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SPORTS, 1B

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Vince Tacconelli, co-owner and chef of Tacconelli's Pizzeria in Maple Shade, makes a pizza in the kitchen of his restaurant in this file photo. CHRIS LACHALL/COURIER-POST

A slice that's nice

A taste of some of South Jersey's top pizza spots

Celeste E. Whittaker Cherry Hill Courier-Post | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Most people love a good slice of pizza — it's one of those things that can be a natural high in life, especially on a Friday night. • Some even just like a tomato pie with no cheese. (No judgment here, even though I don't get it.) • Here are 13 spots to grab good pizza in South Jersey.

Big John's Pizza, Bridgeton

Big John's is well respected in Bridgeton. It has served the local community since 1969, according to its website. It's known for its "famous custom-made pizza to order." They offer New York Style, white (no sauce, garlic, oregano and a little extra cheese) and Hawaiian, which includes sauce, domestic ham and pineapple. Go: 90 E. Commerce St.; 856-455-3344; big-johnspizza.com.

Bricco Coal Fired Pizza, Westmont

This South Jersey pizzeria was named one of the country's top pizzerias for the fifth straight year in 2026 by a well-respected pizza ranking. Bricco Coal Fired Pizza received the nod from 50 Top Pizza, an Italian guide that recently released its top 50 pizza places in the U.S. Bricco, which also has a Cherry Hill location, was No. 31 in 2026, and was one of only two pizzerias in the state to make the list. It was No. 28 in 2025, No. 29 in 2024 and No. 28 in 2023. Bricco was No. 45 in 50 Top Pizza in 2022. The Top 50 Pizza has "pizza inspectors" visit the pizzerias anonymously. It stated that "over the years, New Jersey has become a reference point for quality pizza for all enthusiasts of the genre. Bricco in the small town of Haddon Township is



Bricco Coal Fired Pizza in Westmont has earned honors as a top 50 pizzeria in the United States by 50 Top Pizza, which is an Italian guide. COURIER-POST FILE PHOTO

no exception." According to the Bricco website, owner and founder Vincenzo Barone created Bricco because he wanted to alter people's perception of pizza. In 2022, Big Travel 7, a travel site, named Bricco in Westmont the No. 16 best pizza place in the world. Go: 128 Haddon Ave., Westmont; 2110 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill; briccocoalfiredpizza.com.

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Trump's approval rating gets small bump

But at 36 percent, the number still hovers near record low

Fernando Cervantes Jr. USA TODAY

President Donald Trump's approval rating got a small reprieve this week, as a new Economist/YouGov poll released on Aug. 4 showed that 36% of Americans approved of his job performance. Although Trump's approval rating is still hovering near record lows, the president's numbers did improve by 2 percentage points compared with the Economist/YouGov poll from the week before. The most recent poll found that 64% of Americans believe the country is heading in the wrong direction, while 30% of respondents said we are "generally" heading in the right direction. The latest Economist/YouGov poll was conducted July 31 to Aug. 3 among 1,609 adults. The poll's margin of error was plus or minus 3.6 percentage points. Despite Americans' negative responses about Trump and the direction of the country, Democrats have gained little ground politically, as they lead Republicans by just 4 percentage points on a generic congressional ballot.

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Police pay tribute to officer, 43, who died from cancer

Risha Inaganti Cherry Hill Courier-Post | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

An Evesham police officer died Aug. 3 after an on-going battle with a rare cancer. Det. Jared Halpern, 43, was surrounded by his family as he succumbed to his second battle with "an extremely rare germ cell cancer," according to Evesham Township police. "While so many came to know Jared for his incredible strength, resilience, and determination throughout his fight, those who had the privilege of serving alongside him knew that his greatest legacy extends far beyond his illness," Evesham police said in a social media post. As a New Jersey native, Halpern graduated from East Brunswick High School before earning a bachelor's in criminal justice from Rutgers University. Halpern spent 21 years in the Evesham Township Police Department.

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