DISCOVERING MUSIC CITY

FLAVORS OF PARADISE: LOCAVORE CUISINE BLOSSOMS ON THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS (PAGE 26) STREETWISE: SAFE DRIVING LESSONS LEARNED ON THE RACETRACK (PAGE 32)
from its tiny storefront restaurant in Union Gap, Los Hernandez serves up the flavors of Yakima Valley, one succulent tamale at a time. Freshly ground masa blanketing savory chicken or piquant pork is individually hand-rolled between sheets of cornhusk and steamed to perfection. During asparagus season (approximately April through June), employees help assemble anywhere from 80 to 300 dozen of the pouches a day, rolling the freshly harvested purple and green shoots in the masa with pepper jack cheese and serving them fresh on-site or shipping them to tamale aficionados across the United States. Settle in for an ice-cold Coke from the fridge and listen as owner Felipe Hernandez's daughter, Rachel Wilburn, takes yet another order by phone or regales customers with the story of how her father still makes the tamales by hand every morning—and be glad that you live in one of the most bountiful places on Earth. (509) 457-6003. —JULIE H. CASE

Felipe Hernandez (above) has earned a following for his authentic handmade tamales, particularly the seasonal version pairing asparagus and pepper jack cheese.
itinerary

Olympic BirdFest
APRIL 4–6 Sequim | Lectures, photography workshops, birding cruises and wildlife-viewing tours shed light on the area’s avian inhabitants. (360) 681-4076, olympicbirdfest.org.

Grand Floral Street Parade
APRIL 5 Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, Orting | The colorful parade—a highlight of Daffodil Festival—brings floats, bands and mounted units to four South Sound communities. (253) 840-4194, daffodilfestival.net.

Paddlers Cup and Expo
APRIL 5–6 Skamzie Brothers Park, Gig Harbor | Paddlers compete in various race divisions—including kayak, canoe, outrigger canoe and SUP—while an on-shore expo showcases watercraft sports. (605) 951-7331, gigharborpaddlerscup.com.

Get Lit! Festival
APRIL 7–13 Spokane | This literary festival brings writers to various Spokane venues for readings, panel discussions and poetry slams. (509) 359-6977, ewu.edu/getlit.

The Spring Fair
APRIL 10–13 Washington State Fair Events Center, Puyallup | Usher in spring at this celebration featuring baby animal exhibits, racing pigs, a garden show and a demolition derby. (253) 841-5045, thefair.com.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream
APRIL 11–19 McCaw Hall, Seattle Balanchine’s choreography meets Shakespeare’s comedy in this enchanting production. (206) 441-2424, pnwb.org.

Woodland Tulip Festival
APRIL 12–13, 19–20 Holland America Bulb Farms, Woodland | The fun includes touring the display gardens or gathering your own flowers in the U-pick field. (360) 225-4512, habf.net.

A Room with a View
APRIL 15–MAY 11 The 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle | In this new musical, based on the E.M. Forster novel, a proper young woman’s life is turned upside down by an unexpected romance while vacationing in Italy. (206) 625-1900, 5thavenue.org.

Razor Clam Festival
APRIL 19–20 Long Beach Peninsula Get a razor-clam-digging lesson from local pros, enjoy samples at the chowder taste-off, and vote in the clam-gun decorating contest. (360) 642-2400, razorclamfest.com.

Lilac Days
APRIL 19–MAY 11 Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens, Woodland | Famed lilac hybridizer Hulda Klager’s Victorian-era farmhouse opens for tours during the festival, which also allows visitors to stroll the colorful display gardens and purchase lilac plants. lilacgardens.com.

Washington State Apple Blossom Festival
APRIL 24–MAY 4 Wenatchee | Wenatchee honors the state’s signature crop with this annual celebration featuring a food fair at Memorial Park, a carnival at Riverfront Park, and the Grand Parade on May 3. (509) 662-3616, appleblossom.org.

Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival
APRIL 25–27 Seattle Center | Explore the many facets of Japanese culture while enjoying delicious food, the rhythms of Taiko drums, tea ceremonies and more. (206) 684-7200, seattlecenter.com/festival.

Spring Barrel Tasting
APRIL 25–27 Yakima Valley | Forty participating Yakima Valley wineries offer samples from the barrel of upcoming vintages, as well as insights about winemaking. (509) 965-5201, wineyakimavalley.org.