

BEHIND THE SCENES

Patti Payne's take on business beyond the headlines



Where syrah meets sand traps

Grapes on the Green fundraiser collects \$265K for scholarships and research

The second annual Grapes on the Green, one of the fundraisers in conjunction with the weeklong Boeing Classic golf tournament, was deemed a success by its organizers. Hundreds of people gathered at The Golf Club at Newcastle on Aug. 27 to support the wine-centric event, tasting the best of wines from DeLille Cellars; O Wines, whose Opportunity for Success Scholarship Fund was one of the beneficiaries of the evening; Lachini Vineyards; Ghost Block; Paradigm; Pleasant Hill Cellars; Small Vineyards; Portalis; David Frost Wines; and Couples and Co, and bringing some of their own special choices.

You may have heard of Couples and Co, a celebrity label from Purecos wines, Napa vintner **Mitch Cosentino** and Masters Golf champ **Fred Couples**. With its dark red-and-black label and the silhouette of Couples leaning on a club, the wine bears the signatures of both golfer and vintner, and is winning awards.

Another wine being enjoyed that night was Spring Valley Vineyard's **Uriah**, a merlot blend named after **Uriah Corkrum**, born in 1866, one of a group of family members who for over five generations have farmed the same Walla Walla land where the Spring Valley Vineyard now exists. Many of those family members are being remembered with wines named after them, and labels picturing them.

Corkrum may be a familiar name to many of our readers. **Darlene Corkrum** is one of the top executives at Virginia Mason, and very active in the community. Her husband, **Lee**, an attorney, is of the family that has the Spring Valley Vineyard. "I am so lucky I married into all this," she says, with a big smile.

Virginia Mason's Benaroya Research Institute was a major beneficiary of the evening, the event raising about \$265,000, a dramatic increase from the year before. Virginia Mason chairman and CEO **Dr. Gary Kaplan** expressed his gratitude to the audience and later said he was thrilled with the outcome. "The energy in the room was great, and we were able



CHRISTOPHER NELSON PHOTO

SPIRITED PHILANTHROPY: Michael VanDerhoef (left), president of the Virginia Mason Foundation, poses with Scott Oki. Oki and his wife, Laurie, co-hosted the annual Grapes on the Green event, which raised money for the Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason and the Opportunity for Success Scholarship Fund.

to talk about one of the best kept secrets — the Benaroya Research Institute," and its international leadership and groundbreaking work in autoimmune disease research. Autoimmune diseases include Type 1 diabetes, arthritis, lupus, multiple sclerosis, scleroderma and much more. "I'm very grateful that people recognize the importance of this work," he says.

Philanthropist and Microsoft pioneer **Scott Oki** was front and center, hosting the Newcastle event — it's one of his many golf courses. In fact, one of the 13 live auction items came from Oki, one he has never before offered to the plethora of auctions held in our area over the years — a round of golf each week for a year at any of the many Oki golf courses, plus the use of a golf cart.

Among the guests were **Josie Bissett, Jeff Reed, Ted and Dani Ackerley, Dr. Jerry Nepom, Nick Price, Larry and Gayle Dickenson, Bob and Joan Cremen, Ray Heacox and Cynthia**

Huffman, Carol and Buster Brown, John and Kristi Pangrazio, and Ian and Laura MacNeil. Ian wore an impossible-to-miss, woven linen jacket — made up of 3-inch-square color blocks, bright green, blue, orange, red. His octogenarian father wore it for decades, and passed it down to Ian, purchasing this piece of wild sartorial elegance at the Claymore Shop, which Ian thinks is in Palm Beach.

For a second-year event, this one was outstanding, as was the committee pulling it all together: **Kathy Johanson, Stacy Lill, Julie Turnell, Carolyn Corvi and John Bates, Mary DeLancy, Larry Dickenson, Sandy Gregory, Molly O'Grady, Dana Dickenson-Lofton, Trish Markey and Phil and Geda Condit.**

Coffee talk

— The 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards is all wrapped up, a three-hour, star-studded extravaganza at LA's Nokia Theater. Millions watched. And sitting right in the middle of the action was **Andrew Erisman**, managing director of Freestone Capital Management, in Seattle, and his wife, **Stacy Erisman**. The Yarrow Point couple elbowed each other when **Jeff Probst**, host of "Survivor," and **Joel McHale**, host of "Soup," were on stage together as presenters. Both have Seattle television connections. Probst had a garden show at KIRO, and McHale was part of a show at KING. **Seth Aaron Henderson**, the Vancouver, Wash., designer who won Project Runway, was there, as was **Conan O'Brien** — another Seattle connection. His wife, **Elizabeth Ann "Liza" Powell**, is from our area. And they were married in Seattle. The Erismans have attended other big-ticket shows, like the Grammys and the 2003 Emmys. Andrew has clients up and down the West Coast, some in the entertainment industry,

so they are frequently invited to these events.

— They lined up out the doors recently at the Tutta Bella in Issaquah, and three locations in Seattle, as the much-awarded Neapolitan pizzeria gave away about 8,500 whole pizza pies to in-house diners over a week's time. Most popular was the classic Margherita pizza, created in the late 1800s in Italy. Founder **Joe Fugere** chose this giveaway to say thank you to the community for its enthusiastic patronage of this 6-year-old venture, and also celebrating the awards it has won this year: National Restaurant Association's "Hot Concepts," the state restaurant association's award for best full-service operator, and the honor from industry magazine *Pizza Today* naming Tutta Bella the pizzeria of the year. They beat out more than 33,000 pizza places from around the country. Just this week they are out with a seasonal pizza, which has received rave reviews and flies out the door — the Calabrese, a thin-crust, savory white pizza with black figs, prosciutto and goat cheese, whose starring run lasts only as long as fig season.

— Tacoma-based **Brown and Haley**, the home of Almond Roca Buttercrunch, is sprucing up in preparation for a visit from the Food Network, which will be filming some outstanding Northwest chocolate makers, including **Fran's Chocolates** and **Theo Chocolate**. Stay tuned for more on this sweet story.

— Welcome to September. It is, among other things, National Self Awareness Month, Mold Awareness Month, (hopefully the two have no connection), Pleasure Your Mate Month, Prime Beef Month (maybe those two have a connection), Shameless Promotion Month, Mushroom Month, Honey Month, Fall Hat Month, Piano Month, Be Kind to Editors and Writers Month, and the list goes on. And on. And on. Included on the list as well are serious causes, among them pediatric cancer, national preparedness, healthy aging, baby safety and more. And I just learned from the nonprofit food distribution agency, Food Lifeline, that September is National Hunger Action Month, declared so by Feeding America, the umbrella organization for Food Lifeline and more than 200 food banks across America. Food Lifeline (www.foodlifeline.org) is raising awareness about hunger through a program called 30 Ways in 30 Days. The chapters that get the most online pledges receive extra food this month. I just signed on. They don't ask you what you're going to do, but I commit to tweet about it, to give produce from my garden and to hold a neighborhood food drive as well. **Matt and Suzy Hoover**, the local couple who were contestants on the second season of "The Biggest Loser" (Matt won) have also signed the pledge. Let's do it.

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