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EDITOR'S LETTER



The Recipe

EVERY LITTLE KID DABBLES with a variety of possible future careers. After watching the movie *Space Camp*, in second grade, I wanted to be an astronaut. I would lie on the living room floor with my legs draped up and over the top of the couch, pretending I was in the space shuttle waiting for it to take off. After weeks of doing this, my interest wore out and I moved on to my next career: cooking.

I remember putting on an apron, and telling my mom I was going to create something. One "creation" in particular stands out. I layered Cheerios, bananas, chocolate syrup and a mixture of flour, sugar and cinnamon. I then topped it with one final banana chunk and a flood of chocolate sauce, and I then refrigerated it for the afternoon. I remember being so proud as I brought it out after dinner to serve to my parents. My mom smiled encouragingly and my dad was good enough to dig in and taste a bite. I was sure I had created a masterpiece.

What I didn't understand – although, as my dad tried to choke down that bite, I am sure it was crystal clear to him – is that to cook up something wonderful, you need quality ingredients paired with an experienced chef who knows what to put together. If you have those two things, just think of what can be cooked up.

We are lucky with the life we lead in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene. It doesn't take a lot of effort to whip up a delicious life here. Would you like to know the recipe for one of the best places to live? Here it is:

"The Spokane and Coeur d'Alene"

Mix the following ingredients:

- 1 excellent location
- 12 dollops of great weather
- 3 bushels of clean air
- 22 fabulous lakes

Knead together until thoroughly mixed; then roll out to cover a 100-mile radius. Set to the side. In separate bowl, mix the following:

- 1 Spokane Symphony
- 7 local colleges or universities
- 5 award-winning hospitals
- 2 luxury destination hotels
- 3 professional sports teams
- 5 nearby ski resorts
- 1 of each of the following world's largest: timed road race, 3-on-3-basketball tournament, floating boardwalk
- 1 fairly stable economy

Spread over the rolled mixture. Garnish with great shopping, incredible people, excellent restaurants, boutique wineries, quality schools, a generous helping of city parks and brilliant theatre. The result is an ultra-cool dish, so be sure to chill. Season according to your taste.

That is the recipe for a great place to live!

A great recipe will only get you so far; the recipe needs to be crafted by loving hands belonging to "chefs" who have a knowledge and passion for what they are doing. We are blessed in our community to have so many wonderful people who slip on chef hats and work to make this the best place possible to live.

One of those "chefs" is Heather Hanley. On page 86 we look at Hanley's work to renovate a 110-year old building and turn it into downtown condos. Hanley's desire to make this a great place to live adds to the delicious taste of life here.

Another "chef" working to perfect "The Spokane and Coeur d'Alene" recipe is Kevin Finch. Kevin recently took on the responsibility of coordinating the entire food and dining section of the magazine. In doing so, he is shining a light on the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene culinary community. Kevin's work (page 133) is just one of the quality ingredients in the recipe of success for our publication.

On page 66, find our annual Summer Fun suggestions, which will provide you with numerous ways to garnish and season your life in this region. With everyone in our community working together, contributing their talents and tweaking the recipe, we can create a truly delicious place to live.

Now dig in and enjoy!

Blythe

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