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Courier News

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Hamas fighters tighten grip in Gaza

A drone view shows people gathering at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on Oct. 13 as they welcome freed Palestinian prisoners who were released by Israel as part of the terms of the ceasefire. REUTERS

Public executions cloud future of ceasefire

Nidal al-Mughrabi and Maayan Lubell
REUTERS

CAIRO – Hamas fighters tightened their grip in the Gaza Strip on Oct. 14 after carrying out public executions, defying Israel's assertion that war cannot end under President Donald Trump's plan until the militants are disarmed.

In a stark assertion of the group's return, fighters executed men they accused of collaborating with Israeli forces. In one video circulated late on Oct. 13, Hamas fighters dragged seven men into a circle of people in Gaza City, forced them to their knees and shot them from behind. A Hamas source confirmed the authenticity of the video.

Gaza residents said fighters were increasingly visible on Oct. 14, deploying along routes needed for aid deliveries. Palestinian security sources say dozens of people have been killed in clashes between Hamas fighters and rivals in recent days.

Although Israeli troops have withdrawn from urban areas in Gaza under the ceasefire, drone fire killed five people as they went to check on houses in a suburb east of Gaza City and an air strike killed one person and injured another near Khan Younis, Gaza health authorities said.

People cheer as a helicopter carrying released Israeli hostage Matan Zangauker approaches Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv on Oct. 13. The remains of at least 23 dead hostages are still in the Gaza Strip. RONEN ZVULUN/REUTERS

Hamas accused Israel of violating the ceasefire. The Israeli military said it had fired on people who crossed truce lines and approached its forces after ignoring calls to turn back.

Hurdles to peace remain

Hamas' resumption of power in Gaza and continued flashes of violence underscore the daunting hurdles facing efforts to move Trump's ceasefire plan toward a long-term resolution of the conflict.

While Trump proclaimed the "historic dawn of a new Middle East" to Israel's parliament on Oct. 13, some of the most difficult elements of his plan have yet to be negotiated to resolve issues that wrecked previous efforts to end the war.

See HAMAS, Page 6A

Hotel, convenience store, gas station proposed in Piscataway

Mike Deak
MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

PISCATAWAY – The Zoning Board of Adjustment is scheduled to hear a proposal to build a gas station and convenience store on South Washington Avenue as part of a development that could include a four-story hotel.

NDK Realty, headquartered on Stelton Road, is set to go before the Zoning Board on Oct. 23 with a plan to build the gas station and 5,670-square-foot convenience store on five lots at 1600, 1608 and 1614 South Washington Ave. just

See HOTEL, Page 5A

The gas station and convenience store are proposed to be developed first with a space reserved for a four-story 100-room hotel.

An indoor golf facility and restaurant is proposed for the former Safavieh store on Route 22 in Bridgewater. MIKE DEAK/MYCENTRALJERSEY.COM

Indoor golf and restaurant proposed

Mike Deak
MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

BRIDGEWATER – An indoor golf facility with multiple bars, dining areas and more is proposed for a vacant furniture store on westbound Route 22.

The Clubhouse of Somerset County, doing business as Not Just Golf, is scheduled to appear before the township Planning Board on Oct 21 to convert the former Safavieh Furniture store west of Bill Vince's Bridgewater Accura into a facility comparable to the one it operates on Route 46 in Fairfield.

The Clubhouse of Somerset County will offer approximately 12 golf simulator suites – 10 on the first floor and two VIP suites on the second floor – if it recevies township approval.

Also proposed are multiple bars, dining areas, casual lounges, private event rooms and a membership

See RESTAURANT, Page 5A

Police shut down Union County cocaine ring

Suzanne Russell
MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Five Somerset County residents have been arrested and charged in connection with a drug distribution network operating in Union County and surrounding areas.

The arrests are the culmination of a multi-agency investigation and coordinated narcotics enforcement operations that also led to the seizure of a substantial quantity of illegal drugs, according to Union County Prosecutor William A. Daniel and Plainfield Police Director James T. Abney.

On Oct. 7 members of the Union County Prosecutor's Office Intelligence and Narcotics Division, along with officers from the Plainfield Police Department Narcotics Unit, Federal

See COCAINE, Page 2A

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