

Life AT THE WOODS

SEPTEMBER 2019

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE MCCORMICK WOODS COMMUNITY



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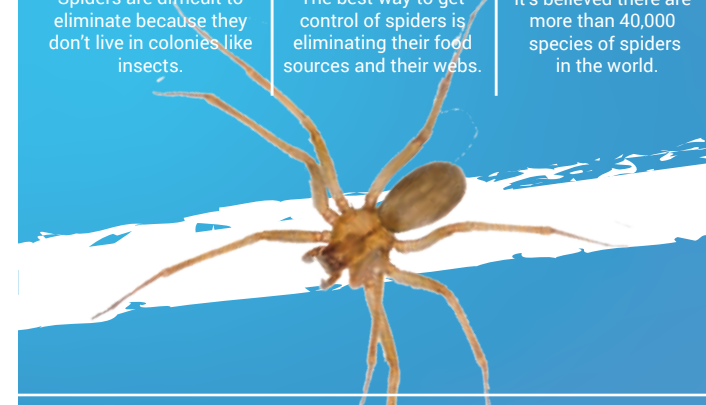
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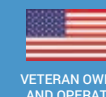
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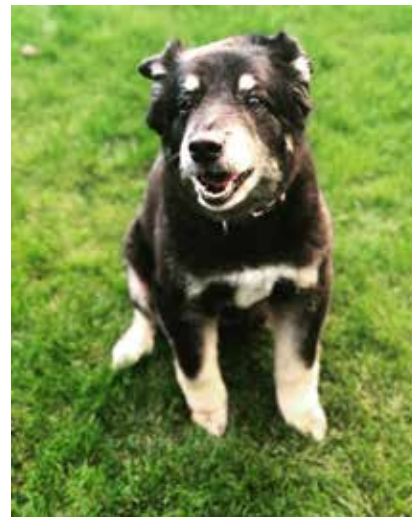
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precious pets

meet

Tipsy

By Ben and Liz Dean



Name: Topsy Dean
Age: 13 and a half
Breed: Collie/Shepherd Mix

Where are you from Topsy? Virginia Beach, VA

Do you have a nickname? T-Crappy (since I always poop on walks, even short ones). Tipper-doodle and Tips, just to name a few others.

Any tricks: Herding anything that moves. I retired from Agility and was very good at obstacle courses.

When you have those funny dreams where you kick and bark in your sleep, what are you dreaming of? Beating my brother to the food bowl!

What do your people do that you like the most? These days, I have my people trained to give me my medicine covered in cheese whiz, which I really like.

How are you so excited to eat the same food day after day? I don't like my food and always try to eat my brother's before he does.

If you had a job, what would it be? Sheep herder for sure

What is the naughtiest thing your pet has ever done? One time, I locked myself in the bathroom and ate through the door.

Squeaky or bouncy – what do you look for in a toy? Squeaky; I'm really good at opening up my toys and removing the squeaker!

What's your favorite day of the year? My birthday – I always get a big treat.

What's your favorite season? Summer

Favorite kind of music? Rap and hip-hop. I am named after J Kwon's 2004 hit "Tipsy."

What would constitute a perfect day for you? Lots of naps and snacks

Beach or mountains? Mountains

Car ride or long walk? I like spending days laying in the shade in the backyard.

Thanks for taking the time to chat with us, Topsy!



Do you have a pet and would like to share its story? LATW@n2pub.com to get them featured in an upcoming issue. All types of pets are welcome!

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home matters



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Each of Century's homes provide a foundation to live in a beautiful home while enjoying the tranquility and amenities of McCormick, with quick access to anywhere in the greater Kitsap and Seattle areas.

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Live in a Century home in Eldon Trails and be surrounded by the natural beauty of McCormick, a gem in the Pacific Northwest. What's extra special about our community is the small-town spirit that ties it all together.

As summer draws to a close and the kids and grandkids pack their backpacks and head back to school, if you or someone you know are looking for a new home to make a fresh start our charming community, check out Century Communities at McCormick.

You can drop by Century's model homes located in Eldon Trails on lots 119 and 120 (4805 Limerick Dr. SW) anytime Sunday and Monday 12-6 p.m., or Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Todd (360-536-3586) will be there would love to meet you.



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Very Berry mini cheesecakes

Recipe by **Erin Haver**, adapted from Annabel Karmel's Cook It Together.

Photos by **Matt Haver**

Graham crackers, 12 sheets
Butter, 1 stick
Triple Berry Frozen Blend,
1 cup
Sugar, 25mL (1 tbsp + 1 tsp)
Water, 2 tbsp
Raspberry Jell-O, 3-oz. package
Cream cheese, 7 oz.
Whipping cream, ¾ cup
Baking cups, 12



resident recipe

1. Put graham crackers in large freezer bag, and crush into crumbs using a rolling pin.
2. Melt butter in microwave-safe bowl.
3. Pour crushed graham crackers into melted butter, and mix with fork.
4. Spoon mixture into baking cups, approximately 2 tbsp per cup. Using a spoon or your fingers, compress mixture until firmly packed on bottom of cup. Set aside.
5. In a small sauce pan, combine berry blend, water and sugar. Heat until berries have reduced down. Pour berry blend into blender and puree.
6. Return puree to saucepan and stir in Jell-O. Set aside to cool.
7. In a medium mixing bowl, whip the cream cheese until smooth.
8. Add the cooled puree to cream cheese mixture, stirring until fully combined.
9. Whip the cream until stiff peaks form. Fold into puree & cream cheese mixture.
10. Spoon filling into baking cups and let set in refrigerator (approximately 2 hours).



Would you like to have your favorite family recipe featured in the next issue? We looking for tasty recipes to share! Email LATW@n2pub.com.

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

By ARTHUR GOLDEN

I bought this book at an English-speaking bookstore in Prague while eavesdropping on a casual conversation between the American owner and a stringer from *The New York Times*. I have to tell you this because it makes me feel more worldly and sophisticated than I really am. I hadn't heard anything about the book at the time (2000), and the title made it sound like just the kind of light reading that might make a nice contrast to the ancestor-oriented tour of Germany I was on at the time. It wasn't.

Looking backward from her comfortable Paris apartment, Nitta Sayuri tells the story of her life from the day her widowed father took his two young daughters to a broker to sell them from their life of poverty in a remote village for whatever life might bring them. Nitta, the pretty one, was then sold to a renowned geisha house; her plainer sister was sold as a servant.

Nitta's story takes us from the grief and dislocation she felt at being abandoned through her rigorous training as a geisha, learning the skills and nuances of the profession and coping with

the tempers and jealousies of the reigning geisha in the house. She recalls the rigors of learning how to dress, wear makeup and fix her hair in the particular styles appropriate to a geisha of the first rank. She learns how to entice (modestly), entertain, pamper and please men for money. And along the way she becomes very skilled and sought after.

It surprises her to learn that a geisha must try to find a sponsor who will give her enough money to live comfortably when she is no longer young and beautiful. And eventually she does find such a man.

This may sound like the usual bodice-ripping romance novel, but it isn't. It was a hugely successful book when it was published, and rightfully so. It's kind of amazing that a man, with a name like Arthur Golden, could write so well in the voice of a complex Japanese girl/woman. The story reveals a great deal about the Japanese culture of the early 20th century – about the geisha traditions certainly, but also about the heartbreaking custom of selling daughters, the habits of successful men, and the attitudes about love and family.

It's interesting that when a geisha finds a sponsor, she is not expected to entertain him exclusively, but only to be available when he wants her company. It's also interesting that the money a geisha earns is not hers alone, but is used to support the geisha house where she lives, including the mama-san, the servants, and any trainees they may have. And while we westerners tend to think of geishas as well-trained prostitutes, they are really more related to the European courtesans, or even the American trophy wives. Sex may be part of their relationships with men, but that is up to the geisha and is not usually expected.

All in all, I thought this was a well-written, fascinating and instructive book about a culture that is so different from our own and, of course, much less pervasive today than it was a hundred years ago. Young Japanese women today are much more likely to be educated in a university rather than a geisha house, and there are many more computer programmers than geishas. That may be a lot less exotic, but it is indeed real progress!



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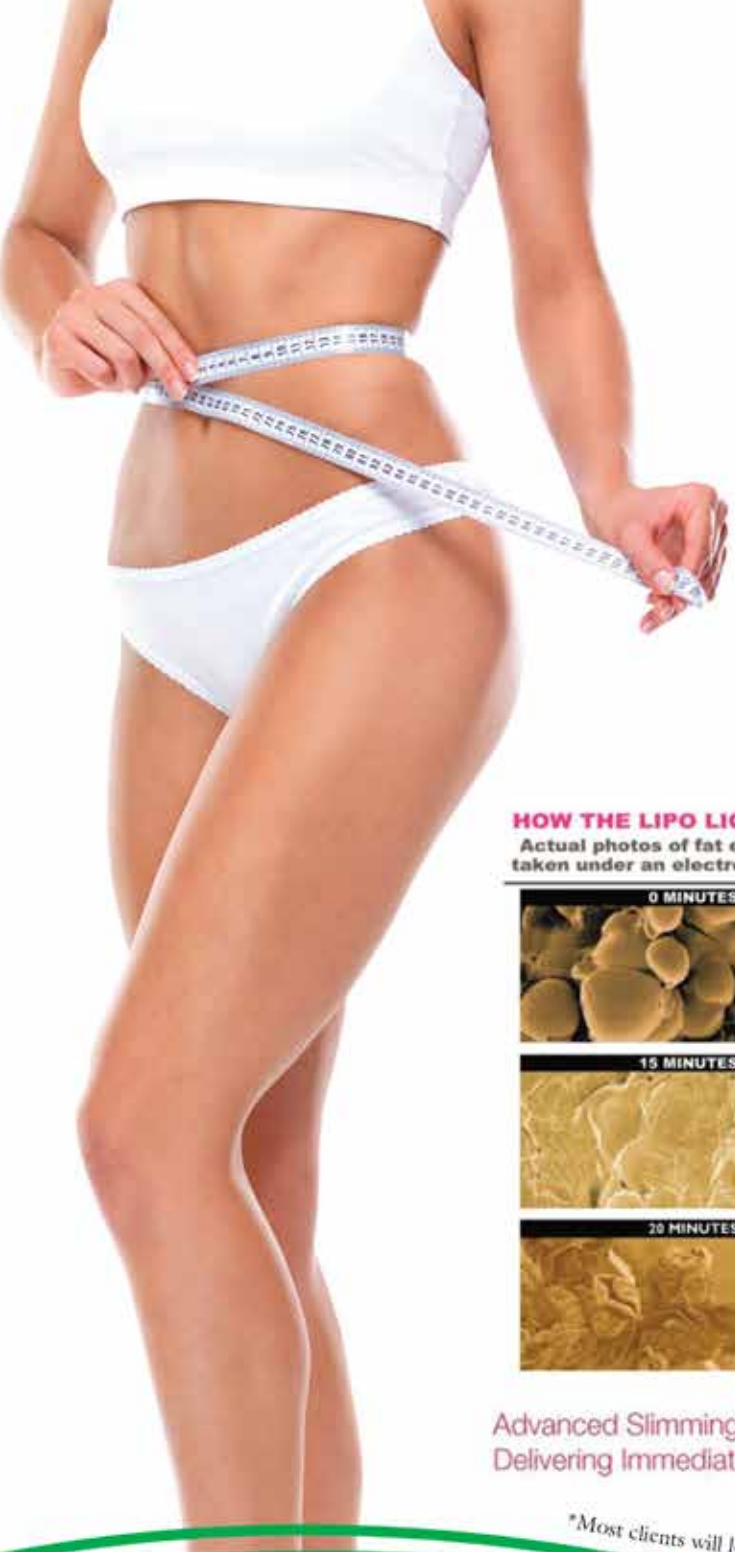
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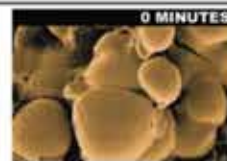
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sponsor spotlight

by Matt Haver | Photos courtesy of Kitsap Kitchen & Bath

Kitsap

KITCHEN AND BATH

Whether you're a remodeling aficionado, do-it-yourselfer, or simply a homeowner looking to upgrade your current space, when you visit Kitsap Kitchen & Bath's headquarters in Poulsbo, do yourself a favor and make sure you have plenty of time to spare. Before you even walk through the door, you'll be taken by the creative design of their kitchen and bath vignettes, and the working fixtures and the sparkling displays that adorn their beautiful, state-of-the-art, 2,500-square-foot showroom.

Kitsap Kitchen & Bath exemplifies a successful family business. Founder Jim Collins runs the show with his daughters – Lead Interior Designer Natalie, Project and Showroom Manager Lacey, and “adopted daughter” and Marketing Manager Heather Cottrell – in key positions. Jim grew the company out of Collins Homes, Inc., the contracting business he launched with his dad, Ellis, after graduating in 1982 from Western Washington University. Ellis retired in 1992, and Jim continued his work as a general contractor/custom home builder.

“I was building custom homes when the recession hit, so I decided to change course and focus strictly on kitchen and bath,” Jim shared. “It became obvious to me that this would become a remodeling era in this country like nothing we'd ever seen.”

Since then the company has grown to 14 employees, including five dedicated carpenters, two showroom managers, two project managers, and two professional interior designers.

“We focus heavily on design, and since we're a general contractor with our own carpenters who do the work, designs are very important,” Natalie shared. “We specify everything and do all the estimating, then give our clients a fixed price for design and a full set of plans.”

Kitsap K&B offers free first-visit onsite consultations with their project managers to all interested parties. They will also design and provide materials for private contractors or homeowners looking to do the work themselves and even keep a small inventory of plumbing fixtures in stock for last-minute projects.

“I tell clients we're either all-inclusive or à la carte,” Heather said. “That's the beauty of this

place; we have everything at our fingertips,” Natalie added. “So it's easy for us to bring in the clients and pick everything out.”

Jim and his team partner with some of the biggest names in the industry, like Kohler and Cambria, and are dealers for a multitude of reputable tile and hardware companies. They pride themselves in supporting American manufacturing, and in their ability to beat their competitors on value and install time. A standard kitchen or bathroom remodel job takes them just four to eight weeks to complete.

“Our best bang for the buck around here considering time, money, and everything is cabinetry refacing and adding a new countertop and backsplash,” Jim shared. “Our competitors are months out, we're three weeks.”

Kitsap K&B completes approximately 50 jobs per year and was recognized for their quality and skill by *Remodeling Magazine* in 2016.

“That was a really cool award because we were picked as one of the ‘Big 50’ best contractors out of around 10,000 in the country,” Jim shared. “The award is based on client satisfaction.”

Jim has experienced a lot in his time as a contractor and remodeling specialist, specifically since the recession. Most frequently he sees that, instead of selling, more people are staying put and “aging in place” – empty nesters with the kids gone, college paid for, and upgrades they'd like to make to the home they love.

“There are a lot of things we can do with design to keep people in their homes longer, like curbless showers and linear drains,” Natalie said. “A bathroom does not have to be institutional looking to be accommodating,” Jim added with a smile. “They can be pretty stylin'!”

Kitsap K&B's showroom and offices are centrally located just 15 minutes from almost anywhere in North Kitsap and they serve the entire Kitsap Peninsula, frequently going north to Port Ludlow and south to Port Orchard. McCormick Woods boasts a number of their remodels. They encourage anyone considering a remodel to do their homework, then visit their showroom to meet the team and experience their products and designs firsthand.

“Do your research on local contractors, read reviews, and really think about what your needs are because everyone lives differently,” Natalie recommended. “Go online, look at photos ... then come see us!”

Interested clients can “check out” samples of granite and quartz countertops, tile and glass backsplashes, and a multitude of cabinet materials to take home and try out for color and style, and see what works best for their space.

“Get online, look at portfolio pictures, go to Houzz.com – get ideas and find out what it is you like because we design these for you,” Jim said. “We've never built the same one twice!”

Jim, his family, and the Kitsap Kitchen & Bath team are a tight-knit, friendly and helpful group, and they invite McCormick Woods residents specifically to join their family of satisfied clients all over Kitsap County.

“Our motto is the ‘The Joy of Remodeling,’ Jim shared. “We make it a pleasurable experience – everything is here, and people have fun!

Testimonials:

“We can attest to the high quality of work that Jim and his team do, and, even more importantly, to his personal integrity and dedication to getting the job done right. It's a pleasure to do business with someone who is knowledgeable, skillful, and intent on producing good results for his clients.”

– The Gordons, Bainbridge Island, WA

“In short, we would not even consider hiring anyone else to work on our home. Our confidence in Jim and his team is total. Furthermore, we have fun whenever we have a building project underway. We simply know we are in good hands. We know too that we will be treated fairly.”

– The Crawfords, Bainbridge Island, WA

“Our project manager, Randy, did an exceptional job in getting our bathroom and kitchen upgrades designed and completed on time and on budget. He recommended Cambria Quartz for our counter tops, and we absolutely love the quality and durability of the product. They are beautiful, and the fit is perfect! Working with the folks at Kitsap Kitchen & Bath was a pleasure. I would highly recommend their professional approach to anyone contemplating home remodeling projects.”

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family spotlight



A Chapter in the Garden

By James Lobbett
Photos by Lorian Marie Photography

*“WE’D LIKE TO GET MARRIED
IN THE GARDEN.”*



Michael and Stephanie Lobbett will never forget the moment James and his fiancée, Fernanda, asked if they could be married at James’ childhood home. They felt honored and excited for that day to arrive.

A little background: On May 26, 2017, exactly two years before exchanging vows in the garden, these two embarked on their first adventure – a four-day, 3,000-mile road trip. Yellowstone National Park was on Fernanda’s list of the places she wanted to go in the U.S., a list written when she was in Brazil, her home country. Already in the Northern Hemisphere, enter Leticia, her friend who shared her plan. Now they just needed to find people to split the gas. They invited a friend, Nick, who invited his friend. This is where James enters in this story, or rather, in this van. Not too much English on one side, not any Portuguese on the other side, but they knew, this was a meeting that was meant to happen. Love is bigger than plans.

Family and friends traveled from California, Oregon, Washington, Texas, New York, and of course, Brazil. Fernanda’s father, Mario, her brothers, Tadeu and Tiago, and her sister in law, Camila, flew thousands of miles to celebrate this matrimony. This gathering was not put together by a professional coordinator, nor was the food catered, rather, **every** aspect was thoughtfully planned and created by the community who love and support this couple. The bride and groom, along with James’ sister (Brie) and mother (Stephanie) were the coordinators. The menu was designed and created by a talented chef and great friend, Anthony. There was literally a team of loved ones helping prepare and transport the savory and sweet delicacies prepared in the kitchen of the church where Michael and Stephanie attend services.

Months of hard work and fun culminated that weekend. Stephanie being an avid gardener, and, always with a design that catches the eye, had poured her labor and love into the garden. The same garden where the neighborhood kids once played past twilight and the bird houses were hung nearly three decades ago. This garden looked nothing short of beautiful.

The groom and his mother, along with the wedding party (siblings and lifetime friends, including those who went to Yellowstone in the first story we told you), entered the backyard from the golf path to the melodies of Led Zeppelin. They lined up on and in front of the platform and archway – a handcrafted alter built by the family – under the birch tree. And as the gap in the clouds opened, and the sun shone through a blue sky, “Here comes the bride!” An authentic and intimate ceremony was then guided by the father, Michael Lobbett. One more chapter in the garden was written.

Just to elaborate on the beauty of the garden, a quote Fernanda included in the wedding program: “Welcome To The Garden. The garden is something that carries a lot of meaning in our lives. Stephanie, James’ mom, has been taking care of this garden since its beginning. Fatima, Fernanda’s mom, used to talk with the flowers so they would grow up pretty and strong. We believe that love

needs to be cultivated, day after day, respecting and living each cycle. Let things go like the fall, let things die and prepare life in silence like the winter, bloom beauty and fragrance as so anticipated in spring, and illuminate the colors and flavors of summer. This garden has been prepared for this celebration, each flower has a story to tell you, each tree was a witness of that.”

The ceremony concluded in the late afternoon with 60 or so close friends and family, who were now repositioning their chairs for the celebration to come. With a quick shift of furniture and careful positioning of floral arrangements, the banquet table grew across the lush green landscape, while at the same time clearing room on the patio for the dancing and desserts that would be enjoyed late into the night.

Far from the food, festivities and fancy dance routines (taught by the Brazilians) was a quiet corner of the yard called “The Secret Garden.” Photographs were hung and treasures placed by the newly wedded couple to transform this space into an extension of their home. A place where wishes for their future were written and saved as a reminder of this Sunday.

As residents of this beautiful community for 30 years, the Lobbetts have had many memorable celebrations of birthdays, Christmases, Easters, and Thanksgivings. But the memory of the wedding in the Garden at 5791 Troon Ave. can only grow in its beauty with the fellowship of friends, the joining of families, and the joy that was experienced at the wedding of James and Fernanda.

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