



JERSEY PRIDE

N.J.'S ATHLETES DELIVERED HEART AND SOUL AT THE WINTER GAMES. FROM BREAKOUT DEBUTS TO MEDAL RUNS, THEIR GRIT GOES BEYOND A PLACE ON THE PODIUM, STEVE POLITI WRITES. **F2**

WEATHER

Fierce blizzard thrashes N.J.

A perfect storm: All the ingredients were there for maximum impact, forecasters say.

Still digging out: Crews spent hours working to restore power and transit service.

Staff and wire reports

The massive snowstorm that pummeled the region and snarled transportation across the state was indeed a blizzard — at least in some areas of New Jersey.

Meteorologists said the storm was the strongest in a decade, dumping more than 2 feet of snow in parts of the state and immobilizing nearly all modes of transit. Officials declared emergencies, schools closed and people grappled with power failures.

The nor'easter quickly intensified to easily qualify as a “bomb cyclone” and featured thundersnow. And while it was paralyzing and potentially dangerous for millions along the Eastern Seaboard, meteorologists found themselves rhapsodizing over its combination of power and beauty.

The storm hit the “Goldilocks situation” of just the right temperature for wet, heavy snow — any warmer and its precipitation wouldn’t have fallen as snow. Any colder and there wouldn’t have been as much moisture in the air to feed that snowfall, said Owen Shieh, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service’s Weather Prediction Center in Maryland.

It also followed the ideal track for maximum snowfall. A little farther inland and it would have lost its warm ocean energy; a bit farther out to sea, and the heaviest snow would have fallen over the water, said Jeff Masters, co-founder of Weather Underground and now a meteorologist at Yale Climate Connections.

“I’ve always been fascinated about how Mother Nature figures out how to put all the pieces together in order to maximize the most extreme outcome,” said private meteorologist Ryan Maue, a former chief scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “I think you could make a pretty good case that this is on par with some of the most impressive blizzards in history.”

In New Jersey, the heaviest snow accumulations were initially concentrated in central and southern portions of the state, but by Monday afternoon the brunt of the storm shifted to northeastern counties.

In Bergen County, Carlstadt was buried under 27.9 inches of snow, while nearby Englewood and Bogota reported 27.5 and 27.4 inches, respectively.

Newark Liberty International Airport measured 27.1 inches of snow.

Monmouth and Ocean counties also were **SEE STORM, A4**



People walk Monday on Broadway in Bayonne amid blizzard-like conditions. *Reena Rose Sibayan, for NJ.com*



New Brunswick residents dig out vehicles. *Patti Sapone, NJ.com*



A couple walk a dog in Long Beach. *Jim Lowney, for NJ.com*

WEATHER

Storm chews up Shore

The snowstorm chewed up the New Jersey coastline and left beaches damaged and streets flooded Monday. **A4**

LAWRENCE

‘Step forward’ for Rider

Rider University said it has taken a key step forward as it seeks to emerge from a financial crisis after layoffs. **A3**

BAYONNE

Jersey couple supported Trump — then one of them was detained

President’s immigration policy has “ruined our lives,” wife says.

Ande Richards *NJ.com*

Abdellatif Hafraoui sits at a small dining table in the Bayonne apartment he shares with his wife, Sandra, sipping his morning coffee — a ritual unchanged over their 15 years of marriage.

Since August, however, that routine has been shadowed by months in ICE detention and the black ankle monitor now strapped around his leg.

The couple paid a \$15,000 bond for his

release just before Thanksgiving. Abdellatif spent 108 days detained — from Aug. 11 to Nov. 26 — after ICE agents arrested him at Newark Liberty International Airport. His Moroccan passport remains in government custody while his immigration case proceeds.

“I would like to go back to work, to feel normal again,” Abdellatif, 60, said. “To have my life back without all this fear and uncertainty.”

As of late December, 70,805 people were in ICE detention nationwide, according to USAFacts, a nonprofit that compiles government data. Various reports have found that only a small percentage of detainees have criminal records.

Immigration attorneys say many detainees, like Abdellatif, have longstanding ties to the United States and are caught in years-old removal orders triggered by missed court dates or paperwork errors.

Abdellatif is among those detained despite having no criminal record.

The Hafraouis were headed to Fort Myers, Florida, for a two-week getaway — their first time away in years.

They never made it past the terminal.

As they prepared to board their early-morning flight at Newark, three men in plain clothes and a woman wearing a lanyard with a badge approached them. The woman identified herself as an ICE agent. **SEE BAYONNE, A2**



Abdellatif Hafraoui and his wife Sandra recount his harrowing experience in ICE custody. *Ian Peters, for NJ.com*