6 Sessa Deutschesfest 54th Anniversary · 2025



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Wescome back Deutschesfest

ODESSA — Willkommen, dobro pozhalovat! That's "welcome" in the German-Russian Pidgin language, a nod to the roots of Odessa's founders. This year marks the 54th Annual Deutschesfest, running from Thursday, September 18 through Sunday, September 21, 2025, where lederhosen meet hometown pride in the heart of Lincoln County.

Every September, thousands flock to Odessa to celebrate the culture of the German-Russian immigrants who settled here in the early 20th century. The festi-

val is a four-day feast of tradition, music, dancing, and of course—beer, brats, and pretzels the size of your head. From the sprawling biergarten and authentic German food court to street vendors, live music, parades, and even helicopter rides, there's truly Viel Spaß, развлекайся (fun for all!)

The fun begins Thursday evening with sidewalk chalk art for kids, live music at Wild Roots Market, and the famous tricycle and bed races down First Avenue—before the biergarten taps its first kegs at 7 p.m. Friday kicks

Graphics

Michelle Van Diest

off bright and early with pancakes courtesy of the Odessa FFA, followed by street fairs, bake sales, a petting zoo, and the beloved "Sausage Bowl" football game under the Friday night lights.

Saturday is the crown jewel: the morning parade on First Avenue fills the streets with floats, royalty, bands, and horses. From there, it's a full day of German food, live music, games, and contests like beer stein holding at Rocky Coulee Brewing. Families can enjoy the kid zone, craft vendors, museum tours, and the petting zoo, while

adults keep the biergarten lively well past midnight.

The celebration winds down on Sunday, with community breakfasts, church services, vendors, and one last chance to grab sauerkraut, schnitzel, or strudel before the food court sells out. The biergarten runs until 10 p.m., giving festivalgoers a final toast to Odessa's proud heritage.

So dust off your dirndls, shine your steins, and join Odessa in raising a glass to more than half a century of tradition. Prost to Deutschesfest 2025!

Publisher

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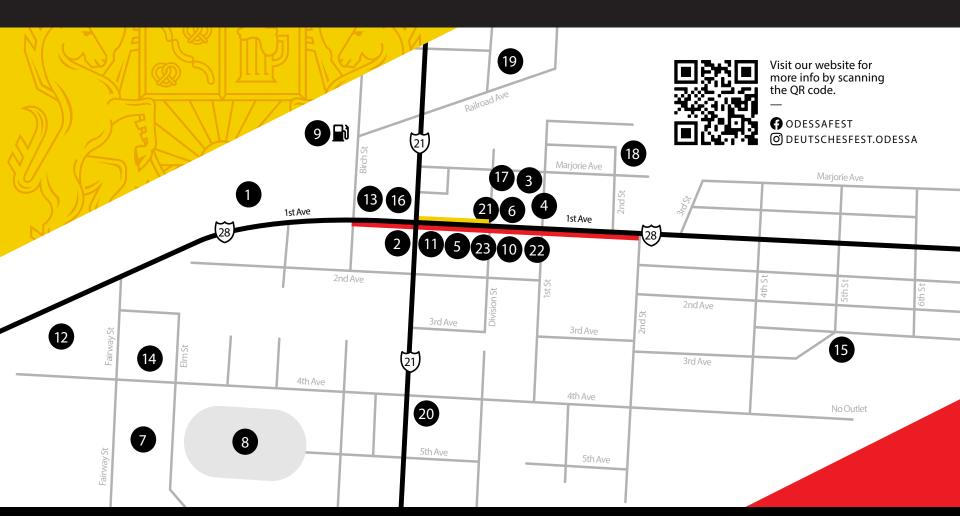
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2025 Deutschesfest Map





- 1. 410 Burgers
- 2. ATM
- 3. Biergarten & ATM
- 4. Corn Hole Tournament
- 5. Das Kraut Haus
- 6. Fest Platz Food Court

 Deutschesfest.net/food for more
- 7. Finney Field Ball Fields—RV Parking
- 8. Finney Field Football Field— Sausage Bowl
- 9. Gas Station

- 10. Kid Zone
- 11. Odessa Drug
- 12. Odessa Golf & RV
- 13. Odessa Grocery Store
- 14. Odessa Historisches Museum
- 15. Odessa Memorial Healthcare Center
- 16. Old Town Hall
- 17. Outdoor Stage
- 18. Reiman Park—Fun Run
- 19. Rocky Coulee Brewing Co.

- 20. St. Matthews Church
- 21. Street Fair & Petting Zoo
- 22. Wheatland Bank Chalk Drawing
- 23. Wild Roots Market
- Bed & Trike Races (Thur 6pm)
- Parade Route (Sat 10am)

Wescome the 2025 parabe Grand Marshals

Longtime local couple excited to be chosen

ODESSA — Parade grand marshals have been chosen and confirmed for this year's Deutschesfest, and the honor goes to longtime Odessa couple Joe and JoEllen Wollman.

For the Wollmans, Deutschesfest has been at the center of their lives for decades. Joe, 79, was born in Leftridge, Alberta, Canada, and met JoEllen in Yakima. The two married in Odessa in 1977 before returning to Yakima briefly. Within a year, Joe accepted a position at Odessa Trading Company, and the

couple made Odessa their permanent home.

"I wanted to know who was behind it," Joe said, recalling his early interest in how Deutschesfest was organized. He went on to chair the Biergarten for three years and has helped with the parade for the past 25 years.

JoEllen, 73, was born in Odessa and graduated from Odessa High School in 1971. Her first reaction to being named grand marshal was one of surprise.

"Our initial reaction was pretty much, 'you've got to be kidding," she said. "We are excited, and it is quite an honor to be chosen." Together, the Wollmans have been part of nearly every Deutschesfest for more than 40 years.

They raised two children in Odessa — Christina, 47, and Daniel, 42.

Christina, who still goes by her Wollman name, is married to Tim Kauslarich of Cle Elum. Christina plans to return home for the celebration this year with her husband.

Over the years, JoEllen has been heavily involved with Deutschesfest committees and food booths, from the cabbage roll booth to the well-loved pie booth. She also helped direct youth activities, including a children's garden that kept local kids busy during festival weekends.

This year, she'll once again be working shifts in the pie booth and lending a hand with the quilt club's vintage quilt show at Heritage Church.

"I am proud of our town, especially having Deutschesfest go for over 50 years and it is still going fairly strong," JoEllen said. "I remember the years when there were thousands of people coming in for it. It is not so much now because there are so many other things going on, but the people that come year after year are just remarkable."

For the Wollmans, being named grand marshals is a celebration of family, service, and tradition.



Davenport Laundry

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Landon Lobe ~ Owner

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Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 506 8th Street, Davenport, WA 99122 • 509-725-2000

Deutschesfest

DEUTSCHESFEST DAICY SCHEDUCE 2025

Thursday			DEUTSCHESFEST ODESSA, WA	
5pm	Sidewalk Chalk Art Ages 2-12, Wheatland Bank Sign-up 4:45	Saturday co		
5-7pm	Billy V - Live Music at Wild Roots Market	11-1am	German Biergarten (Minors Until 5pm) G odessafest O deutschesfest.odessa	
6pm	Tricycle (ages 2-4, 5-7, 8-10) and Bed Races Sponsored by Hair Haus and OHS Class of 2026	11am	Rocky Coulee Brewing Co, Live Sports & Fest Games All Day	
7-11pm	German Biergarten (No Minors)	12-6pm	Historical Museum & Ag Machinery Display Slide Show	
Friday 7-10am	Pancake Feed Sponsored by Odessa FFA (Biergarten)	12-6pm	Kid Zone (Lot Next to Wheatland Bank)	
10am	Old Fashioned German Bake Sale - Old Town Hall	' 12-4pm	Quilt & Vintage Doll Display	
9am-5pm	Used Book Sale-17 W 1st Ave. By Friends of	12-4ριπ	St. Matthew's Church	
	the Library Next to Drug store	12pm	Corn Hole Tournament - S First St, next to Biergarten	
9am-6pm	Vendors & Crafts (Old Town Hall)	1pm	Poker Run Tournament 2 Person Scramble Odessa Golf Course	
10am-4pm	Quilt & Vintage Doll Display - St. Matthew's Church	3-6pm	John White - Live Music at Wild Roots Market	
10am-7pm	Street Fair & Petting Zoo-Division Street Sponsored by Odessa FBLA	4pm	Rocky Coulee Brewing Co Stein Holding Contest	
11am-8pm	German Food Court	4:30pm	Rocky Coulee Brewing Co - Apple Cup Viewing	
12pm-1am	German Biergarten (Minors Until 5pm)	All Day	German Food Court	
12pm	Corn Hole Tournament - S First St, next to Biergarten	Sunday	Dural fact Common of hor EDLA (Diagrants)	
1pm	Rocky Coulee Brewing Co, German Hat Bar & Kid Friendly Open to Close	7am-10 am 8:00 am	Breakfast Sponsored by FBLA (Biergarten) St. Joseph's Catholic Church	
2-6pm	Historical Museum/Slide Show	9am-3pm	Vendors & Crafts (Old Town Hall)	
7pm	Sausage Bowl vs Oroville (Football Field)	10:00 am	Community Church Service (Outdoor Stage)	
Saturday 7-10am	Lions Club Farmer's Breakfast (Biergarten)	10:30 am	Zion Emmanuel Lutheran Church	
8:30am	Deutschesfest Fun Run Registration 7:45-8:15 am City Park, Sponsored By Odessa HS ASB	11am-2pm	Street Fair & Petting Zoo-Division Street Sponsored by FBLA	
9am-5pm	Used Book Sale-17 W 1st Ave. By Friends of	12-10pm	German Biergarten (Minors until 5pm)	
7am-5pm	the Library Next to Drug Store	12pm	Corn Hole Tournament - S First St, next to Biergarten	
9am-6pm	Vendors & Crafts (Old Town Hall)	12-4pm	Historical Museum/ Slide Show	
10am-7pm	Street Fair & Petting Zoo-Division Street Sponsored by Odessa FBLA	12-3pm	Quilt & Vintage Doll Display St. Matthew's Church	
10am	Kiddie and Deutschesfest Parade	All Day	German Food Court (Can Sell Out Early)	

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

New face joins Biergarten team

Festival staple sees leadership mix

ODESSA — The Deutschesfest Biergarten, a centerpiece of the annual celebration, will have both seasoned leaders and a new face at the helm this year. Returning chairwomen Megan Schlimmer and Deanna Lobe will be joined by newcomer Paige Smith, who will step into the co-chair role with plans to take over as head chairwoman in 2026.

Smith, 28, grew up in Odessa before moving away as a child and later returning to graduate from Odessa High School. She works as

a paralegal at McGuire, DeWulff and Johnson and serves as chamber secretary. Her husband, Trevor Smith, chaired the Biergarten in 2019. The couple has two children, Jaycee, 3, and Hayes, 2.

"It's something I wanted to do to get my name up on that board," Smith said. "It will be a cool accomplishment to see my name up there."

Schlimmer, who began chairing in 2023, was raised in Odessa and returned to raise her family. She works at Odessa Golf & RV and as a pharmacy technician at Odessa Drug alongside her husband, Ted Bruya. She said she recognizes the Biergarten's impor-

tance to the festival and is proud to continue in the role.

Lobe, who has co-chaired for the past two years, has helped manage some of the busiest shifts at the Biergarten and continues to lend her experience in ensuring smooth operations.

The three women will oversee long weekends of work, often running from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m., but all say the commitment is worth it to help keep the decades-old festival tradition alive.

This year's Deutschesfest will also feature new events such as the cornhole tournament and an addition of live music at Wild Roost Market on Thursday and Saturday.



Stow-Away Storge

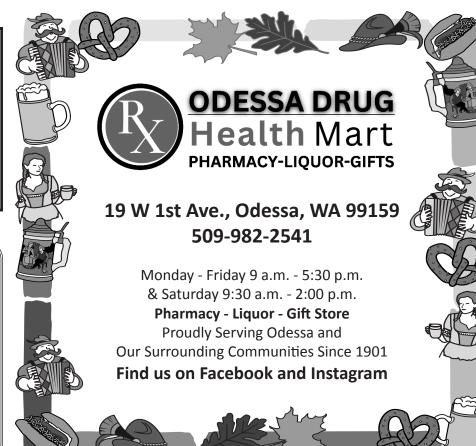


1406 12th St. Davenport, WA 99122 • 509-721-1250 Jeff and Peggy Semprimoznik



105 W 1st Ave., Odessa, WA 99159

982-2624



BIERGARTEN STAGE SCHEDUCE

THURSDAY

7:30-8:30 pm

Oom Pas & Mas

8:45-10:45 pm

Steve Starkey Band

FRIDAY

12:15 - 1:15 pm	Gil Rivas
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Oom Pas & Mas
2:45 - 4:15 pm	Heather King Duo
4:30 - 6:00 pm	Stony River Band
6:15 - 7:45 pm	The Funk
8:00 - 9:00 pm	Oom Pas and Mas
9:15 - 10:45 pm	Staff Infection
11:00 pm - 1:00 am	Kekoa Lyons Band

SATURDAY

12:15 - 1:15 pm	Hillyard Belles
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Oom Pas and Mas
2:45 - 4:15 pm	Branded Heart
4:30 - 6:00 pm	Lake City Blues
6:15 - 7:45 pm	The Funk
8:00 - 9:00 pm	Oom Pas and Mas
9:15 - 10:45 pm	Whack-a-Mole

Karma's Circle

DEUTSCHESFEST.COM

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Schedule Subject to Change

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



SUNDAY

11:00 pm - 1:00 am

12:15 - 1:15 PM	Gil Rivas
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Oom Pas and Mas
2:45 - 4:15 PM	James Motley
4:30 - 6:30 PM	Dryland Drifters
7:00 - 11:00 PM	All Request Music



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FOOD ALL OVER rowni

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

FBLA Booth

Bratwurst | German Potato Salad

Odessa Booster Club

Hamburgers



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





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

Biergarten Sausage Booth

Pop & Water

Arrowstar

Elephant Ears & Indian Tacos

ODESSA FOOD & BEVERAGES

410 Burgers

Odessa Foods

Odessa Golf & RV

Rocky Coulee Brewery

Wild Roots Market



O DEUTSCHESFEST.ODESSA



FRIDAY

12-1 pm Chuck & The Carlsonettes

Welcome & Entertainment

1-3 pm After Dark

Back by Popular Demand

Welcome & Entertainment

4-6 pm Kevin Shay Band

SATURDAY

11-11:30 am GO! Odessa Recreation

Dance Recital

11:30-12:30 pm Spring Chicks

Clogging at it's Finest

12:30-1:30 pm Ugly Beard Contest

Back Again by Popular Demand

1-3 pm Big Dawg & The Howlers

Local Ritzville Band

3:30-4:30 pm Oom Pas and Mas

Local German Polka Band

5-7 pm Just Thad Local Musician

Schedule Subject to Change

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



SUNDAY

10-11 am Community Worship

Odessa Ministerial Association

12:30-1:30pm Bonnie & The Extras Local Bluegrass Band

2. ATM

3. Biergarten & ATM

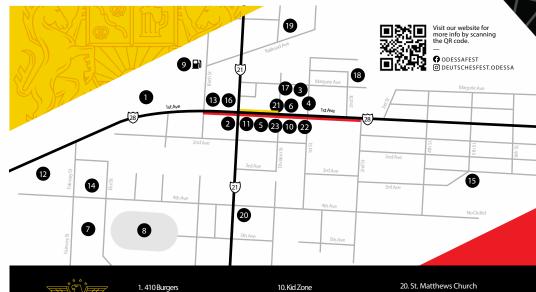
5. Das Kraut Haus

4. Corn Hole Tournament

6. Fest Platz Food Court

Deutschesfest.net/food for more

Finney Field Ball Fields—RV Parking
 Finney Field Football Field—



11. Odessa Drug 12. Odessa Golf & RV

Center

16. Old Town Hall

17. Outdoor Stage 18. Reiman Park—Fun Run 19. Rocky Coulee Brewing Co.

13. Odessa Grocery Store

14. Odessa Historisches Museum

15. Odessa Memorial Healthcare

ODESSA, WA

O DEUTSCHESFEST.ODESSA

21. Street Fair & Petting Zoo

Bed & Trike Races (Thur 6pm)

Parade Route (Sat 10am)

22. Wheatland Bank Chalk Drawing

DEUTSCHESFEST.COM
ODESSAFEST

History of Deutschesfest

Fifty-four years ago, a group of Odessa residents came together to celebrate their German-Russian roots. What started as a small-town idea in 1971 has grown into one of the longest-running German-style festivals in Washington.

The very first Deutschesfest opened on Friday, September 17, 1971, sponsored by the Odessa Chamber of Commerce. Unsure of how many visitors would arrive, organizers were stunned when by Saturday every food booth had sold out and the Biergarten had completely run dry of beer. According to Biergarten Chairman Jim Walter, running out of beer that first year was a "no-no," and cash was quickly sent to Moses Lake and Ritzville to stockpile kegs and keep the taps flowing.

Since then, Deutschesfest has never looked back. Nearly 80% of Odessa's residents are descendants of German Russians, many of whom carry forward the traditions of their ancestors who settled here in the early 20th century. Food, music, dancing, and a strong sense

of community pride have been at the heart of the festival since day one. In German, that spirit is called Gemütlichkeit — the feeling of warmth, camaraderie, and good times.

As Deutschesfest grew, the size of Odessa stayed the same, which brought challenges for space and accommodations. Inspired by Leavenworth's Bavarian-style craftsmanship, festival founders encouraged local building owners to adopt the look and feel of oldworld Germany. It wasn't an easy sell, but over time Odessa embraced its unique identity, blending history with hometown charm.

What began as a simple weekend celebration now transforms the entire town every third full weekend of September. Streets fill with floats, live music drifts from every corner, sausages and strudel fill the air with irresistible aromas, and thousands of visitors gather in the massive Biergarten. From vendors and parades to The Oom Pas & Mas playing traditional tunes, the festival has become much more than an event — it's an experience of heritage, culture, and small-town hospitality.

For more than half a century, Deutschesfest has been Odessa's way of raising a glass to its past while celebrating the joy of the present. Prost to another year of Gemütlichkeit!



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Have you visited Odessa's Historisches Museum?



Friday, September 20th - 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, September 21st - 12 to 6 p.m. Sunday, September 22nd 12 to 4 p.m.

4th and Elm across from the ball field.











Obessa Deutschesfest fun Run/walk

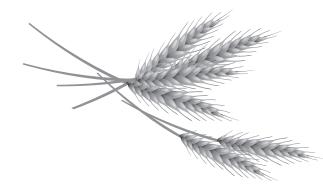
ABS ODESSA

DEUTSCHESFEST

FUN RUN/WALK



Saturday, Sept. 20th, 2025



Place: Town Park, Odessa, WA

Date: Saturday, Sept. 20th, 2025

Time: Run Starts at 8:30. Checkin 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 2026 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.

Parent or Guardian if under 18

German recipe to try at home spaetzle

Spaetzle, a staple recipe in many Germans from Russia meal plans, is a simple dish best described as a rustic noodles. Not a traditional egg noodle, and nor a dumpling. You can purchase special spaetzle presses or boards, but most likely our grandmothers used a colander with large holes to press the batter through or like the recipe I prefer, placed the bat-

ter in a shallow bowl and sliced the batter into the boiling water.

Spaetzle

- 1 cup milk
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp salt
- Cooking Water:
- 6 cups boiling water
- 1 tsp salt

Topping:

- 4 Tbsp butter
- 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs

In a shallow bowl, add milk to flour slowly, whisking constantly, to keep mixture smooth. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add salt and mix well

Place boiling water in a large kettle, add salt and place over a medium low heat, enough heat to keep at a active simmer. Tilt the bowl over kettle, and with a sharp knife, slice batter into the boiling water, being

sure to dip the knife into the boiling water before each cut. Slices should be about the size of a thin gummy worm.

Raise heat to let spaetzle boil for 5 minutes, then drain in colander. Brown bread crumbs in butter. Place spaetzle in serving dish and sprinkle with crumbs.

Spaetzle can have additional ingredients, such as parsley, ground black pepper, minced chives or onion. Some recipes include dry bread crumbs in the batter, which makes a denser finished product.

Spaetzle is served as a side dish with German sausage or bratwurst and sauerkraut, or in a family meal, with meatballs and gravy. Some recipes suggest serving with applesauce, and other recipes include the addition of diced cooked potatoes and the mixture fried in butter or bacon fat.



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



Leffel, Otis & Warwick, P.S.

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