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# Daily Record

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026 | DAILYRECORD.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Sherrill calls out NJ Transit for customer complaints

**Colleen Wilson**

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

SECAUCUS – NJ Transit customers have a long list of improvements they would like to see addressed, such as fixing the unreliable real-time app data, re-opening closed escalators, making neglected station repairs, and providing cleaner facilities and vehicles.

Gov. Mikie Sherrill has taken note and is directing the agency to come up with a plan to address those

complaints in 45 days.

“Today I’m signing an executive order, the first of many steps I’ll be taking to build a better NJ Transit, a better system with better service, a better rider experience,” Sherrill said at a March 24 press conference where she signed executive order No. 16. “We’re starting with the things we can fix right away.”

That list of improvements is expected to include:

- A plan for repairs to station escalators and elevators.
- Brighter station lighting.

- Improved signs.
- More thorough cleaning of buses, trains, stations and stops, including extra cleaning blitzes.
- Overhauling the NJ Transit app and website and improving live bus and train updates.

Sherrill said the plan will be due to her in May, and then riders should expect to see “immediate results this year.”

In addition to what she heard from residents on the

**See NJ TRANSIT, Page 3A**



**Food being organized to be picked up at the Table of Hope and Morris Habitat for Humanity free mobile food distribution at the Morris Habitat Restore in Randolph on July 8, 2020.** NORTHJERSEY.COM STAFF FILE

## Finances suspend Morris food distribution to needy

**William Westhoven**

Morristown Daily Record

USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

One of Morris County’s most valued providers of groceries and hot meals for needy families has temporarily suspended operations.

The Morristown-based Table of Hope community kitchen and mobile food pantry announced on March 24 that “with deep regret, due to ongoing financial challenges, rising operational costs and increased community demand, Table of Hope will temporarily suspend all services and programs effective March 23.”

Founded in 2011 at Bethel Church of Morristown, “For 15 years, Table of Hope has proudly served our region by providing hot meals, weekly groceries, and supportive programs for children and families in need.”

“This was not a decision made lightly. We understand the hardship this may create for the many individuals and families who rely on our services, as well as for our staff, volunteers, and community partners. This temporary suspension is a necessary step as we work to stabilize, strengthen, and realign our organization for the future,” the group stated.

The statement referred those in need of food assistance or supportive services “to connect with other trusted community resources,” including:

- Market Street Mission, 10 Bank St. Morristown Phone: 973-993-2871
- Interfaith Food Pantry, 2 Executive Dr., Morris Plains Phone: 973-538-8049
- Nourish NJ, 36 Sussex Ave., Morristown Phone: 862-397-0030
- St. Margaret’s Food Pantry, 6 Sussex Ave., Morristown Phone: 973-538-0874



**The Table of Hope mobile food pantry bus is stocked with food for delivery to a food distribution event in Parsippany on April 17, 2020.**

PROVIDED BY PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS

Bethel Church Senior Pastor Rev. Sidney Williams cofounded the Spring Street Community Development Corporation and Table of Hope with his wife, Teresa Williams, who served as its co-director. A Table of Hope bus converted into a mobile food pantry became a lifeline to many needy Morris County residents during the COVID pandemic.

The organization also sponsored other community initiatives, including backpack giveaways for students. It first alerted the public to the need for more donations in 2024 to meet increased costs and demand. At the time, Table of Hope was serving about

**See FOOD, Page 3A**

## Trump admin targets NJ on abortion access

**Katie Sobko**

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

The federal government is investigating New Jersey’s abortion access laws, according to a March 19 announcement from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The investigation, from the DHHS’ Office for Civil Rights, is to determine if New Jersey and 12 other states are “coercing health care entities to provide coverage of, or pay for, abortion contrary to conscience” under something called the federal health care conscience law or the Weldon Amendment.

This provision allows for people and health care entities to opt out of providing abortion care and other treatments on the grounds of religious or moral objections with legal protection.

The civil rights office updated their understanding of the Weldon Amendment earlier this year to include protection for employers and plan sponsors within the category of health care entities.

In a statement, Paula Stannard, director of the DHHS Office for Civil Rights, said these investigations are launched to “address certain states’ alleged disregard of, or confusion about, compliance with the Weldon Amendment.”

They did not cite any specific complaints as having provoked the investigation.

In a letter to the state’s Department of Banking

**See ABORTION, Page 3A**

## District 11 special election candidates agree to a debate

**John Connolly and William Westhoven**

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

The candidates to fill Gov. Mikie Sherrill’s seat in Congress will have a debate after all.

It was announced on Tuesday, March 24, that Democratic nominee Analilia Mejia and Republican Joe Hathaway will square off on April 1, two weeks before the April 16 special election to fill the 11th District seat in the House of Representatives.

The news came after Mejia turned down an offer from the League of Women Voters for a debate with Hathaway. The April 1 debate will be sponsored by the New Jersey Globe and the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics at Rider University.

“Thrilled that we are finally getting the opportunity to debate. You won’t want to miss this one,” Hathaway posted on Facebook. “It’s game time.”

Mejia campaign spokesperson Alvaro Perpuly confirmed that the campaign had agreed to the New Jersey Globe debate, saying that unlike the League of Women Voters, “they did show us a list of moderators

**See DEBATE, Page 3A**

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