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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Nor'easter tears across region



ANDREW BURKE-STEVENSON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

In a scene replayed throughout the region, Jean Euzerde Joseph (left) shoveled in front of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Below, snow gathered on a Marshfield home.

In Rhode Island, records from Blizzard of '78 tumble amid piles

By Steph Machado, Alexa Gagosz, and Carlos Muñoz

GLOBE STAFF

PROVIDENCE — For all the troubles the relentless blizzard of 2026 levied on other Northeastern states, none matched those experienced by Rhode Islanders.

The ocean-born storm essentially shut down the Ocean State Monday, prompting widespread school and business closures and a full travel ban, except for emergency vehicles. A state of emergency remained in effect as of Monday evening.

Rhode Island hit an all-time record for the most snow in 24 hours, as three feet fell, beating the previous record set during the Blizzard of '78.

"It's up to my waist," said Debra Folz, who owns a design studio in Providence. "I'll be here for days."

Rhode Island's congressional delegation asked President Trump for an emergency declaration to help recover from the historic storm.

"I grew up hearing about '78, this kind of lore," said Traci Picard, a local historian from Providence. "For another 50 years, we have a new standard."

RHODE ISLAND, Page A5

Excitement? Joy? Ha! For some working parents, snow days can be a nightmare.



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

By Kara Baskin

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Certain phrases strike fear into the heart of every parent: *Please check your child for head lice. We still need*

COMMENTARY

chaperones for a field trip to an ant farm 50 miles from civilization; the bus leaves at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow. And the biggie: School has been canceled due to weather conditions.

I maintain a Pavlovian response to snow day announcements: Excitement! Joy! A reprieve from daily life! This lingers from my 1990s childhood, when I'd listen to Dave Maynard on WBZ for the alphabetical list of school cancellations.

But, back in the 1990s, I wasn't a working parent.

For those of us who need to work and also have children, snow days are

PARENTS, Page A6

Ferocious storm leaves quarter-million residents in dark, prompts travel ban

By Danny McDonald and Ken Mahan

GLOBE STAFF

A historic bomb cyclone walloped the region on Monday, dumping more than two feet of snow on parts of southern New England, breaking snowfall records in Massachusetts, knocking out power to more than a quarter-million residents, and prompting the state's first travel ban in over a decade.

The first blizzard to hit New England since 2022 brought blinding snow and brutal winds, and even thundersnow, particularly to Cape Cod and the South Coast.

With 33.7 inches, Whitman set a record for a 24-hour snowfall total, according to the Globe's Weather Team. The previous record was held by Natick, which

NOR'EASTER, Page A6

Terminal trauma

Thousands of flights were canceled, stranding passengers in airports. **A5.**

Lights out

Power might not be restored for days in some hard-hit communities. **B1.**

From the editor: In an unprecedented decision, The Boston Globe will not print a paper for Feb. 24 delivery. **D1.**

A federal judge permanently barred the Justice Department from releasing a special counsel report detailing President Trump's mishandling of realms of classified documents. **A2.**

The slaying of a Mexican drug kingpin prompted bursts of violence in parts of the country, killing dozens. **A3.**

Much of US Olympic success had roots in Massachusetts. **C1.**

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The big dig

Tuesday: Clearing, windy. High 30-35, low 13-18.
Wednesday: Flurries, milder. High 38-43, low 26-31.
High tide: 3:52, 4:33.
Sunrise: 6:28. Sunset: 5:28.
Weather and comics, **D5-6.**
Obituaries, **C9.**

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Nan's cake, with a slice of divine mystery

After she died, her family took to her kitchen. It did not feel like goodbye.

BETH TEITELL

I went to see a family about a cake. But before you can understand why a cake matters in this busy world, even if it is coconut, with an airy, other-worldly frosting, first you have to know about the tomato sauce splatter, and the cardinal that alit on a fruit tree, and the cake's baker, Barbara Drago ("Nan" to her nine grand-children), who passed away just before Christmas, and who now may be, in the nicest way possible, haunting her family.

Actually, I guess I need to



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Robyn Davis frosted a coconut cake, made from her late mother's recipe, in Melrose.

say a bit about the cake first. In very brief: Drago learned to bake it at her mother's apron, growing up in Everett in the 1940s. The cake is tall, elegant, and not too sweet. It was for Easter only, and its recipe was secret.

It would have lived its life beloved, but in relative obscurity (typical for a cake), except that after some convincing, several years ago, Drago agreed to bake it for the Needham restaurant co-owned by her son Scott, 55, the youngest of her three children.

It hit the menu as "Nan's coconut cake" and was soon

BAKER, Page A10

