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EX-UCONN STAR, NBA PLAYER ANDRE DRUMMOND

Interest in movie theater a mystery to Middletown

By Luther Turmelle
STAFF WRITER

Middletown Mayor Gene Nocera said Thursday that while his administration has no direct knowledge of former city resident Andre Drummond's plan to redevelop the former Metro Movies

building in the city's downtown, "it wouldn't surprise me that he wants to do something like this."

Nocera knows Drummond better than the average University of Connecticut basketball fans or the typical Middletown resident. He was Drummond's middle

school principal during the athlete's youthful years and the professional athlete attended Nocera's mayoral inaugural in June 2025.

"He really likes this community," Nocera said of Drummond. "But nobody in my office or in the economic development

office has heard anything from him or any of his representatives."

The former University of Connecticut basketball star and current member of the National Basketball Association's Philadelphia 76ers recently posted **Drummond continues on A6**



Matt Slocum/Associated Press

Former University of Connecticut star Andre Drummond has said on social media that he wants to buy the former Metro Movies theater building in Middletown.

MEN'S BASKETBALL NCAA Tournament

'That really did happen'

Braylon Mullins carves his own place in UConn, Elite 8 history

WASHINGTON — It's funny how exhilarating sports moments that have everything to do with timing tend to shatter the concept of time itself, how moments like the one Braylon

Mullins and the UConn men's basketball team put together Sunday evening can play out as an instantaneous blur or in slow motion, with thoughts either racing or frozen, as chaotic little capsules impossible to immediately dissect but eventually stamped so simply into history.

Mullins' buzzer-beater in '26. It ripped through the net around 7:20 p.m., capping a furious UConn comeback, pushing the Huskies into the Final Four with a 73-72 victory over Duke in the East Regional championship game. Surely, it jolted two states, one into a euphoric frenzy, one into a deep depression. Tobacco Road this morning is lined with the dazed and confused. Connecticut might still be shaking in ways that would register on the Richter scale.

"Sports," UConn coach Dan Anthony continues on A4



Emilee Chinn/Getty Images

Freshman guard Braylon Mullins celebrates on Sunday after he made the game-winning three-pointer with 0.4 seconds left in the second half of the UConn Huskies' Elite 8 victory over the Duke Blue Devils in the NCAA Tournament at Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C.

Livin' on a Brayer

Mullins' buzzer-beater completes comeback over Duke, sends UConn back to Final Four

By David Borges
STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON — Christian Laettner, meet Braylon Mullins. Mullins, the UConn men's basketball team's freshman guard, hit a 35-footer with 0.4 seconds left on Sunday to cap an incredible 73-72 comeback win over Duke in the East Regional finals and send the Huskies to their eighth Final Four. UConn (33-5) will face South Regional



Mullins

kid's going back to Indianapolis!" shouted Alex Karaban, whose record-breaking UConn career now moves on to its own **UConn continues on A4**

champion Illinois on Saturday at 6:09 p.m. (TBS/truTV) at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis — Mullins' hometown.

"The Indiana kid's going back to Indianapolis!" shouted Alex Karaban, whose record-breaking UConn career now moves on to its own **UConn continues on A4**



Emilee Chinn/Getty Images

UConn head coach Dan Hurley and his players celebrate with the Final Four trophy on Sunday after the Huskies defeated the Duke Blue Devils 73-72 in the Elite Eight.

Dairy farmers say they face low prices, high operating costs

By Ken Dixon
STAFF WRITER

Sharply rising operating expenses and low federally determined milk prices are threatening at least half of Connecticut's 79 dairy farms, many of which have been in business for generations, farm-

ers said as they testified Friday in support of legislation that would create \$20 million in tax credits.

"Milk pricing, driven by domestic and global supply and demand, has recently dropped by as much as 25%, putting generational dairy farms at risk of closure," James Jacquier,

a third-generation owner of Laurelbrook Farm with 1,500 milking cows in East Canaan, told the General Assembly's Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee on Friday afternoon.

"Connecticut dairy farms are projected to lose millions in 2026. Without action, the state could lose

nearly half of its dairy farms in the coming years. Swift implementation of this bill is essential," he said of the tax credits for milk producers.

Arthur Spielman IV, whose grandfather founded Spielman Farms 70 years ago in the town of Sprague with 780 milking

cows, appeared with Jacquier and others. Trucking costs for bringing in feed and fertilizer cost Connecticut dairy farmers \$1.4 million more than if they were located in Massachusetts, he said.

There are about 70,000 acres of working dairy farmland in the state, sup-

porting 2,600 jobs and creating more than \$2 billion in economic impact, said proponents. They pointed to a Massachusetts tax credit that began in 2008 that has been considered key in saving farms there.

In prepared testimony, Mary Margaret Smith, ex- **Farmers continues on A6**

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Weather: Warm, morning rain then breezy with a shower.
High: 77. Low: 54. **Page A10**