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Bier, Brats and Bands at Oktoberfest

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WALHALLA — Some people have a theory or two as to why Walhalla's Oktoberfest is such a big hit each and every year.

Perhaps because the event is mirrored after the authentic festival that takes place in Southern Germany, near Munich and the Black Forest.

And having the fun on Sertoma Field is no coincidence, as it is true form to hold an Oktoberfest festival in a big, wide-open field.

Founded as a German settlement in 1850, the German Colonization Society of Charleston played a key role in helping Walhalla grow into its heritage. The society began searching for an area that felt more like their homeland overseas, agreeing upon the charming town of Walhalla soon thereafter.

It was only natural that a German festival should ensue.

Since 1979, people with all types of bloodlines and from all cultures have been coming to Walhalla to celebrate Oktoberfest, now in its 31st year.

Ann Sloan, a German native, came to Walhalla to raise her family more than six decades ago. When conversations began about holding an Oktoberfest near downtown, she was instrumental in making it as authentic as possible.

Today, people continue to come and experience what a real Oktoberfest is like, mixed with authentic foods, music, beer, activities and costumes.

The attendance totals speak for them-

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Royalty has its place at festival

WALHALLA — It's one of the prettiest events of the annual Oktoberfest.

Of course, we are talking about the annual pageant at which local young ladies from several communities compete before celebrity judges for the right to reign over the annual weekend affair.

As in past years, this year's event was held at the Walhalla Civic Auditorium. Several young ladies vied for the title with the crown eventually being awarded to Julianne Quarles of Seneca High School.

First runner-up in the event was Jenifer Galloway of Walhalla High School, and second runner-up Brittany Ramey of West-Oak High School.

Allthree members of the royal party will be on hand for several events this weekend, including the opening ceremonies Friday night .



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WALHALLA JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB

Reigning over this year's Oktoberfest will be second runner-up Brittany Ramey of West-Oak High School, left, Miss Oktoberfest 2009 Julianne Quarles of Seneca High School, center, and first runner-up Jenifer Galloway of Walhalla High School. See page 4 for more pictures of the Miss Oktoberfest pageant.

OKTOBERFEST: Celebrating German heritage

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selves, with more than 45,000 people expected to visit through the weekend and just over a half million attendees since its inception.

While walking around the 3-day German village, prepare for crafts of all kinds and tons of good food, like weiner schnitzel, Bavarian red cabbage, spatzel, bratwurst and of course, dunkelbeir (dark beer).

Another popular Oktoberfest staple, The Little German Band, will be on the stage for the majority of each day, providing authentic tunes perfect for the polka.

More than a dozen carnival rides will be set up for the little ones while Kinderhaus (Children's Art Center) will be entertaining with crafts for kids as well.

"It's something that we all look forward to each year," said Barbara Justus, director of the Walhalla Chamber of Commerce. "We keep growing and to see all the families come out year after year is really something. We're proud to hold an Oktoberfest that brings people together."

For more information on the event, visit www.walhallasc.com or call 638-2727.

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