Odessa Deutschesfest

55th Anniversary · 2026

Thursday, Sept. 17
Friday, Sept. 18
Saturday, Sept. 19
Sunday, Sept. 20

Deutschesfest is a supplement to the publications of Free Press Publishing, Inc.

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Willkommen back to First Avenue

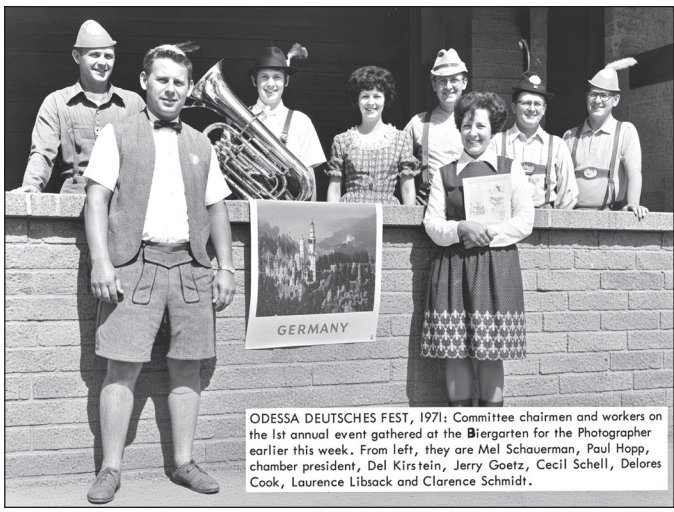
ODESSA — Pull the lederhosen out of the closet. Deutschesfest is coming around the bend.

The 55th festival fills downtown Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 17-20. There is no gate charge to walk the streets. The Biergarten takes a ticket. The rest of the weekend is the town doing what it has done since 1971: feed people, play music and make room.

Thursday night First Avenue closes for sidewalk chalk, then the tricycle race and the bed race. The garden opens about 7 p.m. Friday brings the FFA pancake breakfast, the street fair, Fest Platz food and the Sausage Bowl at Finney Field. Saturday starts with the Lions breakfast, the fun run at 8:30 a.m. and the parade at 10 a.m. Sunday the garden is open and the last bands play.

Rocky Coulee beer is on tap in the garden. Pretzels replace the old bagged peanuts. Minors can go in with a paying adult until 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Catch a rubber chicken during the Chicken Dance and you are royalty for the afternoon.

Bring cash for vendors. Bring a chair if you want a curb for the parade. RVs pack the tourist park and Finney Field on a first-come basis. The La Collage Inn is the motel in town. A shuttle runs so no one has to drive after the last stein.



ODESSA DEUTSCHES FEST, 1971: Committee chairmen and workers on the 1st annual event gathered at the Biergarten for the Photographer earlier this week. From left, they are Mel Schauerman, Paul Hopp, chamber president, Del Kirstein, Jerry Goetz, Cecil Schell, Delores Cook, Laurence Libsack and Clarence Schmidt.

If you have never been, start on First Avenue and follow the music. If you have been coming for 40 years, the sawdust will still be where you left it.

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Lincoln County Record-Times

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DEUTSCHESFEST MAP

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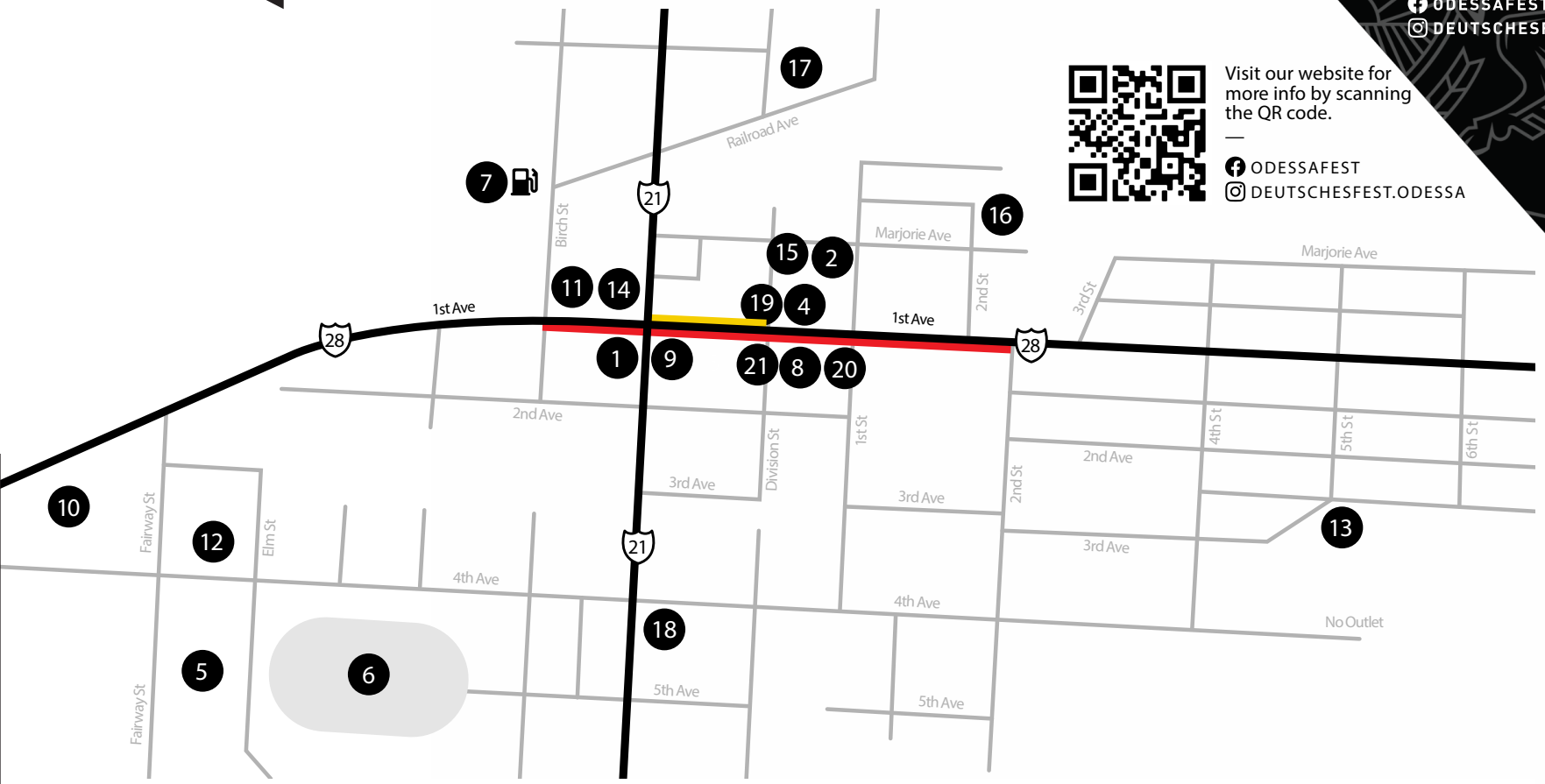

1. ATM
2. Biergarten & ATM
3. Das Kraut Haus
4. Fest Platz Food Court
   Deutschesfest.net/food for more
5. Finney Field Ball Fields—RV Parking
6. Finney Field Football Field—Sausage Bowl
7. Gas Station
8. Kid Zone
9. Odessa Drug
10. Odessa Golf & RV
11. Odessa Grocery Store
12. Odessa Historisches Museum
13. Odessa Memorial Healthcare Center
14. Old Town Hall
15. Outdoor Stage
16. Reiman Park—Fun Run
17. Rocky Coulee Brewing Co.
18. St. Matthews Church
19. Street Fair & Petting Zoo
20. Wheatland Bank Chalk Drawing
21. Wild Roots Market

Bed & Trike Races (Thur 6pm)
Parade Route (Sat 10am)

Thanks to our sponsors

Odessa Chamber of Commerce
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Kayla Maier PHOTOGRAPHY

Schedule Subject to Change For the most up-to-date schedule visit deutschesfest.com:

Longtime volunteers named grand marshals

ODESSA — A couple known for decades of quiet volunteer work has been selected as grand marshals for this year's Odessa parade, an honor that left them surprised and the community eager to say thank you.

Larry Gustafson, 82, and Linda Gustafson, 79, of Odessa, learned of the selection when Rebecca Maddock of Washington Federal called them.

"I was stunned. We were totally surprised," Linda said.

Larry said the recognition feels meaningful after years of community involvement.

"It's very nice," he said. "We've done a lot of work in the community, and it's nice to be honored."

The Gustafsons have lived in Odessa since 1973, when they came to farm for Larry's uncle, Bob Dicey. They are fourth-generation farmers with family ties in the area dating to the 1890s.

Over the decades they have volunteered with the Jaycees, Junior Women's and the Lions Club. Linda joined the Odessa Chamber of Commerce board after being approached on the street in 1974 and served on the board or as secretary until about 1995. She also handled the music for Deutschesfest for roughly 25 years. Larry helped build the new kitchen at the community center and regularly assisted with fest setup. More recently he worked on city park improvements.

Special to The Record-Times

Larry and Linda Gustafson

Maddock, who has known the couple for 22 years, said an Odessa resident who has worked alongside them for years nominated them.

"Larry and Linda have lived in this community for years, they are always volunteering when there is a project, they are in the background never really wanting recognition they just come to help when it is needed," Maddock said.

She said the honor gives the town a chance to show appreciation for the volunteers who keep Odessa running.

Linda said the parade itself is something the couple simply enjoys.

"We just enjoy it. It's fun to see everybody and participate," she said. "We have a whole crew that sits on the street corner, and we throw candy back to the people who are throwing candy at us."

Her message to the community is a call for the next generations to step forward.

"People need to volunteer. We're getting old, and we can't do what we used to do, so others need to step up," Linda said. "Just find your niche in volunteering somewhere and get out and help."

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DEUTSCHESFEST DAILY SCHEDULE 2026

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Thursday

5pm	Sidewalk Chalk Art Ages 2-12, Wheatland Bank Sign-up 4:45
6pm	Tricycle (ages 2-4, 5-7, 8-10) and Bed Races Sponsored by Hair Haus and OHS Sophomore Class
7-11pm	German Biergarten (No Minors)

Friday

7-10am	Pancake Feed Sponsored by Odessa FFA (Biergarten)
9am-5pm	Used Book Sale-17 W 1st Ave. By Friends of the Library Next to Drug store
9am-6pm	Vendors & Crafts (Old Town Hall)
10am	Old Fashioned German Bake Sale - Old Town Hall
10am-4pm	Quilt & Vintage Doll Display - St. Matthew's Church
10am-7pm	Street Fair & Petting Zoo-Division Street Sponsored by Odessa FBLA
11am-8pm	German Food Court
12pm-1am	German Biergarten (Minors Until 5pm)
2pm	Rocky Coulee Brewing Co, German Hat Bar, Live Sports, Fest Games & Kid Friendly Open to Close
2-6pm	Historical Museum/Slide Show
5-7pm	Stadyc and Shim - Live Music at Wild Roots Market
7pm	Sausage Bowl vs Cusick (Football Field)

Saturday

7-10am	Lions Club Farmer's Breakfast (Biergarten)
8:30am	Deutschesfest Fun Run Registration 7:45-8:15 am City Park, Sponsored By Odessa HS ASB
9am-5pm	Used Book Sale-17 W 1st Ave. By Friends of the Library Next to Drug Store
9am-6pm	Vendors & Crafts (Old Town Hall)
10am-7pm	Street Fair & Petting Zoo-Division Street Sponsored by Odessa FBLA
10am	Kiddie and Deutschesfest Parade

Saturday cont.

11-1am	German Biergarten (Minors Until 5pm)
12pm	Rocky Coulee Brewing Co, German Hat Bar, Live Sports, Fest Games & Kid Friendly Open to Close
12-6pm	Historical Museum & Ag Machinery Display Slide Show
12-6pm	Kid Zone (Lot Next to Wheatland Bank)
12-4pm	Quilt & Vintage Doll Display St. Matthew's Church
1pm	Poker Run Tournament 2 Person Scramble *Odessa Golf Course*
3pm	Rocky Coulee Brewing Co Stein Holding Contest
4pm	John White - Live Music at Rocky Coulee Brewing Co.
All Day	German Food Court

Sunday

7am-10 am	Breakfast Sponsored by FBLA (Biergarten)
8:00 am	St. Joseph's Catholic Church
9am-3pm	Vendors & Crafts (Old Town Hall)
10:00 am	Community Church Service (Outdoor Stage)
10:30 am	Zion Emmanuel Lutheran Church
11am-2pm	Street Fair & Petting Zoo-Division Street Sponsored by FBLA
12-10pm	German Biergarten (Minors until 5pm)
12-4pm	Historical Museum/ Slide Show
12-3pm	Quilt & Vintage Doll Display St. Matthew's Church
All Day	German Food Court (Can Sell Out Early)

Schedule Subject to Change For the most up-to-date schedule visit deutschesfest.com:

Smith chairs Fest Biergarten

ODESSA — The woman running the Biergarten this year already knew the hours. She watched her husband do the job.

Paige Smith, 29, is Biergarten chairman for the 55th Deutschesfest, Sept. 17-20. She is married to Trevor Smith, 37, who chaired the garden in 2019. They have two children, Jaycee, 4, and Hayes, 3.

Smith works as a paralegal at McGuire, DeWulf, Kragt & Johnson and is secretary of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce. She also helps organize the Deutschesfest bed races and the Odessa Women's Golf League and owns JH Collective, a small business named for her children that makes custom shirts, tumblers and stickers.

"Trevor served as the Biergarten chairman in 2019, so I had a good idea of the time, organization and teamwork involved before taking on the position myself," she said.

The job covers volunteers, beverages, supplies, licensing, scheduling and the details that keep the garden open from Thursday night through Sunday.

"It is a large undertaking, but it is also rewarding to see everything come together," Smith said.

Abby Lindberg, 27, is co-chair. She has taught elementary school in Odessa for five years and has worked Fest setup, Oom Pas and Mas shifts and other weekend jobs. When Smith asked her to take the co-chair post, Lindberg said she thought, "There's no better time than the present."

Chairing, she said, showed her how much happens out of sight.

"Serving as co-chair has given me a whole new appreciation for everything that goes on behind the scenes to make Odessa's biggest weekend such a success," Lindberg said.

Smith said the weekend still rests on people who show up.

"Deutschesfest would not be possible without the many volunteers, local businesses, organizations and community members who contribute their time and talents each year," she said. "I am proud to be part of a community that works so hard to celebrate its heritage and welcome visitors to town."

Paige Smith, 29, 2026 Deutschesfest Biergarten chairman, with her husband, Trevor, 37, daughter Jaycee, 4, and son Hayes, 3

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Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
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BIERGARTEN STAGE SCHEDULE 2026

DEUTSCHESFEST
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THURSDAY

7:30-8:30 pm	Oom Pas & Mas
8:45-10:45 pm	32 Flavors

FRIDAY

12:00 - 1:00 pm	Kyle Richard
1:15 - 2:15 pm	Oom Pas & Mas
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Heather King Duo
3:45 - 4:45 pm	Oom Pas & Mas
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Karma's Circle
6:45 - 8:15 pm	Lake City Blues
8:30 - 9:30 pm	Oom Pas and Mas
9:45 - 11:15 pm	Stony River
11:30 pm - 1:00 am	The Real McCoy

SATURDAY

12:00 - 1:00 pm	Hillyard Belles
1:15 - 2:15 pm	Oom Pas and Mas
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Wheeler Joy Ride
3:45 - 4:45 pm	Basin Boys
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Eternal Jones
6:45 - 8:30 pm	Whack-a-Mole
8:45 - 9:45 pm	Oom Pas and Mas
10:00 pm - 1:00 am	Staff Infection

SUNDAY

12:00 - 1:00 pm	Steve Schennum
1:15 - 2:15 pm	Oom Pas and Mas
2:30 - 4:00 pm	RCA Duo
4:30 - 6:30 PM	Dryland Drifters
7:00 - 10:00 PM	Karaoke & DJ Music

Schedule Subject to Change

For the most up-to-date schedule, please visit Deutschesfest.com

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FEST PLATZ BOOTHS

Heritage Church
Cabbage Rolls
Heritage Church Pie Booth
Variety of Pies & Kuchen
Christ Lutheran Church
Apple Strudel with Vanilla Ice Cream | Pfefferneusse
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Kraut Ranzas | Kuchen
Pie
FBLA Booth
Bratwurst | German
Potato Salad
Curly Fries
Odessa Booster Club
Hamburgers

SPECIALTY FOOD BOOTHS

FFA
Hot Buttered Corn | Caramel Apples
FFA Alumni
Reuben Sandwiches
Das Kraut Haus
Kartoffel und Klöss | Sausage on a Stick
BBQ Sausage | Sauerkraut | Hot Mustard
Variety of Meats & Cheeses
Biergarten Sausage Booth
Soft Pretzel | Homemade German Sausage on a Stick
Homemade German Sausage Boat (with BBQ Sauce)
Homemade German Sausage Plate (with homemade sauerkraut, homemade pickle & pretzels)
Grannie BarBar
Specialty Cookies & Pastries
Knowledge Bowl Booth
Pop & Water
Arrowstar
Elephant Ears | Indian Tacos
Nachos Grande

BREAKFAST AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER BIERGARTEN

Open to All Ages -- 7am-10am
Friday
Odessa FFA Pancake Breakfast
Saturday
Lions Club Farmer's Breakfast
Sunday
Odessa FBLA Pancake Breakfast

ODESSA FOOD & BEVERAGES

Odessa Foods

Odessa Golf & RV

Rocky Coulee Brewery

Wild Roots Market

MENUS & AVAILABILITY SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Fest traces Volga roots

ODESSA — The 55th Deutschesfest is not a copy of Munich. It is a Big Bend harvest party with Volga roots.

German families who had lived for generations along the Volga River — on the hill side and the meadow side, near Saratov and Kamyshin — left Russia and took up wheat ground here. The railroad named the town for the Black Sea port of Odessa. Their grandchildren still fill First Avenue every third full weekend in September.

The Chamber of Commerce put a festival on the calendar in 1971 after talk at a meeting in the bowling alley. A 1993 Record account credited John DuPree with the spark. Paul Hopp chaired the first Biergarten that year and again in 1974. He and others, including Jim Walter and the late Ralph Heimbigner and Laurence Libsack, wanted a beer hall like the ones they had seen in Germany, only in September, when Odessa is still warm.

The first Friday was Sept. 17, 1971. Planners were not sure anyone would come. By Saturday the food was gone and the kegs were dry. Hopp built four Willkommen signs for that first weekend. The town has been adding sawdust, flags and shifts ever since.

What survived is local, not imported. Sausage mixed from a Chamber recipe. Kraut and pickles put up at home. The Oom Pas and Mas on the Biergarten stage. Kids racing trikes Thursday night, then watching their parents shove beds down First Avenue. A parade Saturday morning. Football Friday night at Finney Field.

A 1978 crowd was put at 20,000. The numbers rise and fall. The work does not. People who carried steins as teenagers now run the garden. Their children work the sausage booth.

This year's Fest is Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 17-20.

Where in the Volga region did your ancestors come from?

Map of Volga-German settlements courtesy of Mitch Roll, www.rollintl.com.
Map URL: www.rollintl.com/roll/volga.htm.

Have you visited Odessa's Historisches Museum?

Friday, September 18th - 2 to 6 p.m.
Saturday, September 19th - 12 to 6 p.m.
Sunday, September 20th 12 to 4 p.m.

4th and Elm across from the ball field.

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OUTDOOR STAGE SCHEDUCE

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FRIDAY

11 am	Talent Show -- *Any Talent! Put it on Display! Contact (315) 679-2748 or (509) 988-0066 to Sign Up or by 10:45am at the Stage*
12 pm	Treble Tones
2 pm	Best Beard Contest -- *Long, Short, Crazy, Ugly, Unique! Contact (315) 679-2748 or (509) 988-0066 to Sign Up or by 1:45pm at the Stage*
3 pm	Bonnie & The Extras
5 pm	Evan Gonzalez
6 pm	Denver Rhiannon

SATURDAY

11 am	Hot Dog Eating Contest -- *How Many Can You Stomach? Contact (315) 679-2748 or (509) 988-0066 to Sign Up or by 10:45am at the Stage*
12:30 pm	Big Dawg & The Howlers

Schedule Subject to Change

For the most up-to-date schedule, please visit Deutschesfest.com

SATURDAY CONT.

3 pm	Oom Pas and Mas *Local German Polka Band*
4 pm	Sunset Highway Band
6 pm	Nicklas Nelson

SUNDAY

10 am	Community Worship *Odessa Ministerial Association*
12-2 pm	Open Mic

ODESSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEMBERS

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Deutschesfest
Odessa
Wa
Fun Run
2025

2026 Deutschesfest fun run / walk

ASB ODESSA

DEUTSCHESFEST

FUN RUN/WALK

Saturday, Sept. 19th, 2026

Place: **Town Park**, **Odessa, WA**

Date: **Saturday, Sept. 19th, 2026**

Time: **Run Starts at 8:30. Check-in and day-of-run registration will be held from 7:45 – 8:15 A.M at the park.**

Distance: **1 mile walk / 5K**

Course: **With the exception of 1 steep hill about 650 yards long at the ½ mile mark; the course is flat out and back. There is about ¼ mile of gravel road; the rest is asphalt.**

Entry Fee: **By August 31st: $25.00 w/ T-shirt, or $15.00 w/o T-shirt.**
Late Registration after 8/31: **$15.00, No T-shirt available with late registration.**

Awards: **Awards will be given for the first three places (men and women) in each run.**

Post-Race Activities: **Town parade after the race. There will also be many other activities in conjunction with the Fest.**

Entry fee must accompany this form. Make checks payable to: Odessa ASB
Mail entries to: Odessa School District
P.O. Box 248, Odessa, WA 99159
or drop the registration/money by the school office.

Name:_____

Phone:_____

Address:_____
Sex:____

T-Shirt Size: **S M L XL None**

Distance: **1 mile walk / 5K**

To receive 2027 app:
email:_____

Release of Liability: In consideration for acceptance of this entry and intending to be legally bound, I do hereby for myself and heirs, executors, and administrators, waive, release, and forever discharge all rights and claims for damages which may, or hereafter accrue to me against the Odessa Deutschesfest Run or any of the sponsors of this run, or their respective officers, agents, or representatives. I have read the above statement and understand it. My signature confirms its full acceptance.

Signature:_____

Parent or Guardian if under

_____

German recipe to try at home

Frikadellen

Germans from Russia cooking often featured easy to prepare menu items that incorporated ingredients on hand and allowed nothing to go to waste. Many of those dishes became family favorites, comfort foods, special occasion foods that didn't break the budget. Many who I have talked to reminese of the savory aroma of Frikadellen wafting through a dining room filled with family and friends gathered for a Sunday meal.

Frikadellen, or meatball, is a recipe I have had many requests for but not always by that name. Always described as a small , fried meat patties, often served with knepfla or strudels. I doubt I will come up with the exact way each persons families made, seasoned or served Frikadellen, but this recipe would be a good starting point..

Traditional Frikadellen includes ground beef, possibly some ground pork, course bread, soaked and squeezed dry, onion and a variety of seasonings. Eggs bind the mixture together.

Frikadellen

- **(German Meatballs)**
- **1 Kaiser roll or other dense, course bread roll or two bread heals**
- **1 large egg**
- **1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce**
- **1 tsp ground dry mustard**
- **1 Tbsp sweet paprika (or smoked paprika)**
- **1 tsp salt**
- **1/2 tsp ground black pepper**
- **1 1/2 pounds lean ground beef**
- **1 cup finely chopped onion**
- **1/3 cup fine bread crumbs**
- **1/3 cup cooking oil or lard for cooking**
- **2 Tbsp butter for frying**

Tear the bread roll into small pieces and cover with cold water in a small dish.

Meanwhile, beat egg in a large mixing bowl. Add the ground beef, onion, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, paprika, salt and pepper. Mix well.

Press the water out of the soaking bread roll and add to the mixture, mixing well.

Place the fine bread crumbs in a small sauce dish and set aside.

In a large skillet heat oil and butter over medium high heat.

Form meat mixture into 2 inch balls and flatten in the palm of your hand. Coat lightly in the fine bread crumbs, then fry in heated skillet 8 to 10 minutes a side until well browned. Yield about 18-20 palm size patties.

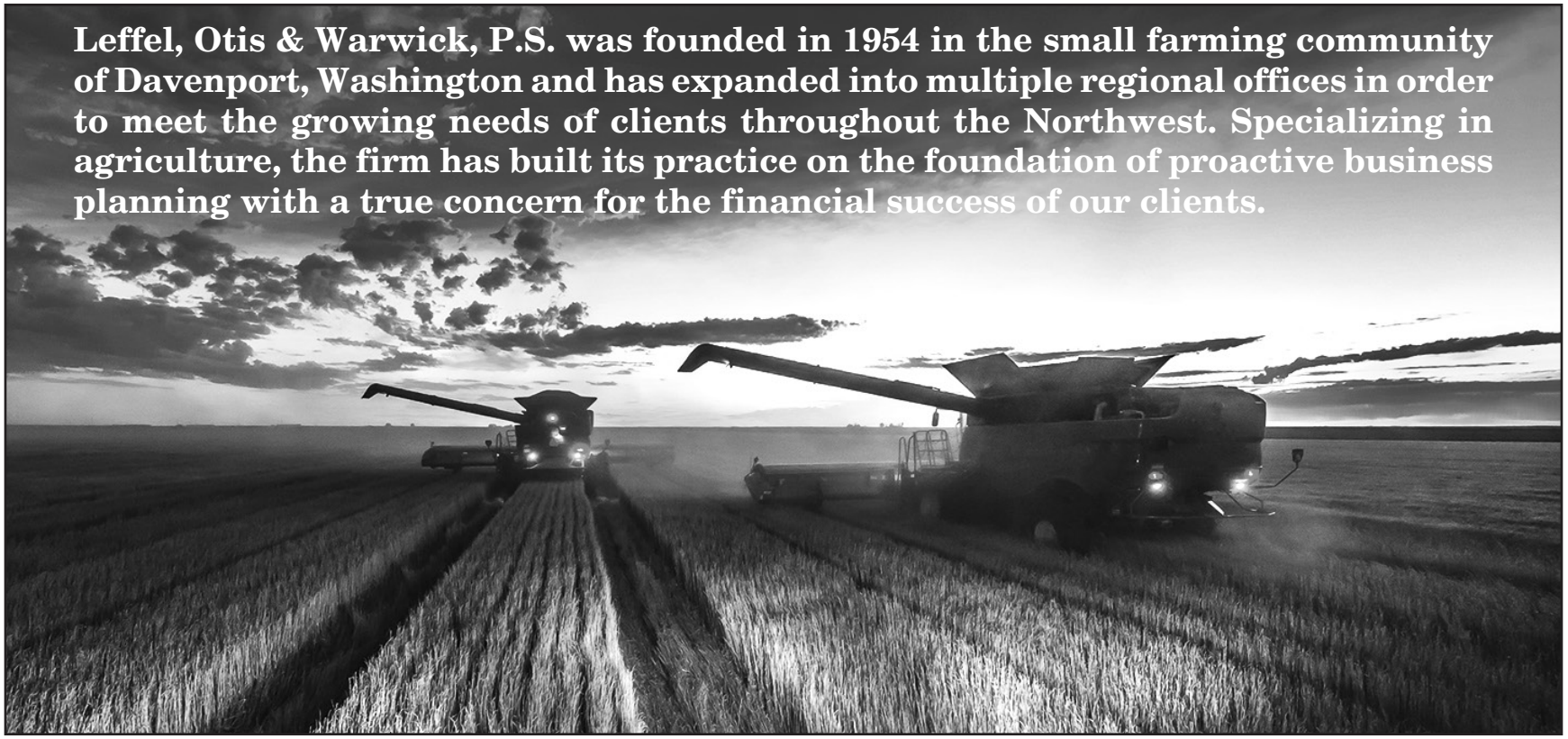
Note: if you want to serve with knepfla or strudels, add them when you turn the patties and cover to steam. Other serving option, make a gravy with pan drippings and serve over mashed potatoes, noodles or rice. A cucumber and onion salad was mentioned often as a side dish served with Frikadellen.

Just because this is a German recipe doe not mean you can not use your families favorite sauce and a pasta and make this recipe a new family favorite. Some recipes I cam across suggested making the patties ahead of time, then coating and frying at meal time. Follow our column, Welcome to My Kitchen, bi- weekly in the Lincoln County Record Times.

Laura Estes, who writes a bimonthly recipe column for the *Lincoln County Record-Times*, contributed this recipe

Leffel, Otis & Warwick, P.S.

Certified Public Accountants



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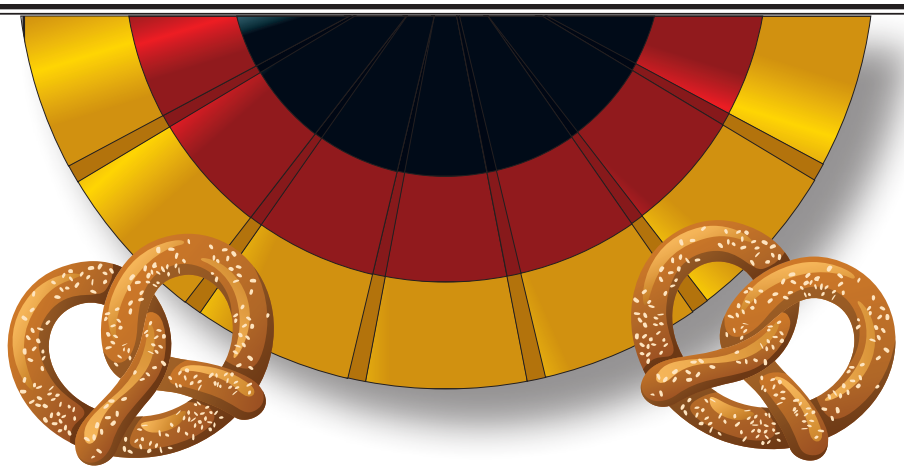

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