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Courier News

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 | MYCENTRALJERSEY.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Hunterdon doubles down on expanding shared services

MyCentralJersey.com

The Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners will host a Municipal Collaboration Breakfast on Friday, March 27, at 8 a.m. at Razberry's Banquet Center in Kingwood Township.

The event will bring together elected officials and community leaders from all 26 county municipalities to discuss shared services, economic development and intergovernmental cooperation.

Commissioner Director John Lanza

said the breakfast is intended to strengthen partnerships between county and municipal governments.

"This breakfast provides an opportunity for local leaders to connect, exchange ideas and explore ways we can continue working together to support our municipalities and residents," Lanza said. "By highlighting county programs, services and resources, we can strengthen collaboration and help ensure our communities remain vibrant and well-supported."

Invitations were extended to municipal officials as well as Main Street

and downtown merchant association leaders. Discussion topics will include economic development and tourism initiatives, services offered through the County Senior Center and a new Municipal Lending Program from the Hunterdon County Improvement Authority.

County officials said the breakfast reflects Hunterdon County's ongoing "New Era of Partnership" initiative, aimed at strengthening communication, expanding shared services and supporting municipalities through coordinated efforts.

Hope and fear

Anxiety spreads in NJ Iranian and Jewish communities

Hannan Adely

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

As news broke that the United States had launched military strikes across Iran, anxiety rippled through New Jersey's Iranian and Jewish communities, many members of which have deep ties to the region and worry about safety and prospects for peace.

U.S. military forces, aided by Israel, launched "major combat operations" on Feb. 28 to halt the country's military and nuclear program and end its regime, President Donald Trump announced. Iran responded by launching missiles and drones toward Israel and U.S. military bases in the region.

By midday, the Iranian Red Crescent reported that at least 200 people had been killed and more than 700 wounded. Those killed included Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's longtime leader known for his repressive rule and anti-Western

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Relentless winter takes toll on morale



A woman walks on York Street in Jersey City on the morning of Feb. 23. More than a foot of snow had blanketed the city before noon. KEVIN R. WEXLER/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Recent brutal weather has many feeling seasonal blues

Gene Myers

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

In New Jersey, we've endured wave after wave of snow and cold this winter, with monster storms and temperatures plunging below freezing.

For many, the impact isn't just physical. It's psychological.

Seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, afflicts about 5% of U.S. adults in a given year, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. But even those without the diagnosis can feel worn down by the cold, limited daylight and repeated storms.

Snow changes behavior. People go outside less, cancel plans and become

more sedentary.

Erica C. Reiff, a psychologist at Hackensack University Medical Center, said many people are coming to her for help.

"Just the lack of daylight can automatically make people feel more tired and more sluggish," she said. "You feel like you can't do as much."

For Parsippany's Eric Dalzell, 41, the winter has felt relentless.

"This has been unbelievable," Dalzell said. "I like the cold, but this is getting absolutely ridiculous - too much snow."

The weather has gotten in the way of something important to Dalzell: his daily walks.

"I like to go for walks - five, six, seven-mile walks - and it's really difficult to do when it's bitterly cold and there's snow

all over the place."

If he had to describe the season in one word?

"Brutal."

Edgardo Ramos, 40, moved to Totowa a couple of weeks ago. He still hasn't seen his yard.

"I just moved to a new house," Ramos said. "I don't know what the grass looks like. It's all covered."

The storms have also affected his work. Ramos delivers food for DoorDash and said service has shut down this winter because of the bad weather.

"They've actually had to shut down twice, which never really happens," he said. He's also had to take time off to

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Political Stile

Charles Stile

USA TODAY NETWORK

Gottheimer won't back use-of-force resolution

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries still plans to seek a vote by the full House this week on a bipartisan resolution that would force President Donald Trump to seek authorization from Congress before the attack on Iran escalates into a protracted conflict.

Jeffries took that position before the Trump administration launched the "Operation Epic Fury" attack on Iran on Saturday, Feb. 28, and he will attempt to seek a vote this week.

U.S. Rep. Josh Gottheimer will not be voting for it.

Before the start of hostilities, Gottheimer, the Bergen County Democrat who represents New Jersey's 5th Congressional District, issued a joint statement with fellow Problem Solvers Caucus member Rep. Mike Lawler of New York, a Republican, arguing that the resolution would handcuff the Trump administration in high-stakes negotiations with Iran.

"Oversight and debate are absolutely vital," Gottheimer and Lawler wrote. "However, this resolution would restrict the flexibility needed to respond

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