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A Perfect 10!

WE'RE 10! THIS SUMMER, IN the midst of summer vacations, sizzling heat, barbecues, pool parties, and other publications coming and going, *Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living* turned 10 years old!

Things have changed greatly since the magazine first hit coffee tables across the region. We want to take a look back at where we have been, and celebrate where we are going. So, in lieu of a featured "What I Know" individual, in this issue we are bringing you an extended "What I Know," starting on page 30, featuring some of the best words of wisdom, random thoughts and advice that we've highlighted over the past ten years. We also are covering our covers, showcasing every cover since the publication began. Look how far we've come!

I've been the editor of *Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living* for over five years. Sitting on a table behind my desk is every issue on which I have worked, starting with the September 2004 issue. That cover featured an aerial shot of Brad Waterbury, sitting in his downtown condo – something just entering the scene at the time – staring up with a smile. That was 34 issues ago! Our art director, David Crary has served even more time, with 52 issues created under his artful eye.

During my time at the magazine, I have seen many changes – the page count, which was at 108 when I started, reached as high as 212 for some issues. We used to print six issues per year, but now it is eight. While it used to only take two staples to hold together our pages, the magazine has since become what is known as "perfect bound," with a spine for the binding. Our basic cover got a UV upgrade and now comes to you with a shiny coating that we hope catches your eye each time the magazine is delivered to your mailbox, or you pass it on the newsstands.

Looking back over the years, I have some favorite stories that stand out:

In the Sept/Oct 2005 issue, we told the story of Don Bennett, from Coeur d'Alene. Don was the first amputee to reach the summit of Mt. Rainier. He trained by hopping on his crutches five miles a day for a year straight. When weather stopped him 400 feet from the top, he only grew more determined; he went back to training, and successfully completed the climb two years later.

Editor's Letter



Photo by YRCC.com

Everybody is a fan of the Gonzaga Men's Basketball team, but it was through a feature story in the April 2005 issue that we got an inside glimpse into the dedication, talent and success of the Women's Basketball team, under the direction of Coach Kelly Graves.

Fairchild Air Force Base is a staple in our community, but how often do we stop and think about all that goes on there, and the impact the base, and its airmen have on our local community, and the safety of our country? Touring the base and meeting some of the airmen for a story that ran in the January 2007 issue provided a glimpse into the world behind the gates.

In the March 2008 issue, we brought you the story of Spokane resident Georgette Thornton a little lady with a huge sense of adventure and patriotism. Rather than bask in retirement, she headed to Iraq for over a year as a civilian contractor, and learned something about herself and her love of Spokane in the process.

Whether it is a story about a local individual who is making a difference in our community, a featured house into the windows of which you have long been hoping to look, or a history story that teaches you about the beginnings of our great community, my goal for the magazine is to showcase all that is good and right in Spokane. We are so blessed to live here, and being able to write about all things Spokane and Coeur d'Alene is a treat in many ways.

May you enjoy all that is in this, and every issue of *Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living*. We thank you for ten years of support and look forward to many more.

Blythe