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# CAPE COD TIMES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | CAPECODTIMES.COM

THE CAPE AND ISLANDS' DAILY NEWSPAPER | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



A plow driver from the Harwich Public Works Department clears a Harwich road on Feb. 23 during a blizzard that is considered historic, with heavy snow and strong winds. PHOTOS BY MERRILY CASSIDY/CAPE COD TIMES STAFF

## Historic storm slams the Cape and Islands

Thousands without power after blizzard blankets area

Denise Coffey Cape Cod Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

"Stay off the roads and check on your neighbors."

That was the advice of Sonja Sheasley, communications manager for Barnstable County Regional Government, on Monday, Feb 23. The county had sent out three emergency reports since it became clear that a major winter storm would slam into the Cape and Islands beginning Sunday.

Predicted snow totals rose as the day went on Sunday and Monday morning, with Hyannis expected to see up to 33 inches of the white stuff before the storm is over Tuesday morning. Nantucket, previously spared the blizzard warning, also saw a rise in inch totals, catapulting from its initial 4-6 inches to a high-end expectation of 24 inches. On Monday, Martha's Vineyard was looking at a whopping 35-inch total.

The National Weather Service called road conditions "life threatening." The weather service warned that driving should only be undertaken in emergencies, that travelers should have a winter survival kit, and anyone stranded should remain with their car.



A tree fell across a Harwich road Feb. 23.

"This storm is now being described as historic," Sheasley said in a Monday morning phone call. "We have heavy snow and strong winds. We're in the thick of it. Stay off roads unless absolutely necessary."

Warming shelters opened at Nauset Regional High School in Eastham and at the Barnstable Elementary School with 18 AmeriCorps staffers there to

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## Detainee's mom is Schumer's SOTU guest

Son held over 250 miles from family's NY home

Eduardo Cuevas USA TODAY

NEW YORK - A Bronx mother whose eldest son was one of the first New York City students detained by federal immigration agents is Democratic Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer's personal guest to President Donald Trump's State of the Union, USA TODAY has exclusively learned.

As Trump is set to tout his achievements at his Feb. 24 address to Congress, including his administration's aggressive approach to immigration enforcement in the last year, Raiza Contreras is trying to show its effects on her three children and other migrant families, she said in an interview.

"It's an opportunity to at least bring

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## Cartel head's death leads to violence in Mexico

Sheinbaum says unrest has calmed, regular activities resume

Lauren Villagran and Kathryn Palmer USA TODAY

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Feb. 23 that normal activity had resumed following a day of violence in several regions of her country.

"Today, there is tranquility," she said, adding that peace had been secured and blockades largely cleared.

The unrest was triggered by the Feb. 22 killing of a powerful cartel leader in a military operation.

Nemesio Oseguera, commonly known as "El Mencho," was Mexico's most-wanted cartel leader, with a \$15 million bounty for information leading to his capture. He rose through

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Volume 90 | No. 42  
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