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2026 WORLD CUP USMNT VS. PARAGUAY

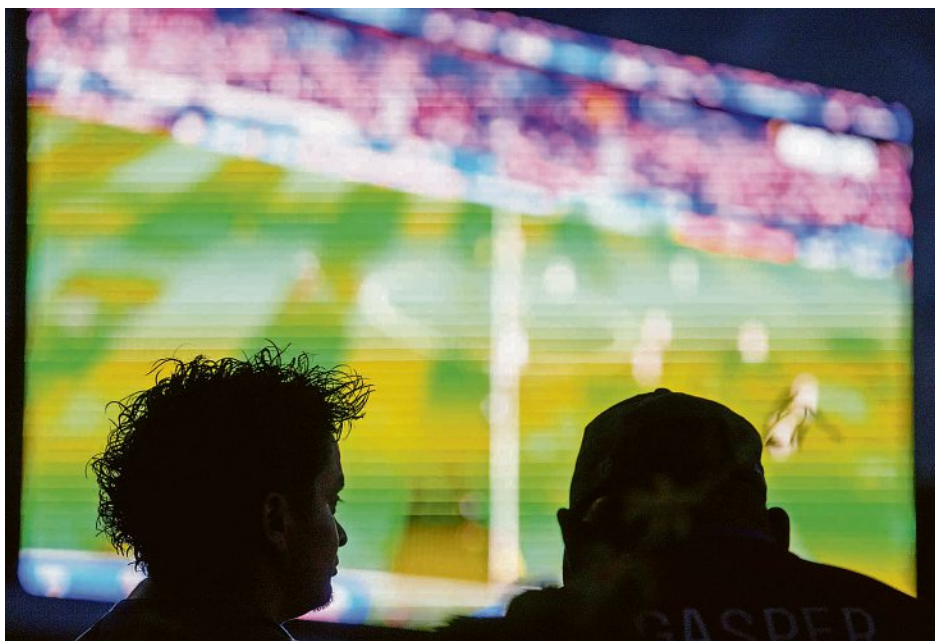
GOAL! Des Moines fans cheer U.S. opening win



Fans react as the United States scores its second goal of the game against Paraguay during the 2026 World Cup on June 12 at Big Grove Brewery in Des Moines. CODY SCANLAN/THE REGISTER

Des Moines Register

The U.S. Men's National Team opened their World Cup bid outside of Los Angeles on June 12 against Paraguay, winning their first game in Group D by a final score of 4-1. The United States next plays in Group D action on June 19 against Australia. That game will be played in Seattle.



▲ Marcie Morris celebrates the fourth goal by Team USA during the World Cup watch party at Fong's Pizza on June 12 in Des Moines. TRAVIS LACOSS/THE REGISTER

◀ Fans watch the giant-screen TV during the World Cup watch party at Fong's Pizza. TRAVIS LACOSS/THE REGISTER

Roberts used fake document to get job

Court memo cites bogus Social Security card

Tyler Jett
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ian Roberts used a fake Social Security card to help him land the top job at Iowa's largest school district.

According to a prosecutor's memo filed with the U.S. District Court in late May, the former superintendent used the counterfeit document to back up his claim that he was a citizen when he filled out employment paperwork with Des Moines Public Schools four years ago.



Roberts

The disclosure in connection with Roberts' sentencing by Assistant U.S. Attorney MacKenzie Tubbs offers a new, key detail about how Roberts slipped through legal checks to secure the job, earning about \$280,000 a year.

Roberts, a Guyanese immigrant, was unauthorized to work in the United States throughout his employment in Des Moines. His 25-year education career ended with an arrest by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers last September.

Roberts pleaded guilty in January to making a false statement for employment and illegally possessing firearms. A federal judge sentenced him to two years in prison May 29, and he is now booked at a Thomson, Illinois, federal prison. He faces deportation when his sentence ends.

According to an ICE spokesperson, Roberts was authorized to work in the United States for only about three of the two decades he served in public education. His career included stints in leadership positions in Baltimore, St. Louis and Washington, D.C. He was also a superintendent in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Des Moines Public Schools officials have not explained how central office staff missed the fact that Roberts was ineligible to work in the United States when the School Board hired him in 2023. U.S. law requires employers to confirm that new hires are authorized to work in the country.

After Roberts' arrest, Des Moines

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How tax incentive rollback could affect city's growth

Abatements unfeasible in new law, official says

Virginia Barreda
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Des Moines is weighing a rollback of the temporary tax incentives it has long relied on to spur new construction development in the city in light of recent Iowa legislation.

Used by the city since 1979, the tax abatement program temporarily reduces property taxes on a portion of the assessed value of new construction or improvements to a building, according to the city's website. Des Moines has used the program to stimulate community revitalization, attract homeowners and reduce development costs for commercial and industrial projects.

Ending the city's tax abatement program is the only "fiscally responsible" option following the recent property tax

legislation that includes an estimated \$4 billion in property tax cuts over six years, development services director Cody Christensen said during a recent city work session.

The new law includes a 2% growth cap on local governments' general fund levies, with exceptions for new construction. But the new construction clause doesn't apply to any construction once abatements end.

Christensen, who explained the city staff's position June 8, asked for feed-

back from City Council members on when and how much to curb the incentive in the city. The discussion comes as the city braces for a \$12 million shortfall in fiscal year 2028, which begins July 1, 2027, and an additional \$5 million the year after, due to the new law.

"The longer that we continue to offer this program, the more of a cut it will demand from our general fund revenues every year," he said. "Because without

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