

Beer's the bomb here

WILLIAM AVILA • THE DESERT SUN • OCTOBER 21, 2007

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Oompah!

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"OomPahPah" of the German-American Brass Band played on.

"This is what we needed as a city. We needed comradery," said Fawn Moore of Cathedral City. "It's not so much really about the German aspect any more, and it's not about the beer. Well, It's a little bit about the beer."

Four types of ale were served, including a special Oktoberfest brew that goes by the same name, which is slightly darker and stronger in both taste and alcohol content, which could have put Moore's friend Michelle Hutchinson in the mood to fulfill her wish for the day.

"We just want to do the chicken dance."

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As the story goes, once upon a time in Munich, Germany, when Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen married in 1810, the wedding reception was so raucous, it lasted a full six weeks. It was then decided a yearly celebration must be had.

Fast-forward 197 years and 5,750 miles away, the same party now known as Oktoberfest, lives on in Cathedral City. More than 2,500 revelers attended Friday's leg of the two-day celebration, shattering last year's overall attendance number.

Ten kegs of beer were consumed in less than six hours Friday night, but organizers were prepared with 20 more for the second leg of the two-day celebration Saturday.

Early that day, the crowd was sprinkled with faces of young children participating in contests and feasting on German delicacies as the



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photos by Omar Ornelas, the desert sun

Adrienne Nemes of La Quinta enjoys her Dunkel German beer during the second annual Oktoberfest held in Cathedral City. The festival celebrates German culture with food, music and beer.



A member of the German-American Brass Band performs during the Oktoberfest.