



## 10 Giants players to watch vs. Bills in preseason Week 1

SPORTS, 1B

# Daily Record

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025 | DAILYRECORD.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Israeli plan to take Gaza City criticized

### Citizens concerned over safety of hostages

Alexander Cornwell  
REUTERS

JERUSALEM – Israel’s security cabinet approved a plan to take control of Gaza City, a move expanding military operations in the shattered Palestinian

territory that drew strong fresh criticism at home and abroad on Aug. 8 over its pursuit of the almost two-year war. Germany, a key European ally, announced it would halt exports of military equipment to Israel that could be used in Gaza. Britain urged Israel to re-

consider its decision to escalate the Gaza military campaign. However, President Donald Trump’s ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, told Reuters that some countries appeared to be putting pressure on Israel rather than on the militant group Hamas, whose deadly attack on Israel in 2023 ignited the war.

In Israel, families of hostages held by militants in Gaza, and opposition leaders blasted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for a decision that they said would put hostages’ lives at risk. Far-right allies in Netanyahu’s coalition have been pushing for a total

See GAZA CITY, Page 4A

## Jolt to the market



Hamza Khaled, of Mokafe in Paterson, makes a Spanish latte. Increasingly, Middle Eastern coffee shops are drawing late-night crowds seeking a fun, alcohol-free alternative to nightclubs. KEVIN R. WEXLER/NORTHJERSEY.COM

### These Middle Eastern coffee shops bring flavor to NJ nightlife

Hannan Adely  
NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

At 8:30 p.m. on a Thursday in July, the line outside Mokafe in Paterson stretched out the door. Inside, a crowd of mostly young professionals and college students gathered around plush green chairs with mocha lattes in hand, nibbling on croissants drizzled with chocolate and pistachio. The din of chatter and a mocha aroma infused the space, as Arabic tunes streamed from speakers. Maria Ismail, 26, peered at the display of pastries made in-house, pondering what to order. Mokafe hit the spot for nighttime sugar cravings, Ismail said, but it was the vibe that kept her coming back. “There’s an energy,” the Teaneck resident said. “It’s the music. There’s always laughter. Anyone who walks in knows it’s going to be a good time.” Similar scenes are playing out at Mokafe coffee shops across New Jersey and New York, where daytime coffee business gives way to nighttime crowds.



Ahmad Alozy takes a piece out of a kunafa at Yaffa Coffee & Kunafa, which opened in Clifton in April. YANNICK PETERHANS/NORTHJERSEY.COM

It is one of several coffee chains with a Middle Eastern flair that have burst onto the social scene, providing a festive café environment and an alcohol-free alternative to bars and clubs. These establishments are bringing a touch of the Middle East to American coffee culture in the flavors they serve and the décor they embrace, while they pour brews with beans imported from Yemen.

See COFFEE, Page 4A



Ali Ajaj adds flavoring onto a tiramisu latte at Yaffa Coffee & Kunafa. YANNICK PETERHANS/NORTHJERSEY.COM

## After dipping to nearly \$3, gas prices climb again

Daniel Munoz  
NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

New Jersey gas prices bounced up in recent weeks — after the average statewide price had nearly dropped below \$3 a gallon — with summer travel picking up and local refinery capacity down. Figures from travel club AAA show that the average price for a gallon of gas was \$3.08 in New Jersey on Monday, Aug. 4, up from \$3.02 a week earlier but still below the \$3.13 price of a month ago. As of Aug. 4, West Texas Intermediate Oil, also known as WTI crude oil — the most common oil in the U.S. — was trading at \$66.56 a barrel, down from \$70 a barrel on July 30 but still up from \$58.07 in early May. Whether prices head up or down depends on demand for gasoline and availability, which is affected by oil production and capacity at the refineries that service much of the Northeast. Summer demand waned in the weeks after the July Fourth weekend, with people “taking shorter trips, or staying put once they get to their destinations,” but it has recently picked up,

See GAS PRICE, Page 4A

## Top cops sidelined in town where trooper killed two

Mike Deak  
MyCentralJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

In the wake of the double homicide when a lieutenant in the New Jersey State Police killed his ex-girlfriend and her new boyfriend at her Franklin Township home, Hunterdon County Prosecutor Renée M. Robeson announced Aug. 7, effective immediately, that her office has taken control of the Franklin Township Police Department. Franklin Police Chief Timothy Snyder and Sgt. Kevin Bollaro are being

See SIDELINED, Page 5A

### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [dailyrecord.com/enewspaper](http://dailyrecord.com/enewspaper) or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 38 | No. 216  
Subscribe 800-398-8990  
©2025 \$2.50

