



## STATE OF THE UNION

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP IS HEADING TO CAPITOL HILL THIS WEEK TO DELIVER THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS. TRUMP WILL SPEAK TONIGHT BEFORE A TRANSFORMED NATION. **A5**

### STATEN ISLAND

# Blizzard blankets borough

**Left in a whiteout:** The storm extended through much of the northeast region.

**'Classic bomb cyclone':** High winds and heavy snow brought down trees and wires.



A person walks along Woodrow Road near Alverson Avenue on Monday. Photos by Owen Reiter, Advance/SILive.com



The intersection of Hylan Boulevard and Guyon Avenue is buried under snow early Monday morning.



An MTA snow plow clears the way on Arthur Kill Road in Charleston during the snowfall.

#### Staten Island Advance Staff

A relentless blizzard hammered Staten Island into late Monday morning, dumping well over a foot of snow across the borough and grinding daily life to a halt.

Whiteout gusts cut visibility to just a few blocks, rail service was suspended, and cars were left stranded on major roads as plows struggled to keep up with the fast-falling snow.

The National Weather Service called it a "classic bomb cyclone" — the rapid strengthening of a storm, which sends the barometric pressure plunging, that produces widespread heavy snowfall, rapid snowfall rates and high winds.

The storm extended through much of the northeast region. Thousands of flights were canceled, schools were closed, more than half a million customers were without power.

Advance staffers were out starting at 4 a.m., reporting on conditions that rapidly deteriorated. At the time, there was about 10 inches of snow on the ground.

By the afternoon, the Department of Sanitation reported 28 inches as measured at its Staten Island garages. City officials, during an afternoon update on the storm, said 24 inches of snow fell on the East Shore, and they had to deploy extra Department of Sanitation equipment and the NYPD Tow Truck Task Force to move snow and free stuck vehicles, including city buses.

#### GETTING AROUND WAS TOUGH

Most Islanders stayed home.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani banned non-essential vehicles from public streets after 9 p.m. Sunday, as part of the city's state of emergency. The ban was lifted as of noon Monday, according to a post on X, but "we continue to advise New Yorkers to stay safe and stay indoors as much as possible," the mayor said.

Those who had to venture out found vehicles stuck on the West Shore Expressway and Korean War Veterans Parkway, among other roads. Lane markings were not visible and vehicles attempting to pass one another are coming closer than they normally do.

"Visibility is still really poor," said reporter Mike Matteo at around 6:40 a.m. from an Oakwood intersection. He noted that the snow was very powdery — and was easily blown around. "The only thing I can really see are the street lights and traffic signals and that's only for a few blocks before I lose sight of them."

MTA buses were operating on a winter weather schedule, with local service on limited routes and "a lot of detours," said Janno Lieber, CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), during an interview on ABC7.

According to emergency radio transmissions around 10:40 a.m., several city buses were stuck at Castleton Avenue and Jewett Avenue in Port Richmond. Around 11:30 a.m., S78 buses were detoured in both directions due to icy roads at St. Paul's Avenue **SEE BLIZZARD, A3**

### STATEN ISLAND

## Pols blast mayor's decision to open public schools Tuesday

*Schools Chancellor said the decision came after discussions with school teams around the five boroughs who had been working to clear the snowfall.*

**Paul Liotta** [pliotta@siadvance.com](mailto:pliotta@siadvance.com)

Borough elected officials blasted the mayor for his plan to reopen public schools on Tuesday, especially on hard-hit Staten Island.

In a press conference Monday afternoon,

Mayor Zohran Mamdani said that the city's public schools would be open for in-person learning Tuesday. Monday was a traditional snow day.

"I hope our students enjoy their snow day today and stay warm and safe throughout, but I do have some tough news to share," Mamdani said. "School will be in-person tomorrow. You can still pelt me with snowballs when you see me."

At the same time, Mamdani reported that much of the city saw well over a foot of snow with Staten Island's East Shore among the hardest hit, with about two feet.

Many of the Island's roads are simply impassable, said Borough President Vito Fossella.

"Simply put, the city dropped the ball

getting ready for this storm," he said. "And now, Staten Island is completely inundated .... People have to walk in the middle of the street because the sidewalks are completely blocked by at least two feet of snow."

The right move, said Fossella, would have been to "keep schools closed, keep families and kids safely at home and give the hardworking men and women at [the Department of] Sanitation the time and resources they need to get us back to normal."

Echoing Fossella's concerns were state Sen. Andrew Lanza (R-Staten Island) and the borough's delegation to the City Council — members Kamillah Hanks (D-North **SEE MAMDANI, A2**

### SPORTS



## NHL's Olympic return

The return of NHL players to the Olympics after a 12-year absence lived up to the hype and sets the stage for the 2028 World Cup of Hockey. **B1**

