

Life AT THE WOODS

FEBRUARY 2020

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



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IRON CHILI DOOR



resident recipe

Sent in by **Andy Roger**.

Ingredients

- 1 lb. stew beef, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 medium onion, peeled and chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp dried oregano leaves
- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
- 4 cups cooked pinto beans with cooking liquid (or two 16-oz. cans)
- 1 (29-oz.) can chopped tomatoes
- 1 (4-oz.) can chopped green chilies
- Salt to taste

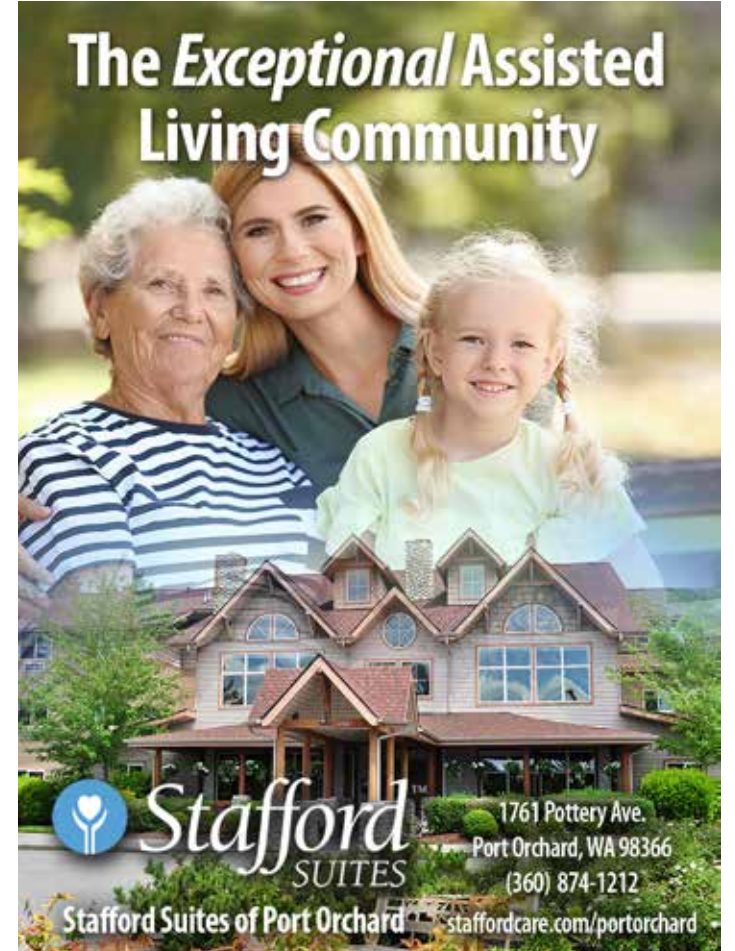
INSTRUCTIONS

In a large stew pot over medium-high heat, cook beef, celery, onion and garlic in oil for 5 minutes. Add chili powder, oregano, and cinnamon and cook 1 minute longer.

Add beans, tomatoes and green chilies and bring all ingredients to a boil. Cover, reduce heat to low and simmer for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add salt to taste.

Serve hot with chopped onion and grated cheese, if desired.
Serves 6.

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The Anchick FAMILY

Family member names: John, Tami, Connor, and Logan Anchick
Street: McCormick Woods Dr.
Pets: D'Ogee, a cocker spaniel, Lucy, a Goldendoodle, and Neymar, a bearded dragon.
Family dinner: Swedish pancakes are a favorite in our home.
Profession: Tami works part-time at a local church preschool. John is retired from the U.S. Navy where he served on submarines. He currently works at PSNS as an instructor for sift test engineers.

Where are you originally from? John was born in California but moved to Ashland, Oregon his freshman year of high school.

Tami grew up in Ashland, Oregon. Connor and Logan were both born in Bremerton, Washington.

If not from here originally, what brought you to the area? John was in the Navy. We were stationed here many times and loved the area, so we decided to stay after John retired from the military.

Tell us how you two met each other. John and I have known each other since middle school. We started dating our senior year in high school and were married in 1990. After getting married, we were stationed all over the country. We started in Hawaii, then moved to Bremerton, Washington, then to Groton, CT, then to Kings Bay, GA, then to Yokosuka, Japan, back to Washington, then to The Naval Academy in Annapolis Maryland, and finally back to Washington.

Where is your favorite spot to spend time together in WA? We spend a lot of time on different soccer fields. Both of our boys play soccer, so we enjoy all of the different spots in Washington that we have been able to visit because of the sport.

We are all University of Oregon fans. Tami went to school there for a year and continues to support that team. John, Logan, and Connor have also supported the Ducks. There was a change of heart for Connor, though, as he now supports the Beavers. John, Connor, and Logan are also San Francisco 49er fans. John grew up near the Bay Area and has been a faithful fan for many years.

What college/university did you attend? Tami attended four different colleges. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Brenau University. She also attended Southern Oregon State College (now SOU), University of Oregon, and University of Hawaii. Being a military spouse can move you to a lot of different places.

Their oldest son Connor is a senior at Oregon State University where he will graduate with a mechanical engineering degree, and he will be commissioned into the United States Navy. Logan, the youngest, is a senior at South Kitsap High School and plans on attending college this next fall. He is still undecided as to



where he wants to go but plans to major in bio-health sciences. He enjoys the sun, so he hopes to go to college where the sun is. Logan is very active in soccer and also likes to play tennis. Logan currently plays on the Gig Harbor premier soccer team. He also enjoys snowboarding and hopes to surf when he goes to college.

Are you involved with any local charities or community endeavors? Both Connor and Logan were varsity athletes in high school. Connor was a varsity

tennis, swim, and soccer player. Logan is a varsity tennis and soccer player.

John also is very active in soccer. He is the girls' soccer coach for one of the South Kitsap middle schools. He has played soccer his whole life and enjoys it very much.

How long have you lived in the neighborhood? We have lived in McCormick Woods for seven years.

What do you like to do to relax? Tami enjoys walking her two dogs, Lucy and D'Ogee. She also likes to quilt and mess around with different crafting projects. Logan enjoys soccer, tennis, and working out in the weight room.

D'Ogee, who is 12, likes to sleep and eat. He really enjoys his 2-o'clock snack every day. Lucy, who is 3 years old, loves her walks. She also enjoys looking out our back window and trying to find all of the squirrels. Lucy enjoys playing with any type of ball.

What is your favorite part about living in our neighborhood? My favorite part of McCormick Woods is all of the walking areas that we have. The dogs and I enjoy a good walk, whether it be along the roads or on the trails.



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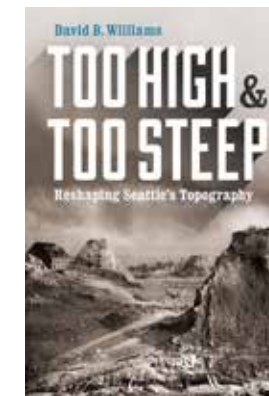
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resident book review

By **David B. Williams**. Review written by **Helen Punches**.

TOO HIGH & TOO STEEP

RESHAPING SEATTLE'S TOPOGRAPHY



If you've spent any time at all getting in and out of, and through, Seattle's metropolitan area, you've probably groused, to no one in particular, "What maniac decided this was a good place to build a city?" Surrounded by water, pinched in by mountains, straddling an earthquake fault, and gazing fondly at a dormant (but not dead) volcano, the site seems better suited for a rustic resort catering to adventure tourism. But wait! When

the city's founders did their founding (see *Sons of the Profits*), the land they had to work with was even more rugged and limited than it is today. And yet...they believed they could build a great city here and so they did – without the benefit of computer-aided engineering or Big Bertha or anything except muscle and sweat and imagination. That is called vindicated hubris, folks.

When the first settlers arrived, they envisioned a future of great wealth from lumbering and shipping. California, swarming with gold miners and the attendant entrepreneurs, was buying all the lumber they could get. And this hilly patch of land on Puget Sound was blessed with a deepwater port and a seemingly endless supply of lumber. There were only a few drawbacks, among them the bluffs on the western edge and the vast, muddy tidelands of the Duwamish River on the south. And the fact that some of the hills in this imagined city were too steep for horse-drawn transportation. But not to worry. With typical 19th century "can-do" spirit and disregard for nature's preferences, they set out to fix the problems.

David Williams is a Seattle native and a geologist and nature writer. He has a nice, chatty tour guide kind of writing style as he leads us through the six sections of his book. The first chapter is about the geology of the region – how the comings and goings of glaciers formed the north-south hills and troughs, the lakes and Puget Sound itself. As if that weren't enough geologic trauma, the topography of the region is also affected by the latest eruption of Mount Rainier (5,600 years ago) and the relentless pushing of the Sierra Nevada into Oregon and Washington, ultimately meeting the immovable monolith of Canada and causing further wrinkles in our landscape.

The second section covers the historic shoreline of the town, with maps and photographs and suggestions for viewing and recognizing the original landmarks from various vantage points in the city. The third section lays out the first big alteration of the landscape – the filling in of the Duwamish tidelands. We 21st-century people understand the value of tidelands as storm buffers, habitat, flood

control, etc., but in the 1800s, they were just wasted space that could be made usable if you only had the gumption to fix 'em. Here again, as throughout the book, you get maps and photographs.

Section four is about the complicated task of re-plumbing the lakes and rivers surrounding the city. Why let Lake Washington just sit there looking pretty when it could be used for more shipping? So, they dug the ship canal and the Montlake Cut and built the locks, lowering the water level of Lake Washington and killing the Black River. And finally, the "too steep" hills in the city had to come down. We hear about the Denny Regrade, but Denny Hill wasn't the only one to be re-shaped. Once they got started digging and sluicing the offending hills down to size, they seemed unable to stop. And where did all that dirt and rock go? Why, into the sound, of course, down monster conveyor belts to join the tons of garbage already deposited there. Eventually, they made a nice, flat, wide space where they could build roads and railroad tracks and the infamous viaduct. If you stand on a hill in Seattle and look down toward the sound, you can appreciate the scope of these projects. All the flat land you see was put there by man, not nature.

You should read this book as a book. Your Kindle won't do justice to the maps and photos. Since I'm not inclined to hike around Seattle's remaining hills to hit Mr. Williams' viewing points, I read most of the book with Google Earth open on my laptop. I recommend it. And I recommend the book. It's a great blend of social and natural history. And it's about our city!



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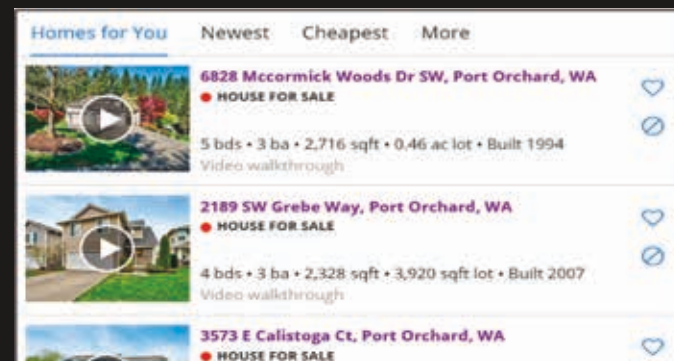
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making a difference

By Lanah Duque

BY Sustainability

QUESTION 1: What is your mission?

My mission is to bring the importance of sustainability to my community and get people talking about the well-known issue of pollution. I want to show people how easy it is to start a more sustainable lifestyle because every small step we take, positively contributes to promoting the issue. Pollution (being of air, land, ocean, etc.) is one of the biggest current global issues. Promoting sustainability in my community is just the start to get more and more people talking about this important issue because we can make a difference.

QUESTION 2: What inspired you to start making change?

All over media, whether it's websites, social media, news, etc, the issue of pollution is constantly being discussed. While anyone can talk about helping the issue, I wanted to do more by expressing my passion for sustainability to people around my community who might even be unaware. Seeing all the negative effects of pollution seem like a cry for help from nature and living beings. I wanted to do my part by at least getting the people I see every day and



community I am a part of to recognize this issue, hoping to make a positive impact.

QUESTION 3: Do you hope to do anything like this in the future?

In the future, I want to continue to promote sustainability and its importance, hoping to make surrounding communities aware of this, as well. Straw packs are just a start to a more eco-friendly life, but there are so many more improvements we all can make in our lives. While these straws are branded to my community, I want other communities by perhaps promoting a universal "Washington"-branded straw to show how important sustainability is. While getting the whole state involved in a single project may sound difficult, the community I live in is only a start to making a difference in the world. I really want to do other projects promoting the importance of issues that occur in the world, specifically being mental health. That is another topic I am very passionate about and, I believe, may be overlooked. Everything you want to do in life starts with yourself, and I just want to do my part in expressing concerns about matters that are of a global matter. I hope that in my lifetime I can impact more than just my community and potentially the world.

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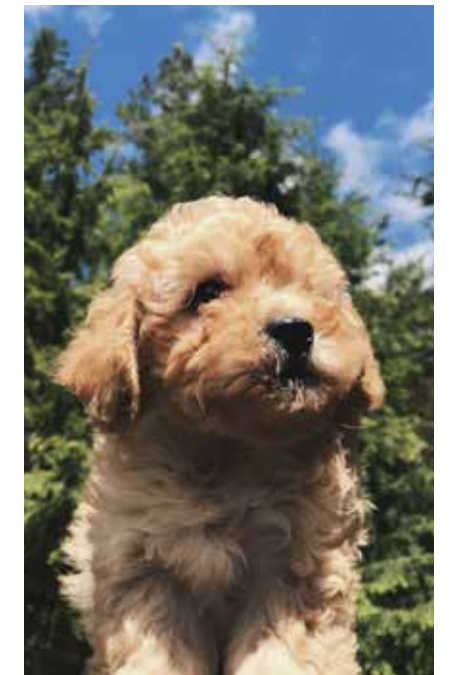


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Pet's Name: Hazel

Male or Female: Female

Pet's age: Seven months old

Where/why did you get your pet?

Our family had a black Labradoodle named Jakers for around 11 years until he sadly passed away in April. We felt that the house was missing something and that it just wasn't the same without a loving dog waiting for us at the end of the school/workday. So, we went dog searching and eventually adopted Hazel by word of mouth from a friend, and it was love at first sight.

Is there a story behind its name?

As soon as we got her, we felt like we needed some time to observe her personality until we could all come up with a name. We eventually started calling her Winner, Nugget, Destroyer, Holly, and Lola, until someone mentioned the name "Hazel." Andrew, the 6-year-old, started calling her Basil until the whole family caught on and began calling her Hazel Basil, which makes no sense, but it stuck.

What do you like best about your pet?

I love how friendly she is and how excited she is to see me when I come home from school. I open the door and she runs up to me, climbs on top of me and licks me and wags her tail, probably around a million times a second.

Any funny stories?

Alexis and Lindsay both play fastpitch, so when the two had tournaments, we had to bring Hazel with us. Any time Hazel would encounter another person, she would run to them and flip on her back on their feet, so they would rub her belly. Every single time.

How spoiled is your pet?

Pretty spoiled as far as long car rides with the windows rolled down and lots of belly rubs go. We'll just say she gets a lot of attention and love.

What else should we know about your pet and/or how your pet has enriched your home/family?

Hazel had filled the gap of emptiness felt during the period of grief over our last dog, and even though Hazel will never be the same as Jakers, she sure does bring a whole new personality to the family.

sponsor spotlight

By resident **Matt Haver**
Photos by **Matt Haver** and **Victor Thompson**

Victor Thompson INSURANCE AGENCY

When you visit Victor Thompson Insurance Agency, you'll likely be greeted first by Rosie. Rosie has never sold insurance and isn't technically on staff, but she is a big draw. "People walk through our door just to see Rosie," Victor shared. Rosie is his 12-month-old Labradoodle. She's often joined in the office by the agency's other mascot, Jett, a cockapoo in his golden years.

Once you've received your welcome from the four-legged set, Victor and his friendly staff take over. But prepare yourself. This isn't your father's insurance office. Victor's walls are adorned with local landscape photos he shot himself, a portrait of Opie, the bald eagle he helped rehabilitate, and memorabilia from his time in the hospitality industry that includes a guitar from country superstar Kenny Chesney. "My whole philosophy is that life is serious enough," Victor shared. "Insurance doesn't have to be."

This month, Victor will celebrate his two-year anniversary with Farmers Insurance. Victor and his husband, Keith Hafner, share a lifetime of real-world experience they now draw on daily to serve their clients.

Victor knows a thing or two about auto insurance after spending 25 years with Toyota and launching the Scion brand in the Pacific Northwest. Keith's experience as a for-



mer permits coordinator for the City of Seattle gives their agency expertise in insuring construction companies. But it's their collective experience as business owners that gives them empathy for clients facing life-altering loss and the wisdom to help them through tough decisions.

"Keith and I owned a bar in Everett for seven years," Victor shared. "We lost it because of an insurance claim." On a rainy New Year's Eve in 2011, bad plumbing and bad luck teamed up on the couple and led to \$120,000 worth of damage to their beloved bar, Twisted. With no help from their landlord and no banks offering business loans in the wake of the housing crisis, Victor and Keith were forced to close their doors for good. They experienced firsthand the importance of having the right insurance.

"We are very business-oriented," Victor said. "We know a lot about commercial policies inside and outside of Farmers." Victor's sensitivity to the needs of the hospitality industry began that fateful New Year's Eve but started serving him the moment he became a Farmers agent. "During training on my first day, I took a class on restaurants," Victor recalled with a smile. "They told me how hard it was to write restaurant policies. I told them 'I'm going to write one tomorrow.' I went out and wrote one of the largest restaurant policies Farmers had seen in Washington State for a long time!"

Victor and Keith are both Washington natives. Keith attended Bremerton High School, and Victor went to Mariner High School in Everett and spent every summer on Stretch Island. The two moved from Mill Creek in 2016 to be closer to their parents and now reside in South Colby. They enjoy working on their home, grounds, and gardens in the spare time between writing home policies for their neighbors in Kitsap. "Farmers loves the homes in Kitsap County," Victor said. "Our home policies are really set apart from anything anyone else can offer."

Home, auto, and life are what usually come to mind when someone says insurance, but Victor and his team provide a lot of plans that one wouldn't think of at first. For example, volcano insurance is standard on all Farmers home policies in Washington State. And if you need insurance on your pet, Victor is the man to see. He also offers warranties for homeowners that insure big-ticket items like dishwashers, hot water tanks, and refrigerators.

Victor has the weekend warriors covered, too. Most insurance companies won't ensure large trucks like a Ford F-350 that tow a trailer because they consider it a work truck, so it becomes a commercial policy in most cases. But Farmers recently revolutionized the auto insurance industry by covering these large trucks, and Victor is proud to be a part.

"There is no box that someone fits in that says you get XYZ policy," Victor shared. "It doesn't matter who you are. If you can't be insured by Farmers, they allow us to broker out. So, we can literally ensure anybody and anything."

With the constant deluge of insurance advertising and myriad agencies vying for attention today, Victor has a word of advice for prospective clients. "Nothing is worse than having a tragedy happen and finding out you don't have the coverage for that specific need. It's not always about the price; it's about the service," Victor said. "That's what we do that sets us apart from anyone else. I want our customers to know we're here for them. If something happens, you're going to get a phone call from me."

Contact Information

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Facebook: facebook.com/VictorThompsonFarmersInsuranceAgent/

A large advertisement for A1 Door Service, Inc. The background is dark blue. On the left, the company logo features a stylized 'A1' with a blue and white color scheme, and the text "A1 DOOR SERVICE, INC." below it. To the right of the logo is a photograph of a large, two-story house with a grey roof and white siding. Below the house photo is a smaller photo of a red garage door. The text "COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL GARAGE DOOR SPECIALISTS" is written in white capital letters. Below that, in a cursive font, is "Proudly serving the Northwest since 1989". At the bottom, the website "www.a-1doorservice.com" and phone number "(360) 876-2814" are listed in white.



young achiever

Lanah Duque

How long have you lived in the neighborhood? I'm 16 years old and have lived in McCormick Woods for my whole life!

Who is in your family? My mom, Ruth, and dad, Oliver, and 9-year-old sister, Larah. My older sister, Leah, is a junior in college, so she no longer lives with us.

What school do you attend? South Kitsap High School and I am a junior!

What are your plans after high school? I don't have my heart set on anything yet, but I want to go to a university and pursue a career that I enjoy and that is involved in what is going on in the world. I just want to make a positive impact on others and know that I am making an impact on the world. That's what really matters to me.

What sports and extracurricular activities do you participate in? I play volleyball at South Kitsap and have played on a select nationals team. I had the honor of being varsity captain this last year, and I am the libero. I am also in DECA, ASB, Key Club (Kiwanis), Interact (Rotary), speech and debate, Green Team, National Honor Society, FCCLA, and HOBY Washington.

How did you get started with your sport/activity? I started ASB because I knew that I always wanted to be involved in my community and the people around me. I knew that ASB would allow me to make positive changes within my school while reaching outside my school and in other communities. It also allowed me to get involved in other extracurricular activities since leadership really branches out everywhere.

What do you enjoy about your sport/activity? I enjoy all the different connections that I make through ASB and learning about people's lives and passions. I love the planning process of being able to host all these dances and fundraisers that people enjoy going to and have a great time. I also enjoy meeting all the new people through ASB. ASB has

helped me develop my leadership and public speaking skills and has made me want to interact with a variety of different groups of people.

Tell us something you achieved or some highlights of your experience so far in your sport/activity. I have been on-running class president for all my years of high school, which has been amazing because it has allowed me to improve and reflect on what has gone well throughout all my years of ASB. ASB has helped me develop as a person because it's shown me all the things I can do, and it has helped me grow as a leader and person all around, making me want to become part of more clubs and organizations.

Is there something that makes you unique in this activity (a specific strength or quality you bring)? In ASB, I love talking to people which helps all around because there are some people who aren't very vocal about their ideas, but I want to make sure that they are heard, and since I enjoy talking to people, it helps communicate everyone's ideas and my own ideas, whether that is ASB or other clubs, and it helps me understand people and others understand me, so ideas are clear and intentional.

How do you keep a balance between sports, school, and other activities in your life? I use my calendar on my phone so that I can keep track of specific dates for all my activities since I am involved in many different activities, and I set reminders for different homework assignments, so I don't forget. Because I have my phone on me,

I can send emails, do online assignments, and communicate with other club members before games and activities. Within each club, I am offered different chances to make connections and keep my social life active because there are amazing people within each club who I am now good friends with, and those connections are really the highlight of all my extracurriculars together.

Name someone you admire. What makes them special, and how have they motivated you? I admire my former coach Erin Bayne. Throughout all the stress in my life, she's helped me keep a positive attitude and just keep doing what I'm doing. She reminded me that through all the busy and hard times, I am doing more than enough and I will excel in life if I try hard. She's motivated me through tears and laughter, and she is honest with me while still being supportive. Even though she was my volleyball coach, she has really motivated me through life in general and helped me realize that I can strive for more than I ever imagined.



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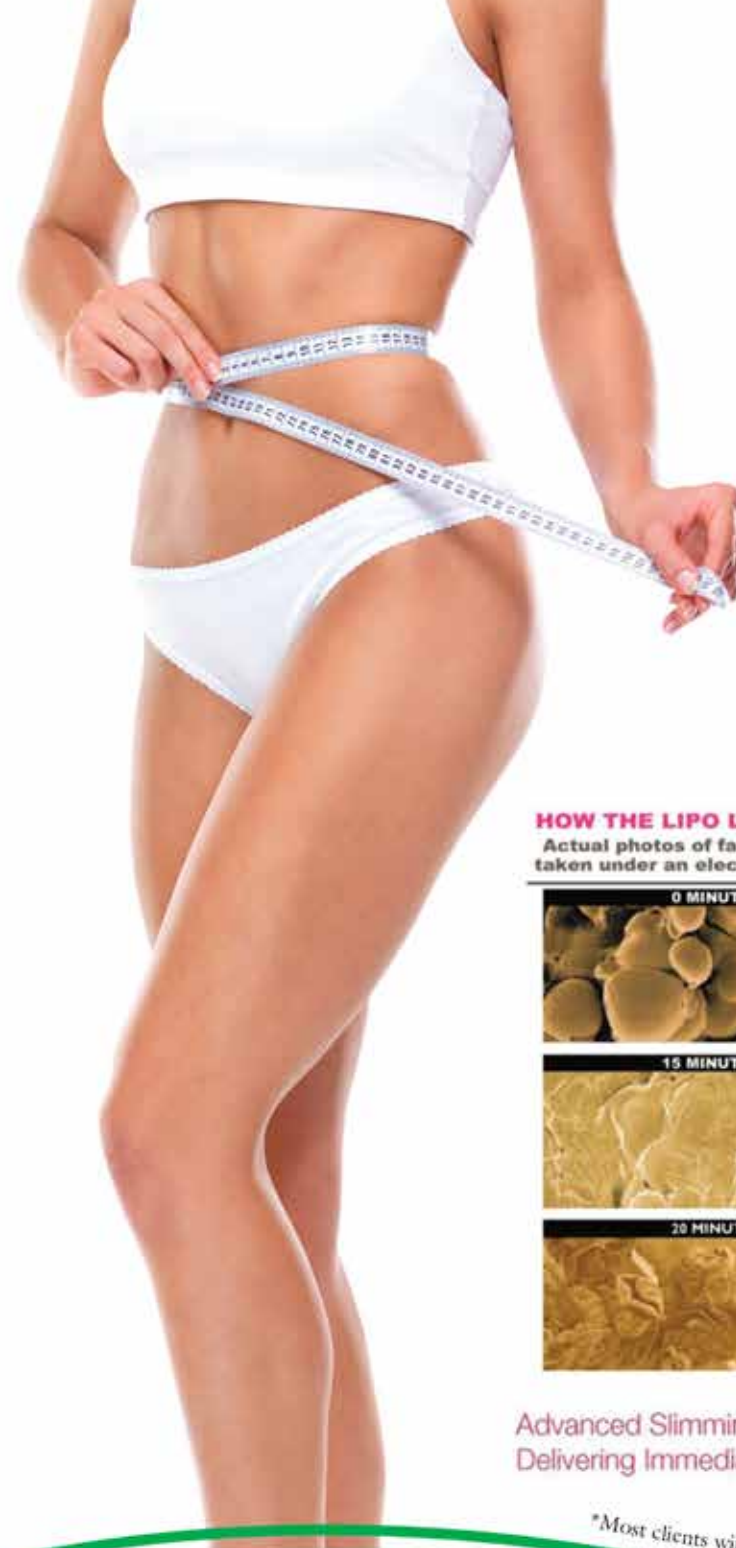
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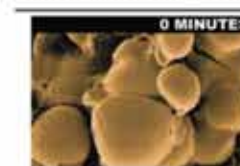
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