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Tuesday, October 14, 2025

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MIDDLE EAST

Complex issues remain for ceasefire

WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY
AND MELANIE LIDMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel and Hamas moved ahead on a key first step of the tenuous Gaza ceasefire agreement Monday by freeing hostages and prisoners, raising hopes that the U.S.-brokered deal might lead to a permanent end to the two-year war that ravaged the Palestinian territory.

But thornier issues such as whether Hamas will disarm and who will govern Gaza — and the question of Palestinian statehood — remain unresolved, highlighting the fragility of an agreement that for now only pauses the deadliest conflict in the history of Israel and the Palestinians.

For Israelis, the release of the 20 remaining living hostages brought elation and a sense of closure to a war many felt they were forced into by Hamas, though many pledged to fight on for the return of deceased hostages still in Gaza.

But with the living hostages freed, the urgency with which many were driven to call for an end to the war will likely diminish, easing pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to advance the next phases of the agreement.

Four deceased hostages were returned to Israel on Monday, and another 24 are supposed to be turned over as part of the first phase of the ceasefire, which also requires Israel to allow a surge of food and other humanitarian aid into Gaza.

While there was an outburst of joy in Gaza for prisoners returning from Israel and hope that the fighting may wind down for good, the torment drags on for war-weary Palestinians. Gaza has been decimated by Israeli bombardment; there is little left of its prewar economy, basic services are in disarray and many homes have been destroyed.



ODED BALITY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

People react Monday as they gather to watch a live broadcast of Israeli hostages released from Gaza at a plaza known as hostages square in Tel Aviv, Israel.

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BUSINESS

ADDING CONVENIENCE



ROB SCHLOTTERBECK PHOTOS, DAILY SUN

Jet Stop manager Tammi Fegter (left) and co-owner Kelly Buhr inside the store west of Filley on Friday. Buhr said she and her husband, Travis, are busy upgrading the kitchen and other parts of the store. **Below:** The Jet Stop on U.S. 136 west of Filley offers a variety of grab-and-go eating options. More items will be available once the kitchen upgrades are complete.

New owners of store near Filley aiming to fill the gap

ROB SCHLOTTERBECK
Daily Sun editor

The new owners of the Jet Stop west of Filley are busy revamping the Sinclair station.

Kelly Buhr, who owns the store with her husband, Travis, said they are changing the signage, putting in new food items, updating the whole kitchen and adding new products to take advantage of the former One-Stop Country Store's space.

"Pretty much everything in the kitchen will be new ...," she said. "We're doing all kinds of new stuff."

The Buhrs, who live in Adams, have owned the Jet Stop in Sterling for 16 years. Kelly Buhr said they were familiar with the One-Stop, built in 2007 just west of the intersection of U.S. 136 and Nebraska 4,



from previous visits. "We used to come down here a lot," she said. "They were looking

for somebody to purchase, and we just thought it'd be a new challenge."

They also wanted to help in the community.

"In a small community, when there's no grocery stores, ... it's about convenience," she said.

They've already upgraded some of their offerings — grab-and-go meals, sandwiches, salads, more tables for customers.

Buhr said right now the store is concentrating on breakfast and lunch, but when the kitchen upgrades are complete in a month or two, they'll be able to add dinner options, including their own pizza that's proven popular at their Sterling store.

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Cellphone law earns high marks

Teachers across state
endorse classroom bans

JENNA EBBERS
Lincoln Journal Star

Cellphones sit in hanging wall pouches and baskets, in cubbies and on tables by classroom doors, instead of in students' hands, their backpacks, pockets or worse, hidden beneath desks-tops or textbooks.

The distractions of texts from friends or notifications from social media have mostly disappeared in classrooms across Nebraska, in part due to a new statewide law banning personal devices in class.

And teachers from the Panhandle to the eastern border are all for it, even if students may be less enthusiastic about the bans.

"It's for their good and my good as well, because it makes me a better teacher, and I think it makes them better students and able to focus on what they need to do," said Janelle Coady, a teacher at Norris High School in Firth who has banned cellphones in her classroom for years.

Phones have been a constant battle faced by teachers for years as students frequently fought against rules by taking their devices out during class, causing them to be distracted or ignore lessons.

So, in response, Nebraska legislators passed a law last spring banning cellphones during instructional time, matching policies many school districts throughout the state have individually implemented in recent years, including Lincoln Public Schools.

The new law provides cohesion statewide.

"Now we're not going to get as much flak from the kids for it and look like the bad guy," Coady said.

Lawmakers approved the measure in May requiring school districts across the state to implement policies prohibiting and restricting the use of cellphones and other personal electronic devices during classroom instruction by the start of the 2025-26 school year.

The law, which received bipartisan support in the Legislature this spring, bans student use of personal devices while on school property or while "attending a school instructional function."

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