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Islamic State says airstrike killed US hostage, US skeptical
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More Americans are finally seeing something new: A pay raise
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SATURDAY
February 7, 2015

The Sentinel-Record

Four sections, 40 pages
Number 38, Volume 138
Seventy Five Cents

www.hotspringssr.com

Published daily in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, since 1877

Treasurer issued letter of caution

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

The Arkansas Ethics Commission has sanctioned Garland County Treasurer Tim Stockdale for his use of the office's Facebook page to announce his re-election bid last year, he confirmed Friday.

The public letter of caution Stockdale will receive is the least severe of the three letters the Ethics Commission issues. More egregious lapses are met with letters of warning or reprimand.

"It basically means don't do that again," Stockdale said. "That's it. There was no fine or anything like that."

Stockdale accepted the commission's written offer of settlement after the panel voted 4-0 during a Jan. 23 hearing that probable cause existed for finding that he violated the elections title of the state code by "using for campaign purposes items of personal property provided with public funds."

Stockdale declined a public hearing to contest the finding, saying he didn't see any impropriety with the Feb. 25 post announcing that he had filed to seek a third term. The post said he "was happy to file for re-election

TREASURER, PAGE 8A

Tricky maneuver

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

Stephen Mullins, of Little Rock, tries a tricky maneuver while enjoying a sunny Friday afternoon at Valley Street Skatepark. After a chilly end to the week, today's forecast calls for sunny skies, with a high near 66, but increasing clouds and a low around 49 tonight, according to the National Weather Service.

DTF raid leads to felony charges

CAITLIN LAFARLETTE
The Sentinel-Record

The 18th Judicial District East Drug Task Force executed a raid Thursday morning resulting in multiple felony charges for a Hot Springs couple.

Ashley Nicole Castle, 28, and Anthony Brice Sutton, 28, were taken into custody at their residence, 146 Fairwood Circle at 6:30 a.m. Both were charged with simultaneous possession of drugs and firearms, a felony punishable by up to life in prison, possession of a controlled substance with purpose to deliver, a felony punishable by up to six years in prison, maintaining a drug premise, a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison, unauthorized use of another person's property to facilitate a crime, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison, two counts of endangering the welfare of a minor and possession of drug paraphernalia, misdemeanors punishable by up to a year in jail.

DTF, PAGE 8A

Couple keeps 'Spirit' alive with cross-country tour

LORIEN E. DAHL
The Sentinel-Record

While many in the United States talk about honoring soldiers of World War II, Bonnie and Auston E. O'Neill Jr. wanted to do more.

During 2014, the couple left their home in Centreville, Va., traveling in an RV to promote public awareness of this year's events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of World War II's end.

So far, the two have visited 46 states and driven more than 48,000 miles — all with the mission of honoring that war's veterans.

"It's very important to thank these guys before they die," this son of a World War II veteran said.

And his sense of urgency for the mission is not without reason. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, only about 1.7 million of the 16 million veterans who served during World War II are still alive.

The couple's RV, named the Spirit of '45 Day Express, sports a vehicle wrap showcasing the congressional resolution to declare the second Sunday in August as Spirit of '45 Day.

The spirit referred to is that of unity in the nation, created in large part during that Second Great War, when men and women

'SPIRIT', PAGE 7A

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

DAY IS DONE: Auston E. O'Neill Jr. plays taps in front of the Veterans Memorial of Garland County on Friday during a short stop in Hot Springs. He and his wife, Bonnie, are traveling across the U.S. to promote public awareness of the 70th anniversary of World War II's end, to be commemorated Aug. 9.

Governor signs tax-cut measure

ANDREW DEMILLO
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson on Friday signed into law his campaign promise to cut taxes for the middle class by $102 million, cautioning lawmakers to look at the impact of any other reductions they may weigh this session.

Hutchinson, a Republican who took office last month, signed the legislation reducing income taxes by 1 percent for those making between $21,000 and $75,000 a year. The tax cut, which Hutchinson campaigned on and has called his top legislative priority, takes effect in 2016.

"I think it's important we focus our first tax cut effort for the middle class," Hutchinson said in a ceremony that included lawmakers and a Cabot couple who said they expected to save more than $500 from the reduction. "But it also is more than just some relief for middle class taxpayers. It's a start for being

TAX CUT, PAGE 3A

Parking garage fire

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

Hot Springs Fire Department firefighters extinguish a fire on the bottom level of the parking deck next to the Malco Theatre Friday morning. Fire Chief Ed Davis said the department received the call shortly before 11 a.m., and that when firefighters arrived, smoke was showing from all parts of the parking garage. Davis said people had been living in the garage, and their belongings caught on fire, causing the smoke.

Grant will help young children

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Community Services Offices Inc. of Hot Springs said Friday it anticipates being awarded a $2.7 million federal grant to provide access to learning and care for young children.

The partnership grant would come from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families.

The partnership grant would be used to improve access to learning opportunities for infants and toddlers from low-income families.

The grant program was de-

GRANT, PAGE 8A

8 32116 00050 2

Weather

SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE MID 60S. LOWS IN THE HIGH 40S.

SUNRISE: 7:06 A.M.
SUNSET: 5:47 P.M.

SUNDAY: HIGH 66° LOW 44°

MONDAY: HIGH 36° LOW 35°

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