



Bernhard Leitner



Ophia Imai



Reader Submitted Photos



Caroline Altamirano



Jordan Marcelo



Beth Finley



Nancy Shwartzburg



Jim Dante

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Cosmetic
Dentistry

Laser Dentistry

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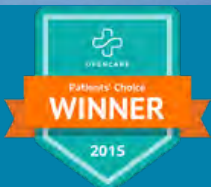
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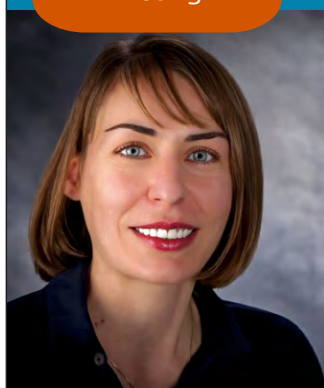
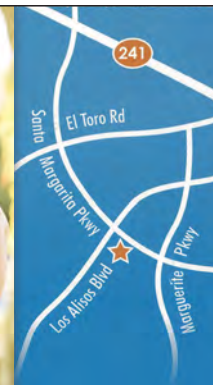
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MISSION VIEJO USMC RECRUITING STATION



Located on Marguerite Parkway is the **United States Marine Corps Recruiting Station** in Mission Viejo. In there, you'll find **Staff Sergeant Jeremy Powell** and **Staff Sergeant Octavio Sandoval**, this month's coverboys.

Their mission is to seek out and find young men and women of the highest moral, physical and mental stature and once found, they ignite within them a burning and lasting desire to protect our country as a United States Marine, to be the most ready, when our nation is the least ready.

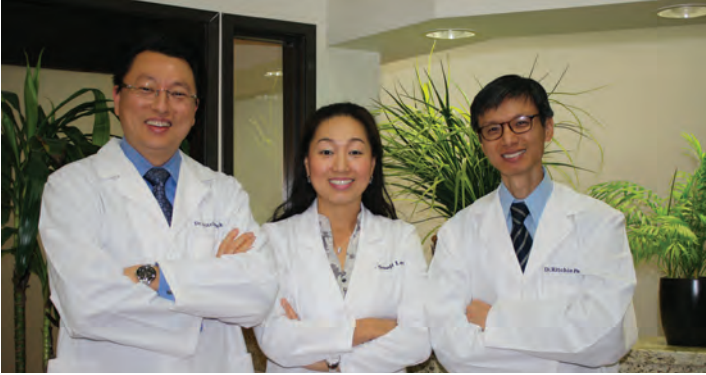
S.Sgt. Powell, originally from Columbus Ohio, joined the Marine Corps at 18 while still in High School, traveled the world and now stationed here in Southern California.

S.Sgt. Sandoval from Santa Ana, joined the Marine Corps at 23, and is now married with two children, and he also has traveled the world and now runs the office in Mission Viejo.

Though S.Sgt. Powell and S.Sgt. Sandoval can tell if you're eligible to be a Marine, only 12 demanding weeks of Recruit Training can determine if you're capable of becoming one.

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WHO IS THE INFINITI MAN?

Flying down the 5 Freeway? Take a moment to notice the strange customer hanging out back behind **Mission Viejo Infiniti!** A Plaster of Paris creation vaguely resembling John Belushi from his role in the "Blues Brothers". How he got to his vantage spot no one seems to know, who created him is also another question without answer



OVERHEARD - FROM OUR MAILBAG



HITCHHIKING WOES

In a recent **Mission Viejo Reporter** we attempted to illustrate the lighter side of the age-old mode of transportation, hitchhiking. However, some residents didn't see the humor.

- Two young girls on the cover, hitchhiking, with tips to stay alive? Are you kidding me? This may have been common practice in the 60's but now? I have a sixteen year old daughter and would never have her hitchhike. Not sure who okay'd this article but WHEW! – John C.
- Really? What were you thinking? Poor judgment. Thank God my sixteen year old doesn't read your articles. Hopefully she has more common sense than you. –Karen R.
- I hitchhiked all across France when I was 25, loved it. – Lisa K.
- Hilarious hitchhiking article. I grew up hitchhiking in the 70's and never had a bad experience, except for a guy who picked me up in Fresno who had a sharpened stainless steel hook where is left hand used to be. Thanks for the laugh. – Paul V.
- I thought it was a joke at first. Nobody would in their right mind publish "Tips to Stay Alive". This is insane and irresponsible. Totally disappointed you would publish this. –Christy D.
- Horrible! If this was supposed to be a deterrent, it's a miserable fail. –Tami M.
- Loved the hitchhiking story. I like tip #3 - "Let them see your face (avoid sunglasses, hat over eyes), make easy eye contact (but don't glare), look happy and pleasant." Too funny. –Carole C
- Dave Leckness is the [redacted] editor. I'm starting a petition to have him removed as editor of the [redacted] Mission Viejo Reporter – Jess N.

FROM OUR PUBLIC ART DEPT.

MISSION VIEJO HISTORY

THE CITY'S STORY TOLD IN TILES



These mosaic tile walls depict the eras of Mission Viejo history. One section recalls the cattle, cowboy and brand of Mission Viejo early days. The tile walls are located at the Trailhead of the Oso Creek Trail on Marguerite Parkway. Residents of Mission Viejo installed more than 14 mosaics depicting scenes from the city's history, some at the trailhead on Marguerite Parkway and others along the Oso Creek Trail. In April 2004, almost 2,000 volunteers provided service to their community by installing 15,000 trees and bushes and installing tile on the mosaic wall at the Trailhead Garden.

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FROM OUR FARMER'S DAUGHTER DEPT.

RESIDENTS GROW THEIR OWN... IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK LOOFAH ME THIS

Mission Viejo residents **Elisia Sierakowski** and her daughter **Valerie** grow their own loofahs. What's a loofah you say? Loofah is a genus of tropical and subtropical vines in the cucumber (Cucurbitaceae) family. As a vegetable, loofahs are popular to eat in India and China. In Paraguay, they combine loofahs with other materials and use them for constructing houses and building furniture. Here in the States, they are more known for use as a type of sponge in the shower. According to Elisia, "It's a fun and easy vine to grow".

Loofah is edible when young and tender, and exfoliating when left to dry on the vine. Beneficial to taste, table and tub, this is an easy, but slow growing plant.



Valerie peeling the family's first loofah of the season

The black seeds pop out quite easily when dry for next year's crop. The Sierakowski's vine grew from seed since late June, about 6 months ago. This year, they're making some soap and loofah presents and natural dish scrubbers for themselves. Good gardening!



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Places We'd Like TO REMEMBER CONTEST

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Send us your entry to:
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com



MISSION VIEJO CRASH SITE?

RESIDENTS LOCATE PAST WRECKAGE LOCATIONS

Aircraft crash sites in Mission Viejo? Yes, and there have been plenty of plane wrecks in the Santa Ana Mountains, Robinson Ranch, Laguna Hills, and San Juan Capistrano area too! Mission Viejo resident **G. Pat Macha**, began documenting aircraft accident sites in the mountains and deserts of California in 1963.



Twenty-five years ago, Macha founded the all volunteer, **Project Remembrance Team**, and is dedicated to facilitate requests made by next of kin who wish to learn more about the loss of loved ones in local aircraft accidents. The Project Remembrance Team has assisted more than one hundred-fifty next of kin fulfill their wishes for accident reports, maps, photographs, and crash site visitations. More than two dozen memorial markers have been placed at or near crash sites, all accomplished with the permission of property owners. All missions are completed with respect and admiration for those who have come forth to honor the memory of those whom they have lost. Losses suffered by our first responders and members of our armed forces receive an appropriate extra measure of attention.



The Project Remembrance Team includes retired military service members, pilots, rangers, educators, fire-fighters, law enforcement officers, professional scuba divers and business people, and many are from the Mission Viejo area. Macha has authored six books on crash sites in California, and he is a well received speaker on aviation accident history and aircraft archaeology. To learn more, visit www.aircraftwrecks.com.

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Sandra started playing at club level when she was 8 years old and has won numerous tournaments, like the Albion Cup National Showcase, since then.

Whether she scored goals as a powerful Forward or intercepted shots as a Goalkeeper, she has fearlessly played and defended her club teams (such as Strikers FC, United FC, Irvine Slammers, LA Galaxy Orange County). Sandra has also demonstrated her tenacity and strong leadership skills while serving as Team Captain many times.

After almost a year off the field recovering from knee surgery due to a torn ACL and meniscus tear, this resilient athlete, with incredible mental strength, has returned to the game better and more committed than ever. She is currently playing Center Forward on the CVHS Varsity team.



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