

Dallas Harvest Festival showcases talent, spirit



The Rotary Club of Dallas unveils the four-faced, 16-foot downtown clock.



Matthew Poole, 4, and Collin Gleco, 5, pet a bunny at the petting zoo during the festival.

TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTOS/AIMEE DILGER

Jenna Morgan can't stop smiling as she performs during the Dallas Harvest Festival.



A community harvest

It started three years ago as a way to bring the community closer together. Today, it's one of the most highly-anticipated - and successful - events in the Back Mountain.

The third annual Dallas Harvest Festival was held Sunday on Main Street, with thousands of residents and visitors enjoying a wide variety of food, entertainment and fun.

"It's a great event. I think it's one of the finest area promotions to hit town since the (Back Mountain Memorial) library auction 50-some years ago," said State Sen. Charles Lemmond. "The people who organize it do a great job. It was a lovely afternoon and (the dancing and singing) gave us a chance to see the talent we have in the Back Mountain."

Dallas mayor Tim Carroll was overwhelmed by the success of the event, which featured the unveiling and dedication of the Rotary Club of Dallas' Community Clock at the center of the borough. The four-faced clock stands 16-feet high. "The festival was more than we expected," said Carroll. "We have such a great committee. Our road crew, our police officers, everyone does a great job."

Sen. Lemmond joined Carroll and Kingston Town-



Gianna Musto, 4, takes a seat to watch all the activity during the third annual event.

ship police chief Jim Balavage as winners in the annual Kiss the Pig contest, which raised almost \$338 for the Dallas Ambulance Co. As this year's "winner" Lemmond was supposed to kiss the snout of Rosco Rooter, a pig owned by Marge Bart. But with Rosco not cooperating, the senator was allowed to kiss the forehead, instead.

The likeable Lemmond - a finalist in the contest along with Dallas postmaster Kristen Tucker, Dallas School District superintendent Frank Galicki and local businessman Drew Fitch - found a way to keep his sense of humor.

"The pig just didn't cooperate," he said with a laugh. "(Tucker, Galicki and Fitch) are outstanding people. The four of us did it as a community event to support the ambulance company."

The festival featured 72 vendors including farmers, local service organizations and a few commercial food sellers, said vendor coordinator Mary Manzoni. Live entertainment, educational displays, health screenings, games, food and children's activities made this year's festival another huge success, she said.

Dave Konopki



Women dressed in period costumes to give tours during the Dallas Harvest Festival.