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South Jersey TIMES



CONFLICT SPREADS

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SAYS AN INSIDER COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD IRAN AS THE U.S. AND ISRAELI-LED WAR WIDENS, KILLING IRANIAN LEADERS AND SLOWING TEHRAN'S ATTACK. **C1**

PHILADELPHIA

From roots to shoots, flower show springs to life with nod to U.S. history



With the outdoors wet and gray, thousands of flowers both cut and live are lighting up the inside this week at the 2026 Philadelphia Flower Show. The 197th running of America's biggest (and the world's longest-running) indoor flower show covers 10 acres of Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th and Race streets. This year's theme is "Rooted: Origins of American Gardening." Many of the garden displays offer different takes on how gardens and gardeners of the past served as the "roots" that led to our gardens today, including native-American gardens that pre-date the arrival of European settlers, ancestral influencers of our gardening styles and the mentors who encouraged some of today's top designers. The show also features a huge amateur plant-growing competition, a marketplace of more than 200 vendors, dozens of gardening talks, an Artistic Gallery displaying the works of amateur and professional garden artists and hands-on activities such as flower-crown making and daily "potting parties." The show runs through Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Adult single-day admission ranges from \$43 to \$54. *George Weigel, for PennLive, Story on Page A3.*



FEDERAL COURT

Judge rips ICE over illegal transfers and other violations

Officials have offered no commitment to improve internal processes, training or supervision, order says.

Ted Sherman *NJ.com*

A federal judge has warned U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials they are edging closer to criminal contempt in the wake of continuing violations of court orders involving immigrants challenging their detention.

In a scathing 22-page ruling late Monday, U.S. District Judge Michael Farbiarz said the government will now be required to self-report any violation of a judicial order regarding the transfer or deportation of those swept up in the Trump administration's massive immigration enforcement efforts.

At the same time, he sharply raised the stakes for serious consequences in connec-

tion with noncompliance involving future illegal detentions.

"If there are future violations of a no-transfer injunction, even after the declarations requirement has been put in place, the ball will start off at a different place," Farbiarz said. "Further up the field; closer to the 'last resort' of possible criminal contempt proceeding."

He placed much of the blame for violations of court orders squarely on Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE.

"Local ICE leaders must square up to the serious problem in their midst of non-compliance with judicial orders. And they must get the problem solved," declared Farbiarz in the written order, noting that ICE "has said nothing" about how it intends to respond.

"Nothing about how it might improve its internal processes. Or its training. Or its supervision. Or how it might bring more resources to bear. Nothing as to the possible 'ready fix' identified by the court," the judge asserted. "No commitment to do anything at all. And no statement of 'regret.'"

ICE officials did not respond to a request for comment.

A Department of Justice spokeswoman said the government "is working in real time to execute on the administration's immigration enforcement policies while ensuring compliance with court orders. As is clear in the judge's opinion, there have been no willful violations of any orders in this district. Any reports otherwise would be false."

The U.S. Attorney's Office did not respond to requests for comment.

Farbiarz's ruling came after a court-ordered review of habeas cases in New Jersey last month revealed more than 50 orders by federal judges in connection with immigrants challenging their detention had been violated since early December 2025.

At issue in this particular case was the matter of Baljinder Kumar, who was being held in Delaney Hall in Newark and had challenged his detention without a bail hearing.

SEE IMMIGRATION, A2

STATEWIDE

At least 35 deaths in N.J. now linked to winter storms, extreme cold

Toll rose after late February blizzard, state says. Officials still working to confirm total.

Steven Rodas *NJ.com*

The torrent of 2026 winter weather has exacted a heavy toll.

The number of deaths in New Jersey following a barrage of storms and frigid single-digit days since January has increased to at least 35 people, state officials told NJ.com on Tuesday.

More work needs to be done by pathologists in order to finalize those figures, the state Department of Health said.

That toll is up from figures released in mid-February — at which point the state knew of at least 20 deaths preliminarily linked to multiple snowfalls and a series of cold snaps.

"Unfortunately, we lost 12 lives in New Jersey," health department spokeswoman Dalya Ewais said Monday of deaths specifically reported between Feb. 22 (when a blizzard hit the state) and Feb. 25. On Tuesday, state health officials said they learned of three more weather-related deaths between Feb. 25 and March 3.

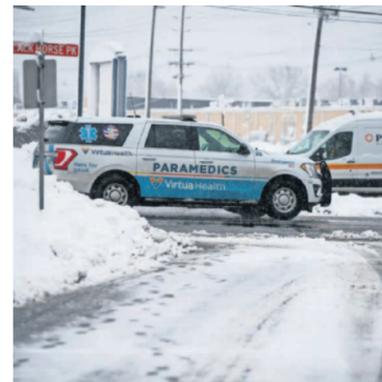
The 15 people who died amid the blizzard and extreme cold ranged from 30 to 90 years old, Ewais said.

In February, Ewais said most of the deaths were individuals found outside: in a vehicle, outside a home, in an unheated porch. A few of the deaths were "related to slips and falls, and a couple (involved) substance use," Ewais noted. At the time, she shared the youngest age of someone who was known (preliminarily) to have died due to the winter weather was 25.

"It's our unhoused population we worry about, especially in cities like Newark, because they often don't have access to warm inside environments," Timothy Satty, a professor and chief of the Division of Prehospital and Disaster Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, said Monday in a phone interview.

"So those people are particularly at risk, especially if they're having difficulty finding a shelter placement," he added. "The city and county do a lot of work to open emergency shelters, but even then, some

SEE TOLL, A2



Emergency vehicles drive during the Feb. 23 snowstorm on the Black Horse Pike in Haddon Township. *Joe Warner, for NJ.com*

NATION & WORLD

Senate grills Noem

Trump cabinet official defends portrayal of killed Minn. protesters as agitators. **C5**

NATION & WORLD

Closed-door questions

Lawmakers interrogate the Clintons about Epstein, pizzagate and UFOs. **C6**