

Rain forces parade cancellation (The News Journal)

Ceremony in Newark a damp one, but sun peeks through for DSU graduation

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Heavy rains slowed traffic Sunday evening, but it was the afternoon downpours that threatened outdoor events up and down the state, including the cancellation of Newark's Memorial Day Parade.

Before the scheduled parade, a memorial service for fallen soldiers was held in the rain outside Memorial Hall on the University of Delaware campus, with Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, U.S. Rep. Mike Castle and U.S. Sen. Joe Biden among those in attendance.

But once the service ended at 2 p.m., reports came in that the steady rain would soon turn into a downpour and the parade was canceled, leaving parade-watchers standing along Main Street waiting for a show that never came.

"It was quite unfortunate," said Newark Mayor Vance Funk, who held an umbrella over Minner's head during the soggy ceremony. "I've been very lucky in terms of rain at our events, but this one just didn't work out."

Things were different at the Kirkwood Soccer Club near New Castle, where none of the 35 games of the preliminary rounds of the Delaware Youth Soccer Association's Delaware State Cup tournament was rained out.

With the storm fast approaching, the final game of the day made it into the books.

"We were in the second half of the last game and one team was winning four to nothing and the lightning started flashing," said Alfred Bestwick, director of competition for the soccer association. "I asked the coaches if they wanted to call the game and they said, 'Yes.' By the

time we got to the parking lot, the skies opened up and dumped on everything."

Earlier in the day, a light rain fell at Delaware State University's graduation ceremony, causing umbrellas to pop open throughout Alumni Stadium in Dover.

Only three minutes later, however, the rain stopped as the sun came out from behind the clouds and the crowd cheered.

There is a 20 percent chance of showers upstate after 10 a.m. today. Downstate, a sunny day with a high of 68 is forecast.