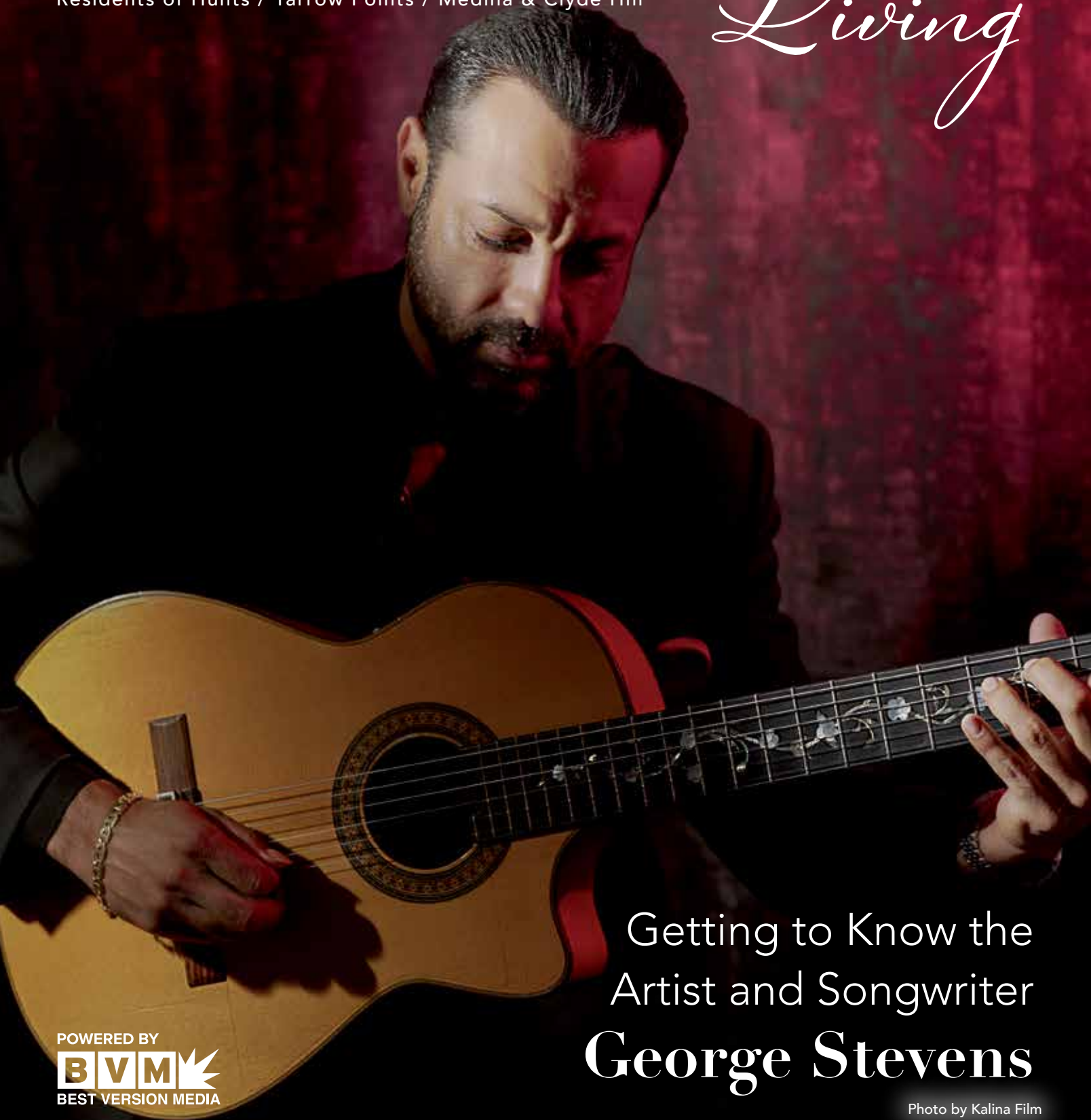


September 2024

GOLD COAST

Residents of Hunts / Yarrow Points / Medina & Clyde Hill

Living



Getting to Know the
Artist and Songwriter
George Stevens

POWERED BY



Photo by Kalina Film

EXPERT Contributors



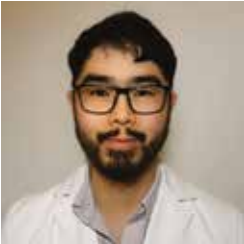
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GOLD COAST *Living*

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Content Submission Deadlines

Content Due:	Edition Date:
December 10	January
January 10	February
February 10	March
March 10	April
April 10	May
May 10	June
June 10	July
July 10	August
August 10	September
September 10	October
October 10	November
November 10	December

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Dear Gold Coast Residents,

We just celebrated Labor Day, marking the traditional end of Summer. This year we didn't experience many overly hot days, so it really seems like summer went by too fast.

With September here, the days will grow shorter, leaves start to dry and fall, and the kids are back in school. Another cycle of the school year has begun. With that, it's time to transition to school sports, fall festivals and some of the best produce we'll have all year at the farmers markets!

In this issue, we have the pleasure to showcase George Stevens on the cover, one of the Eastside's most talented musicians. You'll love getting to learn more about him and his upcoming show at the Triple Door in Seattle on October 11th & 12th with the RUMBA KINGS. They put on an absolutely beautiful show, and I highly recommend attending one of their album release parties if you can make it!

Dawn Hunter *Publisher*

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George Stevens and the Rumba Kings:

Bringing Passionate Music to the Eastside

BY GEORGE STEVENS
BY KALINA FILM

The early years
I grew up in a musical family based out of Southern California and was surrounded by incredible musicians. Almost everyone in my family was musically inclined, but I drew inspiration from my grandfather, Vine Stevens, who was a mandolin artist and my father, John Stevens, an accordion artist. At age 12, an internal fire was lit with the desire to be a musician, fueled by my grandfather's passing and the intent to carry on his legacy. My brother, Paul Stevens, and I along with my two cousins, Donny & Bobby Stevens, started a band called Vines - boys playing traditional Serbian, Greek and Mediterranean style music. We did our best to emulate our grandfathers' style and unique sound, along the way, I came across the Rumba flamenco sound and style and blended it with Greek, Serbian and Spanish to create my own sound and style.

Describe your passion for music

I started playing professionally at age 14 at a Greek restaurant in Newport Beach (Zorba's). Along with my brother's

accompaniment on accordion and I on Bouzouki and Guitar, we were working three nights a week and getting paid \$75 each a night. It was a pretty good gig for 14-year-old in the early 90s, but the money was not the driving force behind at all. It was making people dance, it was making people smile, it was about helping people to enjoy themselves. The human impact is what gave me joy and deeply motivated me to be a professional musician. I was deeply motivated to find my own unique style and sound and by using these performances and private parties as a platform to develop just that. In the interim of searching for my own unique style and sound, I was deeply moved by the music that my brother and I were putting together, and it was very difficult for me to stay still and just play. I would dance with my guitar while I was playing and truly get lost in the music, this is where I became a performer and not just a musician.

Behind the scenes

I think everybody needs an escape from time to time in their lives. I love all types of outdoor activities such as fishing, golfing and hiking. I get a sense of tranquility when doing these activities, especially when I'm on or next to the water, that is truly my happy place. But most of all I enjoy spending time with family. I've been married for 28 years to a beautiful and



wonderful woman, we have two amazing daughters together, and two extremely vibrant dogs (also, my children) the dogs are also girls, so I found myself surrounded by females, which made me become a very patient, understanding and compromising person.

Home life

I had an arranged marriage at the tender age of 17 years old and it has been amazing. Of course, we've had our share of ups and downs, but overall, it's been fantastic! We both learned early on in our relationship that to have a solid foundation in anything there must be respect. Along with respect there must be compromise and communication. But without respect you cannot compromise or communicate respectfully. In 28 years of marriage, we have never said a foul word to each other. I find this to be a true blessing.

Influencers

At a young age, I had great admiration for my father, John Stevens and my grandfather Vine Stevens. Both of them were accomplished musicians and great family men with strong family values. I looked up to these men with great admiration and a sense of pride to be related to them. I was taught by them to have a strong work ethic. My father once told me "I am very lucky in business but the harder I work the luckier I get." My father and I used to love watching old movies of the rat pack, especially Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra. They had a unique sense of style and class that you just don't see anymore. I was also very fond of their music. I guess you could say that I try to

emulate them by incorporating their sense of stylish class in my musical performances. I was also influenced by the enchanting sounds of the Gipsy Kings, Ottmar Liebert and Stunz and Farah.

Worldwide dream

When I was young, I imagined myself becoming a real estate developer or an entrepreneur in the classic car business. My father was a real estate developer, and I wanted to be exactly like him but later learned that I can only learn from him, I could never be him. I've always had a passion for classic cars and started a classic car business when I was a teenager, buying, restoring and selling American muscle cars. I enjoyed doing this very much for I had a deep appreciation for muscle car design.

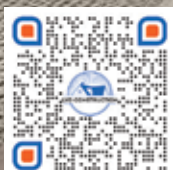
Being a recording artist/songwriter/musician/entertainer is far more rewarding to me than any other profession. But I do believe that too much of anything is not good. I try to find a balance between being a full-time musician and songwriter by continuing my classic car business, because I truly believe that even if you're in paradise, you will eventually get sick of it. My long-term dream is to be a full-time touring musician and to perform all around the world, and hopefully buy a few classic cars along the way.

Other hobbies

I am a golf fanatic! I've been playing golf since age 12. Being a 4 handicap, I consider myself pretty good at it, but as many golfers know, we're always searching for the perfect swing which

Continued on next page

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COVER STORY

doesn't exist, but we look for it anyway. Growing up in Southern California, we played a lot of golf in the Orange County area, specifically, a golf course in Anaheim called Dad Miller Golf Course. We used to meet up there with Tiger Woods in our youth. Tiger Woods also has strong ties to this golf course, so he bought the driving range and converted it to his youth foundation. I entered a few long drive competitions and did fairly well with my longest drive being 418 yards but never really pursued a career in this field because of the strain it puts on the body. I continue to play golf as a hobby at 45 years old and I can still hit it pretty far and straight, but the name of the game is chipping and putting. As the saying goes "drive for show and put for dough", but hitting it far is much more fun!

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2309 103rd Ave NE	1.75	4	1,310	1,999,950	1,924,950	Clyde Hill	1952
511 98th Ave NE	4	4	4,250	4,588,000	4,350,000	Downtown	2004
9107 NE 47th St	3.75	5	4,332	5,600,000	5,600,000	Yarrow Point	1971
7570 NE 28TH Place	2.75	4	3,310	3,500,000	3,450,000	Evergreen Point	1972
9516 NE 31st St	4.25	5	7,030	6,995,000	6,450,000	Clyde Hill	2007
1441 86th Ave NE	2.75	5	3,510	3,495,000	3,900,000	Clyde Hill	1967
9073 NE 41st St	1.75	4	2,720	3,250,000	3,410,000	Yarrow Point	1965
2646 90th Ave NE	2.75	5	3,284	3,656,250	3,656,250	Clyde Hill	1963
2045 78th Ave NE	1.75	3	1,520	2,500,000	2,705,000	Medina	1955
3215 78th Place NE	3	4	3,990	4,700,000	4,750,000	Evergreen Point	1960
10015 NE 4th St	1.75	2	1,538	1,450,000	1,325,000	West Bellevue	1999
8920 NE 10th St	3.25	4	4,480	4,850,000	4,870,000	West Bellevue	1998
200 99TH Ave NE	1.75	1	1,319	896,500	896,500	Downtown	1980
10007 NE 28th Place	4.25	4	4,355	4,380,000	4,245,000	West Bellevue	2007
10620 NE 28th Place	1.75	2	1,426	1,998,000	2,023,000	West Bellevue	1954
9031 NE 19th St	4.25	5	5,960	6,995,000	6,250,000	Clyde Hill	2006
19 94th Ave NE	2.75	4	2,660	3,160,000	3,000,000	Downtown	1968
200 99th Ave NE	1.75	2	1,274	899,000	896,500	Bellevue	1988
511 100th Ave NE	1	1	643	619,900	605,000	Downtown	1959

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Stacy B.



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Kim M.





THE RUMBA KINGS: A Decade of Dedication

BY JOHNNY BACOLAS AND GEORGE STEVENS

After nine years of passion, perseverance, and musical evolution, The Rumba Kings are set to release their first full-length album in 6 years, “Whispers of Passion,” on October 1st, 2024 (on all streaming services). This much-anticipated album, which has been in the works for several years with recording starting in March of this year, marks a significant milestone in the band’s journey.

The Rumba Kings, founded by Johnny Bacolas and George Stevens, began their musical adventure nearly a decade ago. From the start, their vision was clear: to create music that resonated deeply with their audience, blending beautiful Latin & Mediterranean-inspired melodies centered around the Spanish guitar. Over the years, they have built a dedicated following, performing in various theaters and refining their sound.

“Whispers of Passion” is more than just an album title; it’s a reflection of the band’s journey over the past nine years. Each track tells a story, capturing moments of joy, beauty, passion, and love. For Johnny and George, this album is a labor of love, a testament to their unwavering dedication to their craft. The recording process, which began in March of this year, has been intense and exhilarating. The band poured their hearts and souls into every note, striving to create a collection of songs that are both personal and universally relatable.

To celebrate this monumental release, The Rumba Kings are hosting four special album release parties at the Triple Door on October 11th and 12th at 6pm and 9pm each evening. These events are not just concerts but immersive experiences, offering

fans a chance to hear many of the new songs live for the first time. The Triple Door, known for its intimate and acoustically rich setting, is the perfect venue for such an occasion. Fans can expect an evening of powerful performances, an entertaining show, and a deep dive into the creative process behind “Whispers of Passion.”

The album release parties are more than just a showcase of new music; they are a celebration of the band’s journey and the community that has supported them along the way. For Johnny and George, this is a chance to connect with their fans on a deeper level, sharing the stories and inspirations behind each song. The energy in the room is expected to be electric, as longtime fans and new listeners alike come together to experience the culmination of nine years of hard work and dedication.

“Whispers of Passion” will be available on all major streaming services starting October 1st, giving fans a chance to familiarize themselves with the new material before the live performances. The album is a blend of familiar sounds and new explorations, showcasing the band’s growth and their ability to push musical boundaries.

As the lights dim and the first notes ring out at the Triple Door, it will be clear that The Rumba Kings have crafted something truly special. This album release is the beginning of an exciting new era for the band. With their unwavering passion and commitment to their art, Johnny Bacolas and George Stevens are set to take their place as enduring fixtures in the world of music.

Heritage Wealth Advisors

BY ERIN SCANNELL



Making money decisions is the #1 documented cause of stress in America. If you're successful, it means you're likely busy. Making financial decisions while feeling rushed or having incomplete information can lead people to either put off decisions entirely, or experience concern when making them, wondering if they're doing the right thing.

We're not the typical wealth manager that tells you to cut out lattes so you can save \$20,000 over 40 years. We find it far more productive to help our clients reduce the #1 expense they'll have in their lifetime—taxes—so they can invest more in the life experiences and relationships most important to them. Our goal is to give busy and successful people a proven process to make effective money decisions and get more of their most fleeting commodity: time. The financial planning we do involves creating space for the things that really matter—anything from a two-year sabbatical to travel the world with their kids, to the “you fly, we buy” family reunion trips, to the two-week bucket list adventure they'd been putting off.

If you've done well financially, you have a lot of choices in where to get financial advice. We're consistently ranked one of the Top Wealth Management Teams in the country due to several core differentiators, which we believe drive a notably larger impact for our clients.

First, when working with clients in a financial planning relationship, our advisors are Fiduciaries, which means they're

required by law to do what's in your best interest. Surprisingly, many firms employ advisors that are not Fiduciaries, which can lead to advice that serves someone else's interests above yours. We believe trust is essential in an advisory relationship, which is why we go out on the open market and help you find the investments and solutions that are best suited to help reach your goals. This is how you know your advisors are working for you and you alone.

Second, we employ a specialist approach where we surround our advisors with a team of experts. It's modeled after the Mayo Clinic, where the personal doctor isn't on an island alone, but rather supported by cancer specialists, neurosurgeons, and nutritionists that help them deliver some of the best healthcare outcomes in the world. Our version includes specialists in tax reduction, estate, retirement, experts in capital markets, and more—all with the goal of getting our clients access to better advice and better financial outcomes.

The third element, and what some clients tell us is most important: We go beyond the numbers. While the numbers are critical to get right, our clients say the most meaningful work we do occurs when we focus on the things that help them get even more out of life. We do this by getting to know our clients really well, doing values-based planning within their family, holding money bootcamps for kids and young adults, providing wellness planning and philanthropic planning, and more—all aimed at helping them lead an even more fulfilling life.



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Heritage Wealth Advisors is led by Erin Scannell, who was recently ranked #1 on the 2024 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list and has repeatedly been recognized by major industry publications that include Barron's, the Wall Street Journal, and The Financial Times. Heritage Wealth Advisors is also ranked as one of Barron's Top 100 Private Wealth Teams for 2023.

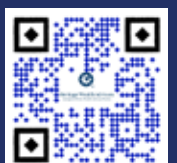
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Ask the Wine Expert

BY DAVID LECLAIRE



"A friend recently shared a bottle of bubbly "pét-nat" and it was delicious. How is this wine different from Champagne or traditional sparkling wines?"

—Joshua - Clyde Hill

Crazy For Pét-Nat

Pét-nat is the easiest method to get bubbles into a wine, as you simply leave a little residual (unfermented) sugar in the wine and bottle it. This was the first way that sparkling wine was produced - by accident hundreds of years ago, earning it the name Méthode Ancestrale. In contrast, Champagne, formerly called Méthode Champenoise (a term since banned by the European Union), is now primarily known as Méthode Traditionnelle or the "traditional method." In this method you ferment the wine first to dry, then filter and stabilize the wine so it doesn't get cloudy when it gets cold, then add a touch of sugar and yeast once you bottle it to create the bubbles as it ferments in the bottle. Then the sediment from this is removed leaving you with a super clean, clear wine.

Natural wines are the rage with wine geeks these days, which basically means the wines are much more rustic, less finesse, and you can expect some funky, yeasty, and often cloudy wines as a result. Don't filter your wine, and then make sure it has a little unfermented sugar left once you bottle it, and boom, you have a very unpredictable, wild version of a spritzzy wine with a little but a lot less bubbles than traditional Champagne or sparkling wines.

One tip is to chill the bottle upright if you'd like to control the sediment in a hazy unfiltered natural wine. The cold keeps sediment at the bottom, allowing you to pour four relatively clear glasses of wine. The remainder in the bottle contains most of

the yeast, which can be enjoyed too if you like a few ounces of a cloudy yeasty unrefined wine. Not my thing for sure. It's easy for wineries to make this, they don't need any special equipment compared to when making traditional method sparklers, but the results are wide ranging and pretty unpredictable.

David LeClaire is a certified sommelier from the Court of Master Sommeliers and currently serves as Wine Ambassador for Esquin Wine & Spirits with a Wine of The Week feature he writes and sends to over 30,000 enthusiasts. David is the founder of Seattle Uncorked and produces a wide array of wine, spirits, and beer events each year. During the Covid era David was frequently featured as a guest for many virtual meetings and conferences in formats such as "Ask The Wine Expert."

David is an instructor for North Seattle College, and serves as judge for various wine competitions including The Wine Panel, Sip Magazine's Best of the NW, and the Seattle Wine Awards. Mr. LeClaire is also a free-lance writer for the Washington Tasting Room Magazine.

He was also the founder of Wine World & Spirits, which at its' inception was the largest independent wine store in the Northwest, and was awarded the "2013 Independent Retailer of the Year" award by the Washington Wine Commission. David LeClaire previously served as wine director at Seattle's prestigious Alexis Hotel (& Painted Table Restaurant) for ten years.

If you have a wine question, please submit to David@SeattleUncorked.com



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Miss Michelle

IN LOVING MEMORY

BY MATTHEW KYLE



I was so fortunate to be given the chance to have Michelle in my life. She was given to me when she was 10 years old by a great friend of mine. From the moment he handed her over to me, it was like we'd known one another forever.

In the short three years that we had one another, I can easily say that she was the best dog I've ever had. There is no sweeter, kinder soul that I've ever seen in a dog. Once, I had to have a surgery and was laid up for 2 weeks, in misery because I couldn't breathe well. The only thing that made me feel better was Miss Michelle first coming up and putting her head on my thigh, and then inching her way up onto my lap, just to be there with me... it was calming, and she took great care of me.

I've never seen a dog move like her in the field and everyone that was fortunate to see her run would comment and they've never seen a dog move like her. She ran like a gazelle and never got tired. She did things in the field that are unbelievable, and words can't do them justice, so I'll selfishly leave those to my memory alone.

Michelle has been gone a couple years now, we lost her early to a cancer. In the time together, she brought much joy and happiness to everyone that came across her. I've submitted a few pictures, however, the picture with the bow on her head is my favorite. Dawn Hunter is a fabulous artist and painted a beautiful portrait of her for me... she captured her eyes perfectly.

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<https://courthousedogs.org/>

Cost: \$435

SEPTEMBER 6-8TH

SOBER IN THE CITY

If alcohol is more than it should be in your life, here's how to put it in check, with positivity and still maintaining fun in life.

<https://www.thesobercurator.com>

Cost: \$595

SEPTEMBER 7TH

NINAAD FALL FESTIVAL

Over 20 artists celebrate Carnatic music, along with games and crafts. If you don't know what Carnatic music is, that becomes a reason to attend!

<https://www.ninaadseattle.org>

Cost: Free

SEPTEMBER 13TH

ELIOT LIVE

If you're not going to see Hall & Oats, ZZ Top, Joe Walsh and others live in concert during 2025, listening to their songs performed by multi-instrumentalist artist Eliot Lewis is the next best thing.

<https://courthousedogs.org/>

Cost: Free, with paid dinner

SEPTEMBER 16-17TH

ESGA FALL 2024 ENGINEERING SYMPOSIUM

For electrical generation, this conference concentrates on getting the electrons from point A to point B

Cost: Free

<https://conference.egsa.org/>

SEPTEMBER 21ST

THE VOICE OF SEATTLE

You've seen The Voice on TV, and pondered, "I can do that!" Well, here's your chance to prove it. The best voices around Seattle audition for the show.

Cost: Free

<https://www.eventbrite.com/>

SEPTEMBER 22ND

MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL

A family-fun event experiencing the Chinese culture through performances, activities, crafts, and foods.

Cost: Free

<https://www.mercerisland.gov/>

SEPTEMBER 22ND

SWAN LAKE BY GRAND KYIV BALLET

This is the ballet masterpiece accessible to children. Engaging choreography and a captivating Tchaikovsky score makes this a classic through the centuries.

Cost: \$65

<https://showimpulse.com>

SEPTEMBER 23RD

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

We already know the big one is coming, it's just a matter of timing. Discover how to be prepared when disaster strikes, emergency services are overwhelmed, and you're on your own.

Cost: Free

<https://allevents.in>

SEPTEMBER 26TH

WASHINGTON TECH EXPO

See the latest tech, talent, and innovation within the Northwest. Coming here is like looking two years into the future.

Cost: \$25

<https://allevents.in>

ALL SUMMER

BELLEVUE PICK BLUE BERRIES

Food dishes taste a bit better when you contributed to the production. It's a bit more fun to go with a friend, make it competitive, and see who picks more.

Cost: Varies

<http://bellevue.com/attraction.php?id=1003>

ALL SUMMER

BELLEVUE BEATS & BITES

A downtown music series, enjoy the vibe of the city with local bands, food trucks, and open space vendors.

Cost: Free

<https://www.bellevuedowntown.com>

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Best After School Snacks

BY NATHANIEL HOLLYWOOD

Healthy After-School Snacks for Kids

After a long day at school, kids need a nutritious snack to refuel. Here are some ideas:

Quick and Easy Options:

- Fruits and vegetables: Apple slices with peanut butter, carrot sticks with hummus, or a colorful fruit salad.
- Yogurt: Plain or Greek yogurt with berries or granola.
- Cheese and crackers: Pair whole-grain crackers with cheese slices or string cheese.
- Whole-grain toast: With avocado, jam, or nut butter.
- Hard-boiled eggs: A protein-packed snack.

More Filling Options:

- Mini sandwiches: With turkey, ham, or cheese.
- Leftovers: A small portion of last night's dinner.
- Oatmeal: With fruit and nuts for a warm and comforting snack.
- Smoothies: Blend fruits, yogurt, and a splash of juice for a refreshing treat.

Tips for Healthy Snacking:

- Involve your kids: Let them help choose and prepare snacks.
- Make it fun: Use fun-shaped cutters for fruits and vegetables.
- Limit processed foods: Avoid microwaved food. Focus on whole foods for maximum nutrition.
- Pair protein and carbs: This combination helps keep kids feeling full.



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