people from District 12, where the heroine of the book/movie, Katniss Everdeen is from.

"This was our first time doing something like this and it was a great experience," Katherine Outten said.

Dahiquist assured extras this would not be their last movie to help with.

"The Hunger Games" is set to hit the silver screen March 23. The movie follows Collins' first novel in the three-book series.



The three child competition winners, Alexa Masiello, 13 years old, first place winner dressed as a girl from the reaping; Mia McAbee, 10 years old, second runner-up dressed as a member of the Capitol; and Ashley Miller, 10 years old, first runner-up dressed as a member of District 12.



The Outten family, (left to right) Joseph, Katherine, and Miller were all extras from Kings Mountain, in "The Hunger Games" film, coming out March 23. Parts of the movie were filmed in Cleveland County.

Katherine and her sons were extras in the District 12 scenes. "It was a good experience and so much fun to do as a family," Katherine Outten said.



There was a three-way tie for first place in the adult competition: TC (Toochukwu Anyachonkeya) from Charlotte, Jennifer Trudrung from Asheville, and Andrea Craven from Greensboro, who were all dressed as characters from the Capitol.

NC ABC commission hosting middle school poster contest

Entries accepted through Feb. 29

RALEIGH - The North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Commission has launched a poster contest for North Carolina middle school students to boost awareness and reinforce an underage drinking prevention message.

The contest, with the theme of "Most Don't and I Won't," focuses on the fact that 70 percent of middle school students report never having tried alcohol.

The contest is open to all sixth through eighth graders in North Carolina's public and private schools as well as sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who are home-schooled.

Prizes provided by independent grant funds will be awarded to the top three winners se-

lected by a committee at the state ABC Commission. Winners will be announced in early April, which is Alcohol Awareness Month. Winning entries will be posted online and may be reprinted for distribution to schools or other educational outreach.

Additional details and the entry form for the "Most Don't and I Won't" poster contest are available at the Commission's educational website, www.ACTnowNC.org

The NC ABC Commission's mission includes raising awareness about the public health issues of alcohol misuse, including underage drinking, binge drinking and the challenges of alcohol use and abuse for older adults.

Battle of the Books set for March 2nd

Cleveland County Middle Schools will hold its annual Battle of the Books Competition Friday, March 2, at 9 a.m. in the auditorium at Cleveland Community College. Students competing will be in grades 6-8 and the winner will represent Cleveland County at the regional

competition later in March. Windy Ledford, National Board Certified teacher and media specialist at Kings Mountain Middle School, said the students will receive random questions from 29 books and will be expected to know the title and author of each book. Questions will

be asked in rounds, each round consisting of eight questions. At the end of all rounds the team with the highest number of points will be the winner.

"This is an exciting competition and the goal is for students to read more books," said Ledford.

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