

Pucker up to kiss the pig

Five service club leaders put on their game faces to help raise money

The Fifth Annual Dallas Harvest Festival Steering Committee announces the 2007 Kiss the Pig Contest.

This year, five Dallas-based service clubs have surrendered their leaders to vie for the dubious honor of smooching "Rocco Rooter," the charming pot-belly pig who has become synonymous with the annual festival.

The 2007 Kiss the Pig contestants are Dallas Rotary President Lisa Pretko, Dallas Lions President David Fitch, Dallas American Legion Commander Clarence J. Michael, Dallas Odd Fellows President Joe Hardisky and Dallas Kiwanis President Richard Heiser.

For a \$1 donation, the public is invited to choose the winner - by voting through Saturday, Sept. 15.

Bright pink-labeled ballot jars and posters presently adorn a number of Back Mountain businesses, including N-Mart, Trucksville; Dymond's Farm Market, Shavertown; Unimart, Dallas; Ochman's Coin and Jewelry, Church Street, Dallas; Dallas Borough Municipal Office, Main Street, Dallas; J&J Deli, Dallas; and Dallas American Legion, Post 672.

All ballot jars will be collected on Sept. 15 and the votes tallied. The winning "kisser" will then be announced by District Judge James Tupper during the Fifth Annual Dallas Harvest Festival on Sunday, Sept. 16.

Judge Tupper will then determine the validity of the "kiss" - for a possible "re-kiss!"

The winning service club will also be awarded 50 percent of the monies collected and the remaining funds will be applied toward next year's festival.

In observance of the Dallas Harvest Festival's fifth outing, contest planners wish to extend a special invitation to all past winners and participants to return for a Kiss the Pig Reunion on stage during the announcement of this year's winner.



Rocco Rooter, the beloved pig, will be smooched by the winner of the 2007 Kiss the Pig Contest. The validity of the kiss will be determined by District Justice James Tupper, paving the way for a possible "re-kiss."



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK FILE PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Kunkle Fire Chief Jack Dodson had the ceremonial, yet dubious, honor of kissing this pig during last year's Dallas Harvest Festival. The Kiss the Pig contest collected over \$1,000 for charity with Dodson emerging as the 'winner' with the most votes.



The 2007 Kiss the Pig Contest contestants are, from left, Dallas Odd Fellows President Joe Hardisky, Dallas American Legion Commander Clarence J. Michael, Dallas Lions President David Fitch, Dallas Kiwanis President Richard Heiser and Dallas Rotary President Lisa Pretko. The person receiving the most votes will be deemed the winner of the Kiss the Pig Contest and will have the distinct opportunity of smooching Rocco Rooter.