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# Boston bartender Chris Laudani clears snow from Boston Marathon finish line as Massachusetts begins blizzard cleanup

Tuesday's monster blizzard battered the Bay State, dumping as much as 3 feet of snow on some towns and whipping the coast with winds of nearly 80 mph. The storm forced the court system to cancel jury selection Tuesday and Wednesday in the Boston Marathon bombing case, while proud Bostonian Laudani dug out the Boylston St. finish line, tending to the city's collective wound.

BY MEG WAGNER, JASON SILVERSTEIN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 9:09 AM

288

64

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PHILIP L. HILLMAN

'Someone took the time to go out on Boylston & shovel out the @BostonMarathon finish line. #BostonStrong.'



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Boston got nearly two feet of snow during Tuesday's monster blizzard — but not an inch remains on the Boston Marathon finish line.

As the city dug out Wednesday, a proud Bostonian shoveled the "Finish" line marker on Boylston St. — a reminder of Boston tending to its collective wound as the feds prepare to try accused bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

The mystery man became an instant local legend, with Bostonians starting a hashtag "#whoshoveledthefinishline" to give the guy due credit. Even the Boston Police Department chipped in with a tweet.



He was eventually identified as Chris Laudani, a bartender at the Back Bay Social Club restaurant.

The restaurant proudly revealed his name in a tweet to Boston.com.

It said: "The marathon finish line shoveler was Christopher Laudani! He borrowed our shovel to do it!"



Boston Police Dept. @bostonpolice

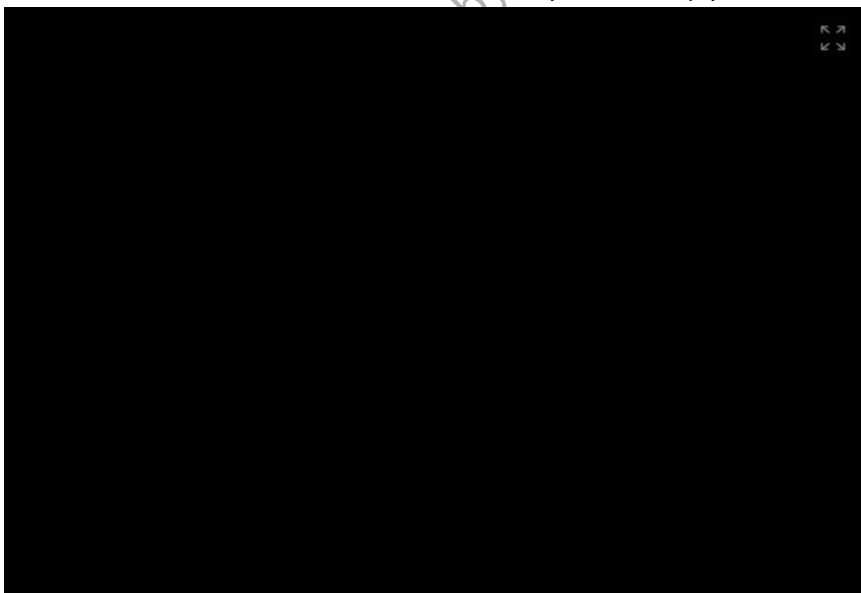
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Help Boston solve a #BlizzardOf2015 mystery. #WhoShoveledTheFinishLine? #BostonStrong 12:28 PM - 28 Jan 2015

2,180 1,537

Once the secret was out, Laudani told Boston magazine: "I only did it to send a message. I love the Boston Marathon and everything it stands for, the finish line doesn't deserve to be covered in snow."

The storm, which spared New York City the fury it unleashed on Boston, forced the court system to cancel jury selection in the



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Denise Young, a nursing supervisor at Massachusetts General Hospital, adjusts her hood while walking to work Tuesday.

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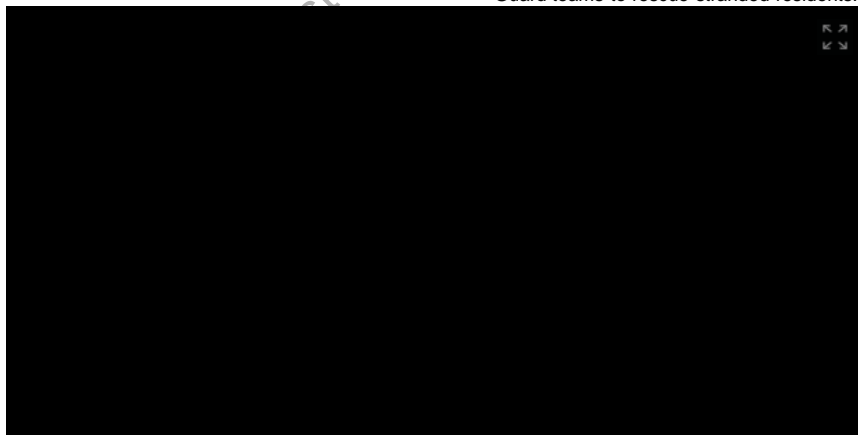
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Wednesday.

The fierce blizzard brought near-record snowfall totals in Boston and some parts of Massachusetts eclipsed the 2-foot mark.

The state lifted a statewide vehicular travel ban Tuesday night.

In the coastal town of Scituate, storm surge knocked a hole in a seawall, [flooding oceanfront properties](#) and forcing National Guard teams to rescue stranded residents.



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The National Guard rescues Erin Masyczek from her home in Scituate, Mass., Tuesday.

The Guard made at least six rescues after the town's seawall allowed up to 5 feet of water to inundate roads, homes and businesses, [the Boston Globe reported](#).

Erin Masyczek was trapped inside her waterfront home with her boyfriend when high tide hit.



Massive snow storm hits NYC, Northeast

"It was surreal," she [told NBC News](#). "To be in need of the National Guard and have people there willing to have beet-red faces, absolutely drenched in waist-high water to come get me was really humbling."

The storm battered Massachusetts' offshore islands with hurricane-force winds. The entire island of Nantucket lost power following a 78 mph gust. Neighboring Martha's Vineyard was buffeted with winds that blew as hard as 72 mph.



The blizzard dumped more than 2 feet of snow on parts of Cape Cod by Wednesday morning. More than 23 inches of snow coated Boston's Logan Airport by Tuesday night, while Worcester got 26 inches, and Auburn, Lunenburg and Hudson each reported 36

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STEVEN SENNE/AP

A snow shoveler tries to clear a spot in the middle of a city street beside snow-covered vehicles during a winter snowstorm in Boston.

inches — tops in the state.

More than 500 flights were canceled Wednesday as New England undertook the task of cleaning up the wintry mess. About 7,600 flights were canceled nationwide Monday and Tuesday.

New York City **suffered merely a glancing blow**, getting roughly 10 inches of the white stuff — well short of forecasts that predicted an “historic” snowfall of up to 3 feet. Some meteorologists even **apologized for their swing-and-a-miss forecasts**.

New York City **banned non-emergency vehicles from the roads** and canceled subway service for hours ahead of the storm, precautions that deprived the city of an **estimated \$200 million** in economic

activity.

Mayor Blasio said New York will look at whether storm preparation procedures could be improved, but he added: “You can’t be a Monday morning quarterback on something like the weather.”



Kirk-Davidoff: Why the big storm forecast seemed off

Wednesday dawned bitter cold but sunny in New York City, with rain and snow predicted for Thursday and Friday. The weekend is also expected to be snow-free.



Blizzard likely leads to \$200M hit to city economy: experts

The only winter storm watch still in place Wednesday was for northern Maine, according to the National Weather Service.

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