

NEWS
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Oktoberfest Northwest Opens with a Tapping of the Firkin

The seventh annual Oktoberfest Northwest presented by Emerald Queen Casino begins Friday, October 7, at the Puyallup Fair and Events Center and runs through Sunday, October 9. While the event gates will open at 11 a.m. on Friday, the official opening ceremony and Tapping of the Oktoberfest Firkin by the 2011 Festmaster will take place at 6:15 p.m. Friday evening. Incoming 2011 Festmaster Ralph Dannenberg, the City Manager of Puyallup, will toast the entire crowd and then swing a mallet into the firkin (a large wooden keg), causing the Firkin of Oktoberfest beer to pour out to signify the official beginning of the 2011 Oktoberfest Northwest. Beer will be served starting at 11 a.m. on Friday.

The opening ceremony will also feature a musical introduction by AlpenBand, who will perform throughout the weekend. After the ceremony, be sure to stay to experience Oktoberfest headliner Manuela Horn, and the Allgäuer Alpin Cats from Bavaria, both performing Friday night and throughout the weekend.

In 2011, Oktoberfest Northwest introduces The Sport Haus. The Sport Haus, situated inside of the Oktoberfest Northwest festival and included in general admission, is a place where sports fans can keep up with the action on their favorite teams that weekend while still joining in the celebration of Oktoberfest. The Sport Haus features a giant 8' screen, two 50" plasma TVs, a bar serving the same tasty German brews found elsewhere in the festival, and a selection of bar games such as Beer Pong and Corn Hole Toss. Don't miss your favorite college and NFL action!

Oktoberfest Northwest debuted in 2005 to rave reviews from attendees and participants alike, and event producers have increased the excitement and entertainment even more in the past five years. Other event highlights include a large Biergarten entertainment hall with national and international German bands and entertainers, authentic German cuisine, the German Corner gift section, the Miss Oktoberfest Northwest Swing Girl and the Sixth Annual Hammerschlagen Tournament of Champions. 2011 marks the fourth year of the Oktoberfest Wiener Dog Races, taking place on Sunday, October 9, starting at noon.

Oktoberfest Northwest is a collaborative effort between Festivals Inc. (producers of the Bite of Seattle & Taste of Tacoma) and the Western Washington Fair Association. Discount admission coupons are available at participating South King County and Pierce County Safeway stores. For information on corporate and group packages, please call (425) 295-3262. For general festival information and to purchase tickets online, go to www.oktoberfestnw.com.

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