

2026 NFL season preview

Rams look built to win it all in their own stadium

HOLLYWOOD

WINNER OF THE NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION'S GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR SEVEN CONSECUTIVE YEARS (2011-2017)

Burlington County Times

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Vineland resident Stephen Lewis speaks during the public comment portion of a special hearing of Vineland's planning board on a DataOne amended site plan application. Proposal was approved on Aug. 17. PHOTOS JOSEPH P. SMITH/COURIER-POST

Vineland planners approve new data center expansion goals

Joseph P. Smith
Cherry Hill Courier-Post | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

VINELAND — The future of the data center that partially opened here last year will follow a significantly revised developmental direction, with the approval of city planners and in the face of intense opposition.

Members of Vineland's planning board, meeting in a

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The Vineland's planning board held a second special hearing Monday night on a DataOne amended site plan application. Company attorney Michael Fralinger (left) questions one of his witnesses, professional planner Creigh Rahenkamp, on zoning topics, Aug. 17.



Groups file suit to stop Wonderland Pier resort project

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

Members of some local Ocean City organizations have come together to file a lawsuit against the City of Ocean City and its council members in relation to Gillian's Wonderland Pier.

This lawsuit followed the council members' vote June 25 to designate 600 Boardwalk as an area in need of rehabilitation.

As the former home to the now-closed Gillian's Wonderland Pier, 600 Boardwalk has been a hot topic of discussion for the city, with heavy debate on what should be done at the site.

The main site proposal came from property owner Eustice Mita, who pitched a 252-room luxury resort.

While this plan was initially deemed as unfeasible because of 600 Boardwalk's zoning, the council's decision in June opened up the possibility of Mita's hotel.

The lawsuit — filed by four community organizations Aug. 10 — alleged that the city council decision has no credible evidence and was compromised by financial conflicts of interest.

"Public officials have a duty to act solely in the public interest," Bill Merritt, a member of advocacy group Ocean City 2050, said in a press release. "Residents have every right to expect that major land use decisions are driven by sound planning and the public good, not by financial relationships or predetermined outcomes."

Ocean City 2050, as well as

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Burlington County recognizing 2026 Outstanding Women

Mia D. Boykin
Cherry Hill Courier-Post
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Eight Burlington County women are set to be honored for their leadership and service at the 2026 Outstanding Women of Burlington County Awards on Oct 6. The event is to be held at the Riverton Country Club in Cinnaminson at 6 p.m.

For more than 20 years, the Burlington County commissioners and Burlington County Women's Advisory Council members have honored local residents.

The local women are selected based off their contribution to elevating women and improving the Burlington community. Proceeds from ticket sales are put toward scholarships awarded to graduating female high school students who have plans to pursue higher education.

"For far too long, the contributions of women have been downplayed or ignored, so it's gratifying to lead a county that is home to so many outstanding women, and one that believes in celebrating their accomplishments and contributions," Felicia Hopson, Burlington County's commissioner director, said in

a press release. Hopson also serves as liaison to the Women's Advisory Council.

"Each of these women has their own unique story, and each of them has had a significant and lasting impact on Burlington County."

Burlington County officials said they hope that continuing this award event will spur on others in the community to follow in their steps as dedicating their lives to their local communities.

"We are excited to spotlight them and their achievements," said Commissioner Deputy Director Allison Eckel, who also serves as a liaison to the Women's Advisory Council. "By recognizing their work, we hope to inspire others throughout our community to follow their lead."

The honorees span a wide range of initiatives including business, education and diversity efforts.

● **Business Leadership:** Bridget Wiese, Fulton Bank vice president and business banking relationships manager for Burlington and Mercer counties.

● **Community Service:** Stacy Kennedy, director of the New Jersey Agricultural Society. She is also the former director of the Agricultural Society's Farmers Against Hunger program, which collect-



Wiese



Kennedy



Price



Cook



Reidy



Alston



Veasy



Mays

ed surplus food from farms to distribute to food banks.

● **Diversity:** Deborah Price, director of the Underground Railroad Museum of Burlington County. Price has led the museum since 2023, where she has launched several new initiatives targeted towards Black history education.

● **Education:** Kecia Parham Cook, retired early childhood education in Willingboro after 26 years of service to the

district. She also won the Willingboro district's Teacher of the Year honor in 2012.

● **Health:** Agatha Reidy, director of nursing for the Burlington County Health Department. She has served four years as president of the New Jersey Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators, helping to strengthen relationships

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