DALLAS HARVEST FESTIVAL

Vamped up entertainment schedule pleases all

From karate demos to children's theater group, there's something for all.

> By SARAH HITE shite@mydallaspost.com

Two stages mean double the entertainment at this year's Dallas Harvest Festival which kicks off at noon on Sunday, Sept. 18.

First-time solo entertainment committee chairperson Gina Major Ackerman has booked nearly two dozen local acts, from karate demos to a children's theater group, to keep adults and youngsters smiling all afternoon.

"This year we wanted to vamp up the entertainment and take everything up a notch," said Major Ackerman.

She said this year two acts

With all this great entertainment, Major Ackerman said there is still a need for volunteers to help keep for the acts on both stages running smoothly. Contact the Dallas Borough offices at 675-1389 to see how you can help.

are sure to bring a crowd to the ninth annual festival: Damian the Magician the kids, and former WNEP-16 broadcastmusician Mike Lewis for the adults. Both

acts will close out the festival on two different stages: Damian on the Frontier Community Stage, located at the Dallas Hardware Centre parking lot, and Lewis on the Lewith and Freeman main stage at the end of Main Street.

Major Ackerman said her focus this year was on keeping similar styles of entertainment "blocked" together to make it easier for families to plan their perusal of the grounds.

"The entire main stage entertainment schedule will be posted at the community stage. The community stage schedule will be posted at the main stage and both schedules will be posted around the festival grounds," she said. "I think the better you plan, the more families can get around to everything."

tude of local youth dancers from Take the Stage Dance Studio in Trucksville, the Back Mountain Dance Studio in Dallas, the David Blight School of Dance in Wilkes-Barre and Pitt-School Junior Varsity Cheer

Festival-goers can watch professional groups, such as the Emerald Isle Step Dancers and Misericordia University dance instructors Raphael and Lauren Cooper, during the event, too.

"When you notch up the entertainment level, my feeling was let's not only notch up main stage, do a great job of it, but also get great acts for the second stage," said Major Acker-

Six local singers and musical groups will also grace the stage during the event, including the singer Caroline H. Thomas and vocalists from the Major Performing Arts Center.

Other fun acts include demonstrations by the PawsAbilities 4-H Seeing Eye Dogs and the United Fighting Arts Association and a performance of Frontier Community Stage the fairytale "Rapunzel" from Learning Centers.

One favorite of the festival is Changing Habits, a local group of women who perform songs from the film "Sister Act" to

Church in Dallas. "We try really hard to provide something for everybody," said Major Ackerman.



BILL TARUTIS FILE PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

er and folk Changing Habits, a musical outreach ministry from Gate of Heaven Church in Dallas, performs at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.



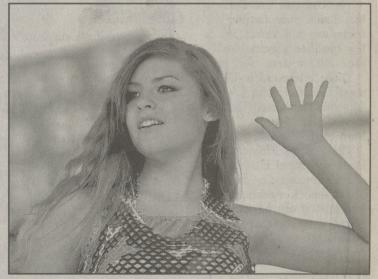
Fitness instructor Terri Besecker, of Shapes Total Fitness, dem-Other acts include a multi- onstrates body pumping at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.



Kennedy Wood, 5, of Trucksville, right, and Brooke Piscotty, 5, of Hanover Township, wait to perform on stage at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.

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> Gina Major Ackerman Dallas Harvest Festival Entertainment Committee Chairperson



Sam Ayling, of Mountain Top, performs on stage at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.

Lewith and Freeman Main Stage

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Emcee: Carol Sweeney

Noon - Festival opening with the National Anthem sung by Bryn Harvey 12:15 p.m. - Step by Step Praise Band from the Shavertown United Methodist Church Step by Step Praise Band from 12:55 p.m. - Dallas High School Junior Varsity Cheer Team the Shavertown United Metho- 1 p.m. - Take the Stage Dance Studio performers dist Church, Christian pop 1:30 p.m. - Back Mountain Dance Studio performers

2 p.m. - Best of Open Mic Winners 2:30 p.m. - David Blight School of Dance performers 3 p.m. - Emerald Isle Step Dancers 3:30 p.m. - Changing Habits

4 p.m. - Kiss The Pig Contest winner announced 4:20 p.m. - Major Performing Arts vocalists 5 p.m. - Mike Lewis

Emcee: Jennifer Rogers the Northeast Youth Theatre Noon - PawsAbilities 4-H Seeing Eye dogs

sponsored by Hildebrandt 12:30 p.m. - Damian the Magician, sponsored by Salon Nouveau 1:20 p.m. - Northeast Youth Theatre's "Rapunzel," sponsored by Hildebrandt Learning Cen-

2:15 p.m. - Latin dance and Zumba demonstration by Cooper's Ballroom dancers

2:45 p.m. - Caroline H. Thomas, teen recording artist

3:15 p.m. - Twice Blessed, music of the 60's and 70's 4 p.m. - At Home, contemporary music

raise money for Gate of Heaven 4:45 p.m. - Unified Fighting Arts Association demonstration 5:15 p.m. - Damian the Magician, sponsored by CK's Summer Treats and More and Salon



Dallas Harvest Festival second-place Open Mic winner Noah Sur day-Lefkowitz, of Shavertown, performs Jim Brickman's 'Peace' at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.