

South Bay Cities

Featuring the Weekly Newspapers of Hawthorne, Lawndale, Torrance and Inglewood

Hawthorne Press Tribune
The Weekly Newspaper of Hawthorne

Lawndale Tribune
AND LAWNDALE NEWS The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

Torrance Tribune
The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

Inglewood News
The Weekly Newspaper of Inglewood

Herald Publications - El Segundo, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Torrance & Inglewood Community Newspapers Since 1911 - (310) 322-1830 - Vol. 8, No. 30 - July 23, 2026

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Weekend Forecast

Friday
Partly
Cloudy
69°/85°



Saturday
Sunny
69°/85°



Sunday
Mostly
Sunny
69°/83°



Celebrating 40 Years Across the Pacific



Team members and guests at LAX joined ANA|Japanese Airline for a special celebration marking four decades of service between Los Angeles and Tokyo. Here's to 40 years of partnership — and many more journeys ahead. Photo courtesy of LAX Facebook page.

The Last Meeting of the Summer

By Ron Sokol

It is summer. This past Tuesday, July 14, was the last Hawthorne City Council meeting until September 9. This has been an eventful year already, with significant matters addressed, from parking issues to budget evaluation, to praise for all those who work so hard to keep us safe and to help Hawthorne move forward. In addition, by the next Council meeting in September, we may have more insight about what is going to be done with the long-defunct Hawthorne Mall.

Here are highlights from the last seven months: Hawthorne now has a thriving certified organic Farmer's market. Hawthorne Eats was a terrific week for many local establishments and truck vendors as well. FIFA Murals adorn the community, and the influx of visitors is being handled quite well. In sum, there is good, a lot of good since January. There also has been, at times, a level of bickering among Council members that left the jaws of many on the floor. Let's hope decorum and civility prevail. More gets done when that is the case, and the July 14th meeting was indeed productive and cordial.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department provided a detailed update, including Fire Chief Anthony C. Marrone. There are three stations in Hawthorne, with twelve personnel each day and three different shifts. Many calls are for medical emergencies. A program that began in 2023, the Advanced Practitioner Unit, has treated 2,740 patients. It is staffed by an Advanced Provider Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant, as well as a Firefighter Paramedic. Paramedics can now give a blood transfusion before the patient arrives at the hospital. Of the three stations in Hawthorne, the Chief acknowledged that one (Station 162) needs real improvement, and the Fire Department is working with City Manager Von Norris to seek to make

it a lot better.

DJ Torado came forward, as he has periodically this year. DJ is with the Public Works Department, and part of the team dealing with the City's effort to resolve thorny parking issues throughout Hawthorne. Not surprisingly, many are not happy, including businesses that insist it is hurting them and their employees. Several of the programs currently underway are pilot programs. On Hawthorne Boulevard, it was indicated that one-hour parking is 35 cents, with a \$3 maximum per day.

Mayor Vargas supports the efforts being made to address the parking issues. He said something, however, that might be a bit too terse: "Make better pizza!" The implication is if you have a shop, perhaps a restaurant, and customer traffic is less now because of paid parking, do not blame it on the parking expense; instead, make better food. This remark could be a bit hard for some

businesses to stomach, no pun intended. The good Mayor does not seem to have hands-on experience with operating a business.

Police Sergeant Thu Vu next spoke about the Department's successful and admired drone program. He showed video samples of the myriad advantages the drones provide. Also, we saw where the drones take off from, namely the roof of the Police Department. We were provided visuals of what the drones send back to the station, and that one drone can replace the other if its battery gets low. Sergeant Vu further shared that the time to the scene is only about 90 seconds, and this past month over one hundred flights were flown. Notably, work is underway to establish other drone sites in other parts of the City, to get to the scene in just one minute. Bottom line: Kudos!

Many people came forward during the public comment section of the meeting. Parking concerns were significant. Two who

See City Council, page 4



County Fire Department Presentation. Image provided by Ron Sokol.

Sports

The World Cup on Two Wheels

By Tommy Vinh Bui

Catch that fervor. That maniacal World Cup fever that has embroiled the Westside and completely engulfed the Southland in high-decibel cheers and jeers at the near-misses and perplexity of mandated hydration breaks mid-action. The World Cup is a complex can of worms. It's kind of like marmite. You either love it or hate it or are vastly indifferent to its wiles.

And I find myself disoriented and oscillating throughout the love-hate spectrum of the World Cup. Try as I might to remain neutral to the travails and fortunes of my dear city whenever a major sporting event juggernauts its way into our zip code. But my lens isn't solely trained on the anthropological impact of the runaway spectacle that is the World Cup. No, my interests are more multimodal and zeroed in on the mobility angle. In a city that's perpetually already choked in gridlock and mind-numbing congestion, how did we manage not to overstress an already strained transportation infrastructure?

I donned my investigative hat and endeavored to get to the bottom of this pressing quandary. I wanted to learn more about a city that manages more than 350 miles of bikeways and an ever-robust and expanding cycling infrastructure. Yet in Los Angeles, only about 1.2% of residents commute via bicycle. And that struck me as preposterously woeful and warranted further scrutiny, especially so during a major cultural touchstone moment for the city like hosting a World Cup. So that meant somehow snagging a ticket to a match at SoFi Stadium and striving to find my way there in a manner relatively stress-free and without sinking a further small fortune to wend my way a mere few miles to the venue from my departure point of Marina del Rey.

A cursory assessment of options did not inspire optimism, what with the snail-slow traffic in and around Inglewood and the eye-wateringly exorbitant pre-purchase stadium parking prices. Metro mustered, and made, a mighty but ultimately meager attempt to bypass these challenges with frequent shuttle service to the stadium from various pickup locations strewn across the County. But these locations were far-flung and logistically unfeasible, so other contingencies had to be pursued.

Lo and eureka. The salvation to my transportation plight could be found on two wheels. My handy-dandy and trusty pedal-propelled steed indeed: A bicycle. And suddenly all these parking and traffic congestion contretemps evaporate swiftly and presto: Tally-ho and away we go. Sure, there was a little trepidation when I threw my leg over that saddle and aimed my handlebars westward on the afternoon of the match. There were the ever-pervasive safety concerns as I wobbled along Manchester Boulevard, slaloming and sharing the road with the imposing mechanical menagerie of dizzy Waymos, Ubers akimbo, and the dime-a-dozen dead-eyed commuters mired in unforgiving gridlock.

But the benefits of bicycling to the game far outweighed these relatively minor concerns. The uninterrupted glide to my destination was made all the sweeter as I whizzed by all the inert motorists marooned in place on traffic-laced Century Boulevard. At the stadium, the conveniently designated bike racks were free and easy to find. I anticipated it was a slight gamble to try to trek to the World Cup game on a dusty ol' Rockhopper. But once that dice was thrown and I managed to comfortably coast to an aggravation-free

See World Cup, page 6



Tommy at the World Cup. Photo courtesy of Tommy Vinh Bui.

The Future of U.S. Youth Soccer is Unfolding Right Here in L.A.

By Andre Sugden

Earlier this month, on Monday the 6th, the men in Red, White, and Blue played their final World Cup game of 2026, suffering an embarrassing loss to an experienced Belgium squad. Amid a controversy that teased the line of political corruption, and with the pressure of a nation on their backs, the lights were simply too bright for the Americans.

However, the biggest takeaway from the game came on the sidelines. On Fox Sports' postgame show, former French national team legend and now pundit Thierry Henry shed light on the true purpose of this 2026 World Cup squad. "Yes, there is the disappointment, but let's not stop pushing this sport in this country," Henry stated. "Do not stop believing here."

The French legend spoke the words that millions of kids around the nation need to hear. In a moment where conversations about U.S. soccer were fueled by disappointment

and loss, there needed to be a spark of hope. Henry also spoke to his own experience as a young French player, seeing his country fall short on the big stage throughout the late 80's and early 90's. He remembered thinking to himself, "I hope one day I'm going to be the guy [to] do it." And sure enough, in 1998, he was an integral part of France's World Cup-winning squad.

In the past decade or two, youth soccer in the U.S. has been on the rise. There are more club soccer players, more kids playing AYSO in the fall, and more families now see the potential that youth soccer holds.

Since 2014, more than 1,000 new soccer fields have been opened in L.A. County. At face value, this means more access to youth soccer than ever before. But when peeling back the curtain, it is apparent that access to soccer is anything but guaranteed. It comes with a cost, a cost that many families can't afford to pay.

See Youth Soccer, page 7



99% of youth soccer players in Southern California start at the AYSO level. Photo via AYSO Region 177.

“At the beach, time you enjoyed wasting is not wasted.”
– T.S. ELIOT

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Movies at the Pool Has Returned to Hawthorne



This past Friday we had the movie *Hoppers* playing in the background as families enjoyed the summer evening in the warm water. Come by on August 14th for our last Movie at the Pool featuring *How to Train Your Dragon*. Doors open at 7:00pm and movie begins at 8:00pm. Photo courtesy of City of Hawthorne Facebook page.

Check It Out

Sword Art Online by Reki Kawahara

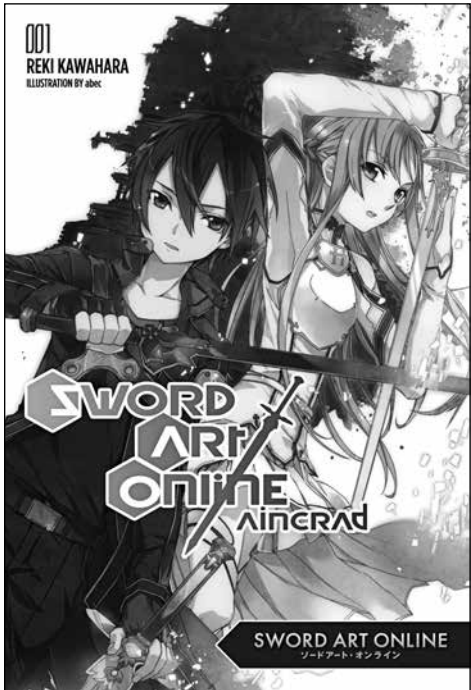
By Aaron Acuna, Library Assistant,
El Segundo Public Library

Deviating from my past reviews, which had all discussed works of manga, we have one of the most influential light novels of the last two decades: *Sword Art Online*. Initially, the premise of this story revolves around the unfortunate scenario in which ten thousand people become trapped in a virtual reality game against their wishes, where death in the game means death in real life, and the only escape is defeating each boss and completing the game. Through this journey, readers follow Kirito, a skilled yet reserved character who initially isolates himself to avoid the pain of losing those close to him, but eventually begins to open up with the help of Asuna, another capable swordswoman. While this initial story provides gripping action and emotional stakes,

it is but the start of a larger overarching saga that explores the implications of increasingly powerful technology and the impact it has on society. These future storylines introduce thought provoking themes about the psychological consequences of immersive digital worlds and the blurred line between human consciousness and artificial life.

Without a doubt, what I love most about *Sword Art Online* is the exploration of these themes and the consequences that may arise in real life, if or when technology reaches that technological point. Throughout time, there have been instances of misuse of technology and exploitation of peoples. The power that these types of technologies in the wrong hands is chilling to contemplate. Beyond the themes, what this series does so well is in its world-building, with each arc having a distinct and beautifully crafted world for the reader to immerse themselves in. All of these different worlds in the series have unique rules, cultures, and gameplay mechanics that keep the story feeling fresh.

See Check It Out, page 6



Sword Art Online by Reki Kawahara



Aaron Acuna

your business **YOUR NAME** your dreams



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Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

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CVUHSD Honors City Council for Partnership in Education



At the City Council Meeting, staff from Centinela Valley Union High School District, including Board President Hugo M. Rojas II and Superintendent Dr. Stephen Nellman, presented certificates to the City Council in appreciation for their continued support and partnership in advancing educational opportunities for CVUHSD students. Photo courtesy of City of Lawndale Facebook page.

City Council

from front page

came forward, however, Shawn and Jen, are heading up the already successful Hawthorne Certified Farmer’s Market. They thanked the City and provided details on how things are going so far, which is good. We also heard about the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Wiseburn Public Library, scheduled for August 12 from 4 pm to 7 pm. The Council is going to issue a Proclamation about it.

As is often true, many of the items on the Council’s detailed Agenda were passed without discussion. Council members have done their work ahead of time. The business of the City, involving a variety of topics from payments to be made to regulation of e-bikes, is voted on and approved. The Council’s Agenda is readily available online and worth a review so you can see firsthand the several wheels that are turning.

Kimberly Mack, Director of Hawthorne’s Housing Department, addressed Council

about the 55-year restrictive covenant which presently exists for Hawthorne’s owned affordable housing. There are presently 38 years remaining under the covenant. The City has begun renovating Hawthorne property, so Kimberly spoke to the Council about options regarding the 55-year covenant. It was agreed to restart it, so that there remain 55 years on decisions about the owned affordable housing. A future City Council will indeed be making some decisions.

When it came time toward the conclusion of the meeting for elected officials’ comments, City Clerk Dayna Williams-Hunter thanked intern Bridgette for her good work, praised the Police Department’s drone program as she is a remote pilot herself, and wished everyone a great summer.

Council member Angie Reyes English noted her daughter and two of her eight grandkids were present. Council member Katrina

Manning wished everyone a good summer. Council member Monteiro reminded folks that Vector Control can help if mosquitoes become a problem. Council member and Mayor Pro Tem Johnson expressed very serious concern about the noise and disruption caused by the fireworks around July 4. The Council voted to have the City Attorney promptly research the legalities of placing an item on the November ballot about the booming fireworks, or perhaps going forward with an ordinance. Member Johnson also asked the City Manager to look into the hours when Republic Services starts because 5:30 in the morning is rather early given the noise.

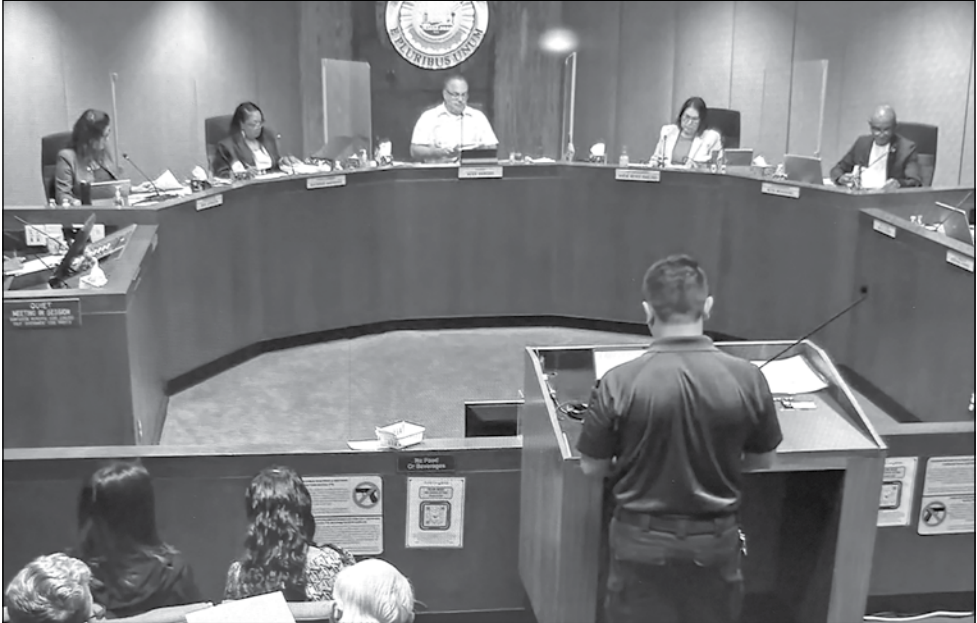
Mayor Vargas talked about events in the City, including movie night at the Community Pool, and Hispanic Heritage Week.

Then, some three hours from the start, the gavel sounded. Adjourned for now.

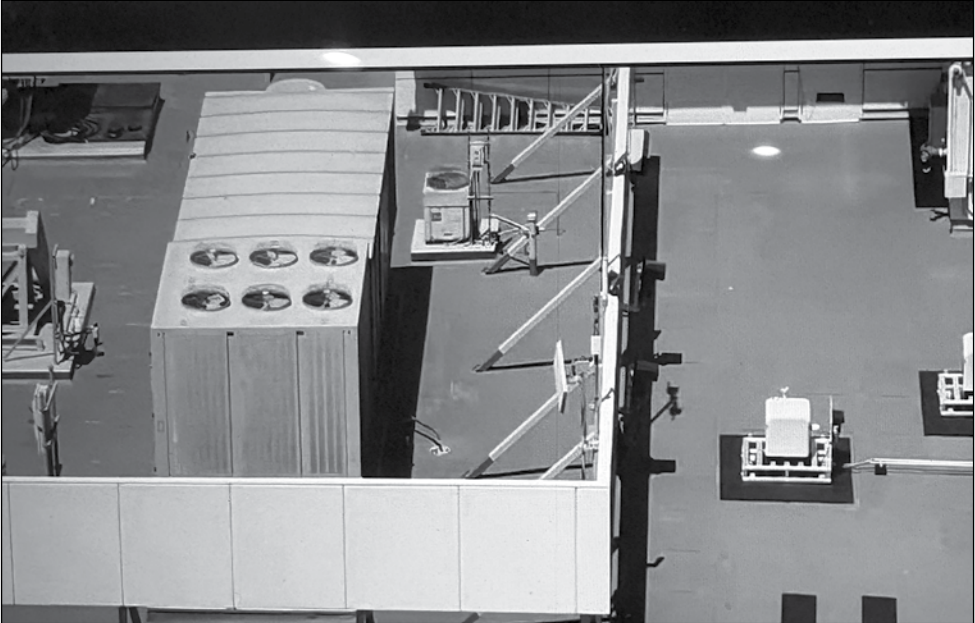
Back September 14. •



Housing Director Kimberly Mack.



Parking Issues Addressed.



Rooftop for the Drones. Images provided by Ron Sokol.

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Bridging Primary Care and Lifelong Wellness in the Heart of Torrance



Welcome to Torrance, Life Design Wellness Clinic. We are excited to have your family medicine clinic in the neighborhood. Wishing you continued success as you support our community's health and well-being. Photos courtesy of Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Finance

How Business Owners Balance Business and Personal Finance

(StatePoint) - For successful business owners, managing wealth extends far beyond balance sheets — it requires carefully orchestrating growth, balancing business and personal financial priorities, and thoughtfully considering business succession planning and legacy.

PNC's "Business Owner Wealth Insights Report" is the product of a partnership with leading market research firm, Ipsos, on a nationwide survey of business owners. Its findings center on four themes: connectivity between business and private banking, balancing business and personal growth, family dynamics and governance, and philanthropy and legacy.

"As business owners juggle growth, personal financial priorities, succession planning and legacy, the need for a truly integrated approach has never been clearer," said Don Heberle, head of PNC Private Bank. "This report shines a light on how prepared business owners are for navigating the complex intersections of business and personal wealth and the keys for unlocking stronger outcomes for families, businesses and communities."

Connectivity Between Business and Private Banking

For most business owners surveyed (67%), business and personal finances are managed

separately. Respondents believe there are potential risks associated with combining business and personal finances, with 83% saying that separating the two reduces the potential for conflicts of interest. Still, 89% say they are interested in receiving advice that considers both their business and personal needs, and 88% of respondents say they value having a dedicated advisor who understands both.

Business and personal goals are reviewed at similar intervals, with the majority saying they revisit their business goals (80%) and personal finance goals (75%) at least quarterly.

The Balance Between Business and Personal Growth

There is importance among business owners in finding the right balance between growing the business and achieving personal financial goals.

Most owners (91%) agree that achieving both personal and professional growth is equally important, but that success does not come without barriers, which include:

- Personal time and resources (53%)
- Financial constraints or market conditions (44%)
- Choosing between business reinvestment and personal use of the business' profits (35%)

See Finance, page 6

Garage Sale

2 bed/2 bath condo comes with charming living room. Now only \$199,000.

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Welcoming the World Together with a Safe and Historic FIFA 2026



Thank you to all the agencies who supported us during the FIFA 2026 tournament. A special thank you to the residents and businesses of Inglewood for demonstrating to the world that we are an exceptional city. Photo courtesy of Inglewood Police Department Facebook page.

Love Thy Neighbor

Dear South Bay Cities Neighbors,
We love the profiles we've done, and we've learned so much about South Bay City residents. We want to do more, so please keep the suggestions coming. With over 200,000 residents, we're sure there are some gems we may have overlooked or not been aware of them. Do you have a unique and interesting friend, neighbor, co-worker, colleague or student? All you have to do is ask their permission and send us their contact information. Of course, if you find yourself fascinating, you are welcome to send us your information too. 😊

– Best to you all. HM.
Send your suggestions in to letters@heraldpublications.com

Please have your nominee's approval before you submit them as a nominee.

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World Cup

from page 2

arrival intact, there was no regret.

The biggest bet was whether my bicycle would still be there after the match, or if I'd be returning to a dangling padlock and the spectral silhouette of where my bygone bike once was. But there it remained obediently anticipating my prodigal return. Raring and awaiting me at the final whistle. And a leisurely pedal homeward was just what I needed after a riotous and raucous ninety minutes of frenetic football action. Relief and respite (and overpriced stadium hot dog residue) coursing through the veins.

Hark, helmet affixed and with a wry grin steers me home past whimsical tree-lined Westchester, the whispering placidity of Playa Vista, and postcard-perfect Ladera Heights thoroughly selcouth in its perpetual soft dusk lighting. With Inglewood still inimitable as it diminishes behind me under the horizon and home just a few potholes and quick pedals away, hey.

Tommy Vinh Bui, MLIS is a Youth Services Librarian at the LA County Library •

Check It Out

from page 3

Despite its strengths, *Sword Art Online* has many flaws. First and foremost, and the most publicized criticism lies in its villains. The villains are underdeveloped, with many relying on sexual assault to create tension, causing the series to be difficult for some readers to enjoy. While it did not ruin the series for me personally, I can see why many are so turned off from it. Another complaint I, along with many others, share is the lack of content within the first arc. It was a brilliant concept that ended much too soon. Lastly, the supporting characters were often underdeveloped and felt lackluster when they were supposed to have their grand moments.

As one of the defining light novels of all time, *Sword Art Online* is worth the read and could become one of your favorite series. Check it out at the El Segundo Public Library today! •

Finance

from page 5

Family Dynamics and Business Governance

Most survey respondents (92%) agreed that it is important to have a formal governance structure for their business. Separately, 84% said succession and exit planning is critical to the continuity of their business. Yet, only 63% said they have a formal exit or succession plan.

Among those without a formal plan, top barriers identified include lack of a clear successor (25%), family conflict in succession (15%), and lack of time (19%).

Philanthropy and Legacy

Philanthropy plays a meaningful role in legacy planning. Two-thirds of respondents view philanthropy as part of their legacy, and 81% structure investment strategies to support charitable goals. Nearly 80% donate financially, and many involve family members — either actively (43%) or in future plans (26%).

“Today’s business owners are shaping legacy across generations,” Heberle said. “When business and personal strategies are aligned, they are better positioned to create lasting impact.”

– Source Provided by StatePoint Media, Inc. •



GUNDOGRAM

SUBMIT YOUR YUM DISH!!

Mai Tai

Provided by Liquor.com / People Inc.

Prep Time: 15 minutes | Total Time: 125 minutes | Servings: 12

The Mai Tai is one of the most famous tropical drinks in the world. Composed of rum, orange curaçao, fresh lime juice and nutty orgeat, it's beloved by decades of cocktail aficionados and Tiki enthusiasts. It even enjoyed a star turn in the Elvis film "Blue Hawaii."

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 ounces white rum
- 3/4 ounce orange curaçao
- 3/4 ounce lime juice, freshly squeezed
- 1/2 ounce orgeat
- 1/2 ounce dark rum
- Garnish: lime wheel
- Garnish: mint sprig

Directions

- **Step 1:** Add the white rum, curaçao, lime juice and orgeat into a shaker with crushed ice and shake lightly (about 3 seconds).
- **Step 2:** Pour into a double rocks glass.
- **Step 3:** Float the dark rum over the top.
- **Step 4:** Garnish with a lime wheel and mint sprig.

Send us a photo and recipe of your favorite dish. We'd love to share it with the community.
Send to: web@heraldpublications.com



Youth Soccer

from page 2

Soccer is the world's biggest sport for one major reason: accessibility. If you have a ball and two rocks, you can play anywhere and everywhere. Kids around the world can find open space in parks, on streets, indoors and outdoors, and play to their hearts' content. And when that passion grows, access to training and competitive youth leagues comes at a modest cost. That is not the case here in the U.S.

Club soccer alone costs families thousands of dollars, with private training being even more. The higher you go, the more expensive it becomes. This massive paywall makes development seem like a risk, rather than an opportunity. The ultimate losers are the millions of kids who wish to play at the highest level and who want to take our country to the top on the biggest stage.

One common option for kids around the U.S. the more recreational, ever-popular AYSO. Founded right here in the South Bay in the 90s, more than 150,000 youth soccer players start at the AYSO level. And even then, AYSO costs families hundreds of dollars per year in registration costs alone.

Often, Americans are quick to comment that if the U.S. committed our uber-athletic youth to soccer, we would dominate, and in some sense, that is correct. It isn't that we fail to commit kids to soccer; it is simply that other sports are more accessible to families across

the country. Thus, we've come full circle in the conversation about American soccer.

Pundits are asking the youth to commit themselves; the youth are asking the national team players to perform; and the national team players are asking for forgiveness. Yet no one is willing to answer the phone when progress is on the other line.

The story of soccer in America doesn't have to be defined this way, however; there are other ways to grow the world's sport in this country. Going out, finding a place to play with whoever is willing. And despite the conversations about the lack of accessibility, there are places around the country where the ability to play is being improved drastically.

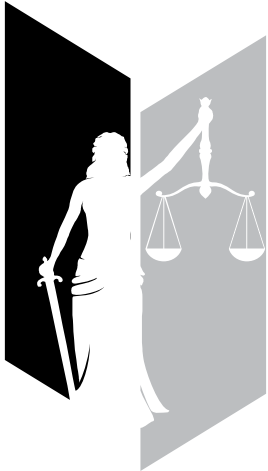
In New York City, Zohran Mamdani's administration implemented NYC Open Play throughout the duration of the World Cup. Five fields, one in every borough, open free of charge to the public well into the hours of the night. New York is actively promoting the beautiful game in the largest city in the U.S. Initiatives like this bring progress that much closer to being achieved.

The 2026 World Cup introduced millions of Americans to a sport that the world holds dear. This beautiful game, which connects billions of people around the world, can take hold in our country if the next generation is willing to work for it. •



New York showed up.

NYC Open Play's Nighttime Soccer was a highlight of this year's World Cup. Photo via @zohrankmamdani on Instagram.



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PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

Purrrfect Companions



Silas

Provided by Hannah Collett, spcaLA

Silas is a gentle German Shepherd with a sweet, soulful personality. He loves getting attention from staff and volunteers, trying out tasty treats, and learning new things. He is a smart boy who enjoys training games and walks nicely on leash, making him a wonderful companion. Could Silas be your Friend for Life? <https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-23147>. Meet **Cane**, a handsome Dogo Argentino mix with 75 pounds of love, energy, and personality! This sweet boy enjoys staying

active and spending time with our staff and volunteers. Cane is a strong pup, so he'll do best with someone who can keep up with his strength and enthusiasm. After an active day, his affectionate side shines through and he welcomes pets from his companions. If you're looking for a loyal, fun-loving companion with a heart as big as he is, Cane might be your perfect match. <https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-21142>. This beautiful girl is **Rosie**! Rosie has a silky black coat accented by an adorable white bib,



Rosie

making her just as stunning as she is sweet. She loves people and happily greets visitors with affection and curiosity. One of her favorite places in the cattery is the windowsill, where she can soak up the warm sunshine and watch the world go by. She's very social with other cats and enjoys their company, so she may do well in a home with a feline friend. Come meet her today! <https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-23500>. Meet **Piper**! This petite black and gray tabby kitten has endless energy and an irresist-

ibly cute personality. She came to the shelter with her siblings and now she's ready to find a loving home of her own. This playful girl loves to explore her surroundings, chase toys, and turn every moment into an adventure. After playtime, she's happy to curl up and take a well-deserved nap. Piper is spayed, microchipped, and ready to go home today! If you're looking for a sweet kitten to fill your home with laughter and love, Piper could be the one for you! <https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-23301>. •



Cane



Piper

“Opening up your life to a dog who needs a home is one of the most fulfilling things you can do.”
— EMMA KENNEY