

Gaza’s Hamas rulers say cease-fire reached with Israel

By **FARES AKRAM**
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gaza’s Hamas rulers said Wednesday they had agreed to a cease-fire with Israel to end the largest flare-up of violence between the two sides since a 2014 war.

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official, said Egyptian mediators intervened “after the resistance succeeded in warding off the aggression.” He said militant groups in Gaza will commit to the cease-fire as long as Israel does.

Israeli Cabinet minister Ariele Deri told Israel’s Army Radio that he expected calm to be restored.

“If it will be quiet, we will respond with quiet. We’ve given Hamas a chance to prove that we can return to routine ... If they release the reins there will be a very painful strike,” he said. “There is a good chance that the routine will be restored after the blow the army unleashed on them.”

The Israeli military struck dozens of militant sites in Gaza overnight as rocket fire continued toward southern Israeli communities into early Wednesday morning, setting off air raid sirens in the area throughout the night.

The military said it hit drone storage facilities, military compounds, and rocket and munition workshops across the Gaza Strip. The overnight Hamas rocket fire reached the city of Netivot for the first time since the 2014 war. A home was struck, but no one was wounded.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel gave Palestinian militant groups in Gaza “the strongest blow dealt to them in years,” and warned against renewed rocket fire.

“When they try us, they pay immediately. And if they continue to try us, they will pay a lot more,” Netanyahu said at a ceremony in Tel Aviv.

But neither Israel nor the Palestinian factions in

Gaza went full bore in their attacks, a sign that neither side was interested in escalating hostilities. Militants in Gaza did not fire long-range rockets at Israel’s major cities, as they did in 2014, and Israeli airstrikes zeroed in on only unmanned military targets.

With neither side appearing interested in a full-blown conflict, a tense calm appeared to be holding Wednesday as Israeli children went to school in the morning.

The border area has been tense in recent weeks as Palestinians have held mass protests aimed at lifting an Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after Hamas seized power in 2007.

Israeli fire has killed more than 110 Palestinians, most of them during the Hamas-led protests, which climaxed on May 14.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies and have fought three wars since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007.



AP Photo/Hatem Moussa

Flames of rockets fired by Palestinian militants are seen over Gaza Strip toward Israeli lands, early Wednesday. Palestinian militants bombarded southern Israel with dozens of rockets and mortar shells Tuesday, while Israeli warplanes struck targets throughout the Gaza Strip in the largest flare-up of violence between the sides since a 2014 war.

The last war, in 2014, was especially devastating, with over 2,000 Palestinians killed, including hundreds of civilians, and widespread

damage inflicted on Gaza’s infrastructure in 50 days of fighting. Seventy-two people were killed on the Israeli side.

A crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade, imposed when Hamas took power, has meanwhile brought the local economy to a standstill.

DR. DOG: ‘Everyone ... fell in love with him’

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ters, Smith said such visits can tire a dog. Kyle currently works one session (from one to several patients) per week, but will slowly increase his workload. Eventually, he will accompany hospital chaplain Rick Oliver on rounds.

After each session, Smith guides Kyle outside to the expansive hospital lawn and plays fetch with a tennis ball to satisfy the dog’s need to run and play.

The idea of bringing pet therapy to St. Anthony patients came from a consultant hired by the hospital.

Smith said the consultant suggested a program that brings therapy pets around to patients and also let patients have visits from their own dogs.

Studies suggest that the presence of an animal has a calming effect. A 2009 study found that children with cancer who interacted with therapy dogs had a reduction in pain. The dogs also help decrease fear, provide distraction, increase pleasure and improve quality of life. Other studies found that time with a therapy dog decreased blood pressure and heart rate and brought other positive biological responses.

“Pet therapy improves the

patient experience,” Smith said.

The St. Anthony Hospital Foundation board supported the idea of a hospital therapy dog, and when Smith suggested her own black lab puppy as a possible candidate, agreed to give him a try, funding a month of therapy dog training in Grants Pass.

“I knew he had the right personality,” Smith said. “He’s so sweet and is super-calm for a one-year old.”

In Grants Pass, trainer Jill Breitner works with one dog at a time. Known professionally as the She Whisperer, she eased Kyle into his new role, at first just playing and bonding. Breitner taught the puppy manners while taking pains not to squelch his natural enthusiasm for people.

Eventually, she took Kyle to a nearby convalescent home once, sometimes twice, a day.

“Everyone there fell in love with him,” Breitner said.

One woman in particular, an Alzheimer’s patient, lit up when she saw the dog.

“She would sit in a recliner and invite him up into her lap,” Breitner said. “He would stare into her eyes. She would cry tears of joy while holding him.”

During the visits, Breitner would watch for signs of



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Kyle, St. Anthony Hospital’s therapy dog, likes to play fetch after a session of visiting patients.

stress such as panting, but the dog seemed simultaneously calm and enthusiastic.

“The more you touch him, the more joy he has,” she said.

Smith said having Kyle gone for a month was hard, but Breitner made it easier by setting up FaceTime sessions between Kyle and his family. She texted Smith every day about the dog’s progress.

Back in Pendleton, Kyle got down to business as an official hospital volunteer.

INDUSTRIAL: Test range revenues are up

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real.”

With a growing base of UAS customers, Chrisman said established companies are now asking when they can place a hangar in the industrial park.

Business is up at the test range, Chrisman reported, with revenues projected to rise by 60 percent in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and revenues expecting to double from there in 2018-2019. More activity is driving demand for space, with the city already leasing 45,000 square feet to various entities.

Funds from the economic development administration would attempt to alleviate that.

Wayne Green, the city’s associate engineer, explained how the money would be used to help fund Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the UAS range.

Phase 3 would bolster the western section of the airport near the Life Flight Network building by constructing one to three box hangars and a row of “T-hangers,” which are more compact facilities.

The third phase would also include extending nearby taxiways and extending utilities to the hangar sites.

Phase 4 encompasses the UAS industrial park and would include building an access road to the site.

Receiving the grant would require the city to match with its own \$3 million, which the city plans to draw from the water and sewer fund to finance utility improvements.

City Manager Robb Corbett said the city had already identified extending utilities to the Airport Road extension in its water and sewer master plans, but staff now wanted to shift those resources to the UAS industrial park.

Chrisman admitted it was a mistake not to make

the Airport Road extension “shovel-ready” by extending utilities to the area when it was originally completed, but it may not have mattered anyway.

“Even had we built it, though, you would have been just at par and in direct competition with every other city along I-84 and I-82 that had shovel-ready land,” he said. “There was nothing tremendously special about (it). The test range offers a competitive advantage that we will never see again in our lifetimes.”

The city used a 4-cent gas tax and federal grant money to extend Airport Road to the Barnhart Road exit on Interstate 84 in 2009. They hoped that increased accessibility would bring manufacturers and other industrial companies to the airport. The 40-acre plot the city bought in 2011 for future industrial development has mostly sat vacant for seven years.

Competitive advantage or not, the UAS industrial land would need more than \$6 million for development.

Public Works Director Bob Patterson estimated it would take \$11.6 million to extend water and sewer to the Phase 4 industrial park and an additional \$2.3 million to extend “dry utilities” — a gas line and electrical and communication conduits.

With increased demand for water and need to establish strong flows for fire protection, staff also included an \$11.5 million estimate to build an airport reservoir and pump station.

The city anticipates it will know about the federal economic development grant in June, so Patterson said he wanted the council to approve full design of the booster station at the next council meeting so it would be ready if the grant was awarded.

ELECTRIC: Six recent outages affected thousands

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improving reliability.

While UEC and HES are separate entities, HES contracts out operation and maintenance of infrastructure, meter reading and some other tasks to UEC.

According to information provided by Steve Meyers of UEC, there were outages affecting more than 1,000 UEC customers on April 27, May 3, May 8, May 9 and May 16, with multiple outages on the 16th.

The disruptions to service on April 27 and May 8 were caused by windstorms and May 9 was caused by a van colliding with a transmission pole. The single-ve-

hicle crash at Northeast 10th Street and East Elm Avenue caused extensive damage to the pole and transmission lines that took several hours to repair.

On May 3 at about 5:10 p.m. an equipment failure at the new Hermiston East Substation caused an outage, and on May 16 an equipment failure at the Hermiston Butte Substation caused a series of four outages over a three-hour period in the middle of the day.

Meyers said in an email that the new substation at Hermiston East helped reduce the number of customers affect by the outages and allowed for quicker restoration times by providing

an alternative source to transfer customers. New automated meters that have been installed at buildings around Hermiston also helped the utility company pinpoint the problem more quickly and respond with “greater speed and accuracy.”

“After every major outage, we assess our restoration efforts and look for opportunities for improvement, with the emphasis on being protective of our members, the general public and employees,” Meyers said. “We understand the impact of these outages, and we are committed to reducing restoration times.”

Rivera said the outages had been learning oppor-

tunities that should lead to better service in the future, but in the meantime he wanted to sincerely apologize to all who had been inconvenienced.

“I just wanted to let you guys know that we have heard the message and we are listening and responding,” he said.

During power outages in the Hermiston area customers can call 888-465-5701 to report an outage or check UEC’s real-time outage map, which includes information on estimated restoration times, atumatillaelectric.com.

Contact Jade McDowell 541-564-4536.

NARCAN: ‘When (it) is administered, the person is able to breathe again’

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police officers started carrying it. Three police officers were standing over him, and he was blue, unresponsive.”

Paramedics brought the man into the ambulance and started breathing for him. His oxygen levels were low, Blood said, and they started him on an IV and gave him Narcan. Within two minutes, they saw his eyes open, and by the time they reached the hospital, he was breathing normally.

“He went from looking dead to completely normal,” Blood said.

The man later admitted to having used heroin, Blood said.

“That’s a pretty frequent occurrence for us,” said paramedic Gabe Billings. “We show up and they’re barely breathing. We start giving them Narcan, and by the time we get to the hospital, they’re awake and conversing with us.”

Narcan, the brand name for the drug Naloxone, can be administered nasally.

Umatilla County Drug Prevention Coordinator Mike Stensrud said Narcan blocks the brain from receiving drugs like OxyContin or

heroin, essentially working faster than those drugs to cancel their effects.

“This ‘canceling of effects’ is important because opioids cause severe respiratory depression during an overdose event, so when Naloxone is administered, the person is able to breathe again,” said Stensrud in an email to the *East Oregonian*.

Clark said those administering Narcan have to be careful not to administer it too fast, as doing so can make the patient sick.

He said the drug is meant to be used as an emergency medication for acute over-

doses, not to aid with regular recovery from opioid addiction.

“It’s not meant to wean people off,” Billings said.

He likened the drug, which pharmacists can prescribe, to an Epi-Pen.

“It’s great for emergencies, but you should still call 911,” he said.

“It’s not going to take care of the problem overall, because the half-life is shorter than the drugs, so it’s going to burn off.”

Blood said UCFD’s protocol is to slowly introduce Narcan, so it doesn’t cause withdrawal symptoms, and

just allows the person to start breathing again.

Stensrud said that Narcan won’t cause any negative symptoms for a person who accidentally overdosed, like a child or elderly person. But for regular drug users, he said, Narcan may induce a complete opioid withdrawal, causing symptoms like diarrhea, nausea or vomiting.

Stensrud said the focus is still on getting people to stop using opioids, and medications like Narcan were just the first step in that process.

“Everyone agrees that treating substance depen-

dence and stopping misuse are the ultimate goals, but interventions to reduce the negative consequences of drug use are critical intermediary steps,” he said, noting the pharmaceutical industry’s role in the epidemic should not be forgotten. He said that the availability of Naloxone is a direct response to all the unnecessary overdoses and deaths resulting from the overprescription of opioids.

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