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MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO'S CROWN JEWE

Just two minutes from Mission Viejo in our neighboring city of San Juan Capistrano, is a "must see". Mission San Juan Capistrano is renowned as the "Jewel of the Missions". The key building of the Mission is Serra Chapel, which was constructed by Juaneño Native Americans. The center piece of the Chapel is the beautiful baroque altar made of hand-carved cherry wood with a gold leaf overlay and

adorned with more than 50 angel faces. It is estimated to be close to 400 years old and is the largest and most elaborate altar within California's 22-mission system.

> In the 1920s, Father St. John O'Sullivan, 'the Great Restorer', initiated a major restoration and expansion of the Serra Chapel. It was during this time that the golden altar was placed inside. It was donated to the church by the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

> Getting it here was no easy matter. The incredible altar is from Barcelona, Spain. First, it had to be shipped by boat across the Atlantic and then taken

The Mission's beautiful altar, also known as a retablo across the United States by train. When it arrived at the Mission it was in 396 separate pieces, packaged in 10 larger boxes with no directions on how they should be put together.

They opened the boxes in the courtyard, where it took them several months to figure out how the pieces fit and to reassemble the altar. When they were finished they discovered the altar was too tall to fit in the chapel! So to fit it in, they lifted the roof and added adobe bricks to the walls on the altar side of the chapel, allowing the masterpiece from Barcelona to settle in to its new home.



day in 1945, fashion photographer André de Dienes met an aspiring model named Norma Jeane Dougherty, soon to be known to the world as Marilyn Monroe. It was a momentous moment, both for his personal life and his photographic portfolio.



Over the next few years, he would be briefly engaged to Norma Jeane, take a number of adventurous road trips with her, and build up a stunning series of portraits which would help launch her modeling, and later, movie career. Enjoy these pictures he took of her at the Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1946.

FROM OUR FUTURE LEGACY DEPT.

CAN YOU SPOT THE

MARIJUANA MAY BE LEGAL, BUT IT'S NOT GOOD FOR

So is EVERYTHING wonderful and rosy about "marijuana"? The answer is no. it's not good for everyone. It can be a powerful substance, and kids under the age of 20 are probably the most susceptible and at risk for it's negative effects. The idea that marijuana has little effect is more a byproduct of the weaker strains of marijuana that were available in the 60's and 70's than what is common today.



YOUNG BRAINS

The human brain does not fully develop until a person reaches their mid 20's, and studies show that regular cannabis use during these early years of life can lead to harmful physical changes in the brain. Research shows that when youth use cannabis, their memory, learning, and attention are harmed, and permanent damage is a risk. Research also shows that youth who start using before 18 or who use cannabis regularly may be at higher risk for developing

education and work in general. It also shows that marijuana use may impact their educational and professional goals and how successful they are later in life. Skipping classes, getting lower grades, dropping out of school, unemployment and having lessfulfilling jobs later in life are all problematic in regards to youth who are regularly using marjuana.

VISITING THE GRAY BAR HOTEL

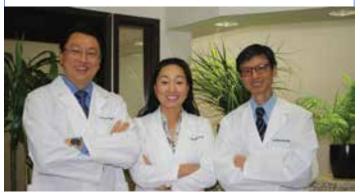
Driving under the influence of cannabis increases the risk of getting into a car crash.



Cannabis can negatively affect the skills that are needed to drive safely, including reaction time, coordination, and concentration. The common assumption is that driving skills are less effected by pot smoking then other substances, which in reality is not the case. Fatalities, lifelong injuries and jail are all real possibilities with youth driving impaired rather then clear-headed. Just in general, although it is legal in California, marijuana use is still not a great idea for young people. What we covered here is the tip of the iceberg really

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PERFECTPA

Meet Mike Reed. Mike's meticulously coifed hair recently won a Mission Viejo Reporter "BEST IN CLASS" award. The comb-over hair style, sometimes called the side part, is as classic a look as you can get. Mike gets his haircut about every two weeks and uses a hair gell designed to lock

Mike is a title rep for Lawyers Title and is vice president of the Mission Viejo Le Tip organization. Mike says"Stop by and visit Le Tip at seven AM every Thursday morning at city hall."

Contact Mike (949) 702-7526

THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOUR **PART**

After exhaustive research, the Mission Viejo Reporter has discovered that it turns out there is a correct side to part your hair on, but it varies from person to person. Feel for your cowlick (the swirl near the crown of your head). If it moves in a clockwise circle, part your hair on the left. If it's counterclockwise, you should part on the right. Another tip:



MEET YOUR MERCHANT

MISSION VIEJO'S STRONGEST MAN

eet Frankie Mercado, owner of MMT Fitness in Mission Viejo. Frankie has multiple years of experience in fitness and weight training that he's brought to the residents of Mission Viejo. It's easy to spot Frankie at his gym. He's the guy who looks a lot like the Incredible Hulk - which happens to be his nickname.

About two years ago, Frankie was working two sales jobs, raising his two beautiful daughters, all while simultaneously training and instructing a small group in the martial art known as Muay Thai.

Those experiences helped him gain business acumen and priceless knowledge which would ultimately help him successfully open and run his own business right here in Mission Viejo.

Frankie working the heavy bag

Frankie, 37, has motivated, encouraged and inspired dozens of residents to achieve goals and self-confidence they never thought possible.

> Stop in and visit Frankie and see for yourself THE **STRONGEST MAN** in Mission Viejo.

> > **MMT Fitness**, 23681 Via Linda #A, Mission Viejo, CA 92691









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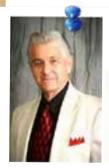
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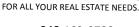
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SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Jack Muench - Football

Jack Muench is a senior on the football team at Mission Viejo High School. He began playing football when he was five and never stopped. When Jack turned eight, he found that pulling flags didn't satisfy him as much as tackling someone on the football field. This past season, he played on the defensive line, leading his school to victory against schools all across Southern California including Long Beach Polytechnic High School, which he describes as his favorite memory of his football career.

Off the field, Jack has an extreme passion for film. In his free time, he enjoys writing and producing his own short films and is a movie enthusiast. This passion will be taking him to Cornell University next fall, where he will be studying Fine Arts and Media in hopes of eventually pursuing a job in the film industry.





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PESKYWABBITS

BIRCKBICHLERS BATTLE BAD BUNNIES

Tim and Ana Birckbichler have lived on Arcata for about 15 years. During about the first five years, there was a nice collection of green weeds that kind of looked like grass. Tim decided that the weeds did not look as nice as they once did, and had the yard sodded with beautiful grass. Tim was not the only one that thought the grass was beautiful. The



rabbits felt the same way, and it looked tasty. The rabbits came out in the evening and feasted on the grass all night. Between the eating and peeing, it took them no time to kill the grass, not to mention the thousands of rabbit pellets left on the sidewalk.



Tim even called the city about the nuisance. The city said, "Sorry, the rabbits are your problem, and don't shoot 'em". Undeterred, Tim re-sodded the yard. Then began the "Rabbit Project".

The rabbits were not going to kill the grass this time. Tim used all types of counter

measures, but none seemed to work. First, he tried sprinkling blood-meal fertilizer on the yard but, they returned. Placing



plastic owls in the yardno luck. Motion activated water sprinklers didn't do the trick either. The rabbits didn't mind getting a little wet. Even boiled habanero peppers applied meticulously via spray bottle slowed them down for a while, but they got used to the slow-burn,

and Tim's wife Ana could never get used to the habanero fumes that would make their way into the kitchen. Ana finally said, "Enough!"

Tim took a break from the Rabbit Project and added a decorative stone boarder to the driveway and sidewalks along with boarders around the planters. Seeing how nice this looked and

admitting defeat against the rabbits, he decided to go with high quality, good-looking, low-maintenance synthetic grass. To keep the yard looking in good shape, Tim spends a couple hours each week adding fertilizer to the plants and sprucing things up.

Tim says by the looks of it, the rabbits have decided to move on.





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