

Daily Pilot

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Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

CATHERYNN HOFERITZA, left, with mom Diana and sister Charlotte, ride the newly reopened carousel at South Coast Plaza on Friday.

Off to the races!

South Coast Plaza fires up its carousels after 15 months, the longest hiatus in 54 years.

BY SARA CARDINE

Although state reopening guidelines allowed South Coast Plaza to reopen its doors to the shopping public months ago, two iconic attractions at the Costa Mesa shopping complex, beloved by children and the young at heart, remained shuttered — until now.

It was off to the races Friday, as the center officially reopened two carousels whose animatronic equines have thrilled audiences for decades but were powered down March 17, 2020, after the longest hiatus in the center's 54-year history.

Families with small children flocked to the two merry-go-rounds for \$2 rides on a larger 20-horse and two-bench unit in the aptly named Carousel Court or a petite 10-horse, one-bench carousel at the Crate and Barrel/Macy's Homes Store annex.

The larger carousel made its debut on March 15, 1967. Designed by Los Angeles-based Victor Gruen Associates, the masterminds behind the architecture of South Coast Plaza, it was so popular that a girl riding on a carousel horse became a visual symbol for the center itself through the 1970s.

A second, smaller carousel came to the complex in September 1990 as part of a



THE CAROUSEL at South Coast Plaza Crate and Barrel Wing reopened after 15 months.

Festival of Britain being celebrated at the time. As such, English designer Chestnuts Company, Ltd. created the horses with a King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table theme, conveying attributes of the knights onto each animal.

Before the pandemic, the two rides attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. But bringing them back online

was difficult while California Department of Public Health guidelines placed limits on crowds and mandated distancing.

But with restrictions on business capacities and mask-wearing among vaccinated residents having eased statewide on June 15, traffic is beginning to return to

See *Carousels*, page A3

Ken Domer hired as Laguna's assistant city manager

BY ANDREW TURNER

Ken Domer has been hired as the new assistant city manager of Laguna Beach, it was announced Thursday evening.

The appointment comes after Shohreh Dupuis was promoted and became the city's top executive, succeeding

the retired John Pietig as Laguna Beach's city manager.

Domer will start in the new role beginning Monday. He comes with more than 30 years of experience in state, county and municipal government, including 15 years of working in city management.

Most recently, Domer served as city manager for Fullerton, but he was voted out of the position on a 3-2 decision by the Fullerton City Council in April. He had served in the role since July 2017.

"I look forward to serving the residents and visitors of the city of Laguna Beach as as-

stant city manager, and I am particularly excited to work together with such a capable city team," Domer said in a statement.

"It will be our collective efforts that will allow us to achieve the goals set forth by the



See *Domer*, page A2

Ken Domer

See *Council*, page A3

Man charged in alleged rape at hospital

A Garden Grove resident is accused in an incident police say involved a fellow patient in Huntington Beach.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A Garden Grove man pleaded not guilty Friday in the sexual assault of a fellow patient at a Huntington Beach hospital earlier this week.

Adrian Alfredo Sanchez, 27, faces several felony charges including assault with the intent to commit sexual offense and rape in relationship to the incident, which Huntington Beach police said occurred at the Huntington Beach Hospital.

Jennifer Carey, a spokeswoman for the department, said officers responded to a call placed Wednesday afternoon. An investigation ensued, leading to the arrest of Sanchez.

Sanchez and the victim were both patients of the mental health clinic. Police did not provide any other details.

Pleas for Sanchez were entered on Friday following an arraignment hearing at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana, according to court records. Sanchez remains in custody on a bail of \$100,000.

He is next scheduled to appear in court on July 7 at the West Justice Center in Westminster.

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H.B. City Council seat has no shortage of applicants

There are 182 people who applied for the position vacated when Mayor Pro Tem Tito Ortiz resigned. A final decision is expected July 20.

BY MATT SZABO

The city of Huntington Beach is aiming to fill its open City Council seat, vacated when Mayor Pro Tem Tito Ortiz resigned, by late July.

It's a hot seat, indeed.

There are 182 people listed as applicants on the city's website. Applications closed on June 18.

The City Council will conduct interviews with prospective candidates on July 9 and 10, City Manager Oliver Chi said. The final deliberations and appointment are scheduled to occur at the council meeting on July 20.

The applicants include the two candi-

Newport holds job fair amid pandemic-induced labor shortages

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Businesses across Newport Beach are now hiring.

But they, along with other businesses nationwide, are struggling to hire and retain staff as California emerges from a pandemic that caused the loss of nearly 2.7 million jobs statewide.

That's why Newport Beach and Co., the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce, Newport Beach Restaurant Assn. and the city itself are organizing its first job fair for Thursday.

"It seems as if just about every business that I'm talking to — not just in the hospitality industry, but across multiple businesses — they're just having trouble getting good quality applicants, or for that matter, any

applicants for a lot of jobs," Gary Sherwin, president of Newport Beach and Co., said in an interview Friday.

Sherwin said he got the idea to hold a job fair on a recent trip to Las Vegas. He said he'd been there to see how the city, as a tourist destination, was emerging from the pandemic.

As he passed the Tropicana, he saw that the billboard that usually boasted of the hotel's headlining acts was instead promoting its signing bonus.

"It's just pervasive that people can't get the kind of quality talent that they need and, in many cases, they say they're literally hiring anyone that breathes," he continued. "That isn't who they want to hire, but that's sometimes all they can get."

"We thought, 'Well, this is a

good opportunity for business organizations in the city to come together' and came up with this job fair and that's kind of how it all came to be," Sherwin said.

The idea was then introduced to the city, the chamber and the Newport Beach Restaurant Assn., which all jumped on board to organize what is now the first Newport Beach Job Fair.

About 25 businesses will be gathering at the Newport Beach Civic Center Thursday to look for prospective employees with some prepared to begin the interview and hiring process then and there.

Raima Leight, the human resources manager for City Experiences by Hornblower's Southern California region, said that hir-

See *Job*, page A2



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A COUPLE WALKS by the outdoor dining area at the Newport Beach Hotel in November. Local businesses are looking to hire at the first-ever Newport Beach job fair on Thursday amid nationwide labor shortages.

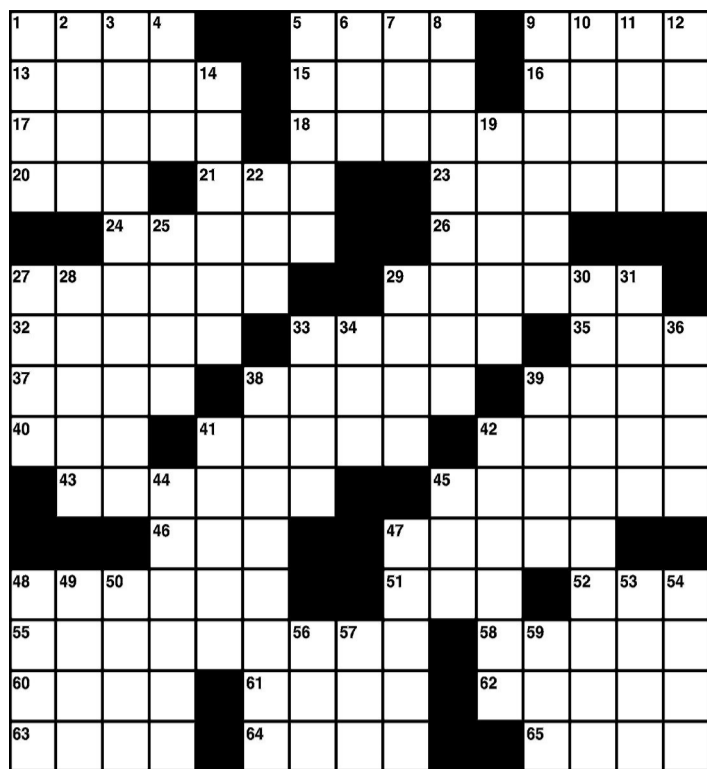
THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Upper barn section
- 5 Morays & congers
- 9 Settee
- 13 Steer clear of
- 15 Skinny
- 16 Rotate
- 17 "Thanks, Pierre!"
- 18 Committed; true to the end
- 20 Prefix for teen or nuptial
- 21 Sault _ Marie
- 23 Belligerent
- 24 _ tube; pool toy
- 26 WWII president
- 27 Quarreled
- 29 Flamboyant
- 32 Bandleader Goodman
- 33 Refueling ship
- 35 Feel poorly
- 37 High poker pair
- 38 Makes well
- 39 _ market; swap meet
- 40 Roofing plaster
- 41 Leveled, as a building
- 42 Soil
- 43 Artificial; sham
- 45 _ up; accelerates
- 46 " _ Baba and the Forty Thieves"
- 47 Expertise
- 48 Backpackers' inn
- 51 Brooch
- 52 "Born in the _"; Springsteen hit
- 55 Entwine
- 58 Take pleasure in
- 60 Forest animal
- 61 Pres. Arthur's middle name
- 62 Kid around with
- 63 Catch a glimpse of
- 64 King or queen
- 65 TV's " _ the Boss?"

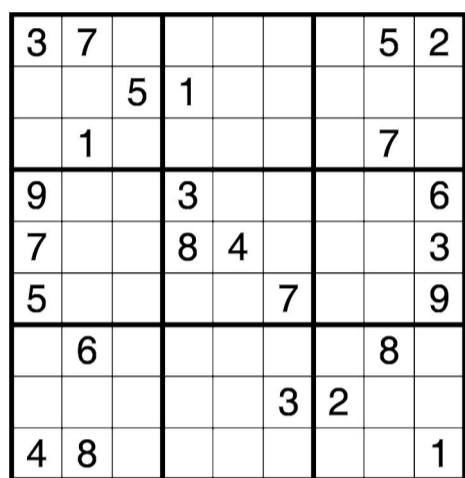
DOWN Light



SUDOKU

By The Mephram Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A3.

- source
- 2 Above
- 3 Immigrants
- 4 _ Tac; breath mint
- 5 Father or grandfather
- 6 Wide shoe width
- 7 Boy
- 8 Cold symptom
- 9 Elevator alternative
- 10 On the _ with; mad at
- 11 Worry
- 12 Williams or Warhol
- 14 Donald Duck's

- creator
- 19 Fragrant wood
- 22 Turner or Koppel
- 25 Women with habits
- 27 Blind as _
- 28 Summary
- 29 Escaped
- 30 "Praise the Lord!"
- 31 Give in
- 33 Anise-flavored aperitif
- 34 Wrath
- 36 _ into; lashes out at
- 38 Luxury car
- 39 Gas or coal
- 41 Measuring stick
- 42 Many a piano
- 44 Restaurant
- 45 Enjoy the slopes
- 47 Support the economy
- 48 Obscure
- 49 Individuals
- 50 Word attached to foot or side
- 53 Mediocre
- 54 Certain votes
- 56 Chicken _ king
- 57 Monopoly token
- 59 Just purchased

Tribune Media Services

DOMER

Continued from page A1

City Council. The chance to serve such a beautiful community in a place my family has enjoyed visiting for years makes me especially grateful to have been chosen for this role."

Domer and his wife, who live in Orange, have three daughters.

Other roles that Domer

has held in city management include serving as city manager of Villa Park and as assistant city manager of Huntington Beach. He also was an assistant city administrator in Placentia.

"Ken's extensive experience providing day-to-day leadership of city operations of full-service cities, along with his ability and experience in addressing challenges of coastal communities, set

him apart from other candidates," Dupuis said.

"I look forward to bringing him on board and working with him in this critical role to enhance our delivery of services, leverage technology to modernize our processes, and introduce greater efficiencies into our ongoing city operations."

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JOB

Continued from page A1

ing is a "mixed bag."

Not all open positions are untouched, but it's been a struggle to hire for frontline positions like servers, bartenders and cooks.

"Everybody wants to go out on the water and celebrate events that they've put off for a year, the demand is extremely high," Leight said. "We had to kind of start from scratch with our staff."

Leight said that between the reopenings and closures, some employees needed to move on and make the best decisions for themselves, which included leaving the hospitality sector all together because of its instability through last year.

The company participated in other recruiting events before, adding that Leight felt it was a good opportunity to network with other companies in the hospitality industry to share best practices.

"You have to be competitive," Leight said, adding that they planned on holding on-site interviews and possibly offer-

ing contingent offers of employment on the spot.

"If I see a local business offering a \$1,000 signing bonus, then maybe we want to think about something like that. It really is a competitive market to get employees right now."

Juan Viramontes, the general manager of the Crab Cooker location in Newport Beach, said that he's hired and rehired about 50 people in the last month but that he's struggled with finding people to operate the back of the restaurant.

The location in Newport Beach hasn't officially reopened yet, but employees are currently training at the Tustin Crab Cooker.

"We do get a lot of interest, but what I'm seeing now that I've never seen before," Viramontes said. "We get a lot of interest, but then they completely drop off. I'm talking about we get the paperwork, the interview, they come on board and just don't show up to their first day. I've seen people work a week and say, 'This isn't quite for me.'"

"But I've never [before] seen people not even come in on their first day."

It's a little bit troubling, but it's the new environment."

Viramontes said the restaurant plans on being aggressive in its recruitment and knew that the Crab Cooker had to stand out from the other restaurants as an employer.

He said he hoped to hire at least 20 more people to be comfortable for the July reopening.

The job fair is still accepting more exhibitors up until the day before, but Sherwin said that they are nearing capacity.

Interested businesses can visit visitnewportbeach.com/nbjobfair to register. He said the event is free for both employers and prospective employees and that organizers specifically planned to avoid making the process overly complicated.

"There's nothing glitzy about this, but it's really just a chance to connect the dots between workers and employers," Sherwin said.

"We wanted an easy way to ... give these companies access to talent that they wouldn't otherwise be able to reach."

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FOR THE RECORD

A story published in Wednesday's paper, "Former Edison High swimmer Tom Shields makes his second Olympics," incorrectly showed a picture of Michael Phelps instead of Shields.

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Newport Beach's Joseph Di Giulio now serves up financial advice

BY MATT SZABO

Joseph Di Giulio is a former highly ranked junior tennis player and is now a financial advisor.

He's also an older brother. On some days, he can sit in his office at True Path Financial close to Fashion Island and watch his younger brother Perry, now a sophomore in high school, train just a stone's throw away at The Tennis Club at Newport Beach.

"I literally have sat in meetings in this firm and seen him playing matches across the street," Joseph Di Giulio said.

Di Giulio can admire the fight that both of his younger brothers show on the court; Austin is an incoming senior at Loyola Marymount University.

Joseph has been there. At one point, the Newport Beach native was the No. 1-ranked junior tennis player in the country in the 12s, 14s and 16s. He followed that with four stellar years at UCLA.

After he graduated in 2017 with a political science degree, he got into the financial field.

Trading a T-shirt and shorts for a three-piece suit seemed like a big change for Di Giulio, now 26. Yet, he remains entrenched in the sport he loves.

"I provide financial literacy on some areas that are most relevant to the everyday coach, maybe the players that are trying to make it on tour," he said.

"It can be academy owners, club directors. The tennis space is very unique, in the fact that it extends a lot of different ways but we're all close-knit."

Di Giulio works with dozens of players and coaches on building a portfolio that's right for them. He's also hosted financial webinars for the Intercollegiate Tennis Assn., and he's slated to be a guest at a



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

FINANCIAL ADVISOR Joseph Di Giulio, 26, is a former junior tennis champion from Newport Beach.

United States Professional Tennis Assn. convention in October to speak on financial literacy.

He's also working on curriculum in the economics department at his alma mater of UCLA, Di Giulio said, as well as investing in a tennis start-up called Tennis App Suite (TAPPS).

"I'll wake up some days and have a 9 a.m. Zoom call with a private tennis investor in Switzerland," Di Giulio said. "At 10 o'clock, maybe it's an influential tennis member in Spain. It could be a bunch of college coaches after that. So much of my practice has still been connecting around tennis."

"There hasn't been someone that has taken on tennis, to the

extent of helping the everyday coach. The everyday coach is spending six to eight hours coaching, and doesn't have the time to know what to do with their money. There are so many things that are missing, especially in the tennis world. I saw that as a huge area that I could impact."

Spencer Papa, who played college tennis at the University of Oklahoma and currently lives in Dallas, is one of Di Giulio's clients. Papa said he been working with Di Giulio for about six months now, reconnecting with his former childhood friend.

The two used to train together in Florida as early teenagers.

"I think Joe has used his competitive nature he had in tennis,"

Papa said. "He was always one of the best competitors in the country, and he's kind of taken that into finance and found that for his passion. He's killing it. He always has some good ideas."

Another one of Di Giulio's clients is Howard Joffe, the University of Texas women's tennis coach who this year guided the Longhorns to their third NCAA team title.

"With his background in tennis, he's been a pleasure to work with because he's in tune with the lifestyle of a tennis person and a tennis coach," Joffe said.

"It's made working with him super-duper easy ... Our worlds are so provincial with respect to practice and playing and traveling and

competing. He has the ability to help do things efficiently and quickly."

Di Giulio also has future goals. He said he'd like to possibly establish a nonprofit involving mental health awareness in honor of his late mother, April, who was just 48 when she died in 2018. He said she battled addiction and mental health issues.

Mental health discussion also has surfaced in tennis recently, with Naomi Osaka's decision to pull out of the French Open and skip Wimbledon. At the French Open, she withdrew after saying she had experienced anxiety while participating in media conferences.

"I honestly saw it as something that was really tough at the time," Di Giulio said of his mother's death. "I had to take a step back and gain a lot of perspective. I think the biggest thing in life that teaches you how to have the right outlook is by experiencing death sometimes."

"What do I really want to get out of my life? Is it achieving success for the wrong reasons, or is it being able to have an impact on people like my mom?"

Di Giulio continues making an impact in the tennis world, even if he's already played his last competitive match.

"I really admire his drive," The Tennis Club owner Sean Abdali said.

"When Joseph talked about what he does as a financial advisor now, I was so impressed that he was not afraid to talk to anybody and give a pitch of what he can do for them. He's obviously really blossomed the last couple of years."

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