



## Defending state champions top list of athletes to watch

SPORTS, 1B

# York Daily Record

& THE YORK DISPATCH

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## A look inside Dover Area Middle School evacuation



Dover Area High School on March 23. PAUL KUEHNEL/YORK DAILY RECORD

Meredith Willse

York Daily Record

USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

Shortly after the school day began on March 12, a Dover Area Middle School staff member discovered something suspicious: A backpack tucked within the art room's open HVAC ductwork.

The backpack was high enough that authorities needed a ladder to access it, district Superintendent Catherine Houck told the York Daily Record, in the wake of the incident that prompted a mass evacuation of the school.

School students and staff were already on edge in the wake of a possible bomb threat the previous afternoon, an incident that led administrators to send out an alert to parents and guardians.

Dover Area staff sprang immediately into action with a 911 call at 8:58 a.m. and a full-scale evacuation, setting off a chain of events that drew tremendous scrutiny — and misinformation — on social media.

District staff, in an effort to clear up some of that misinformation and to highlight the efforts of educators and first responders, agreed to sit down with



Fire police direct drivers on Intermediate Avenue in front of Dover Area High School in Dover Township March 12. DAWN J. SAGERT/YORK DAILY RECORD

the Daily Record to share more details about what transpired that day.

"When it comes to student safety, we will always err on the side of caution," Houck said.

Schools across the U.S., and in York County, have reported an increasing number of threats — many of them false — since public schools reopened following the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the Educator's School Safety Network, K-12 schools nation-

wide reported 2,058 threats of violence during the 2024-25 school year, a 7% increase over the prior school year. Of those, 124 were so-called swatting incidents involving a false report.

In 2024, then-state Attorney General Michelle Henry noted that school threats were on the rise across the state, with many being attributed to social media pranks.

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## Man charged with alleged outbursts at council meetings

Anthony Maenza

York Daily Record

USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

A New Freedom man faces several misdemeanor charges for allegedly disrupting several borough council meetings in 2024 and 2025.

Devin Reece Taylor, 33, was charged on Wednesday, April 1, with disrupting a meeting, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest in connection with what police characterized as continued outbursts during borough meetings on May 13, 2024, Sept. 9, 2024, Oct. 21, 2024, Feb. 10, 2025, and Oct. 20, 2025.

According to court documents, Taylor was said to be out of order during those meetings using obscene words and disruptive behavior to interrupt those meetings.

On Oct. 20, 2025, Southern York County Police received a call from Taylor around 9:21 p.m. from the New Freedom Borough Office because he said he was being harassed.

When police asked what the problem was, Taylor said the entire council was the problem and can also be heard saying "I can't wait until you're fired."

Police said they were familiar with Taylor's behavior during borough meetings in the past. When officers arrived, Taylor wanted someone to be arrested inside the meeting room. Police say Taylor refused to come outside; they asked to speak to him, and he allegedly continued yelling at council members.

The borough council solicitor told police that Taylor was out-of-order and disruptive, using obscene language and bouncing around the meeting room.

When police advised he was under arrest, Taylor allegedly resisted officers and refused to comply. Police say he fought with officers and began kicking the meeting room door. Police say when Taylor continued to resist and

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## How will Trump's mail voting executive order affect York?

Mike Argento

York Daily Record

USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump signed an executive order that appears to empower the U.S. Postal Service to oversee mail-in voting.

The order, titled "Ensuring Citizen-

ship Verification and Integrity in Federal Elections," creates a complex system for processing mail-in ballots, allowing states to send lists of voters "to whom the State intends to provide a mail-in or absentee ballot" 60 days before any federal election and orders the postal service to deliver ballots from people only on what are considered approved lists.

The postal service also has to create "unique ballot envelope identifiers, such as bar codes" for those ballots.

The order is the second that Trump has issued attacking mail-in ballots, and, according to news reports, is certain to face a court challenge, based on the constitutional mandate that elections are the province of Congress and

the states, not the president. So far, courts have blocked Trump's efforts to attack mail-in voting, which he believes is fraught with fraud and permits illegal immigrants to cast ballots.

So, what does this mean to you as you consider applying for a mail-in ballot

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