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THURSDAY
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Obama orders airstrikes in Syria for first time

JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Opening a new military front in the Middle East, President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes inside Syria for the first time Wednesday night, along with expanded strikes in Iraq as part of "a steady, relentless effort" to root out Islamic State extremists and their spreading reign of terror.

"We will hunt down terrorists who threaten our country, wherever they are," Obama declared in a prime-time address to the nation from the White House. "This is a core principle of my presidency: If you threaten America, you will find no safe haven."

Obama announced that he was dispatching nearly 500 more U.S. troops to Iraq to assist that country's besieged security forces, bringing the total number of American forces sent there this summer to more than 1,500. He also urged Congress anew to authorize a program to train and arm Syrian rebels who are fighting both the Islamic State militants and Syrian Pres-

OBAMA, PAGE 5A

Fair fun

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

A Ferris wheel creates patterns of lights for the crowd in the carnival portion of the Garland County Fair on Tuesday. Tonight is "arm band night," with carnival rides opening at 6 p.m. Today is also "school day" at the fair, with all buildings, except commercial, open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Commercial buildings will open at 5 p.m. The cattle showing will begin at 6 p.m.

JPs warn against late submissions for 2015 budget

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

The Garland County Quorum Court's Finance Committee urged county administrators Monday night to turn in their 2015 budgets on time or risk across-the-board cuts.

Chairman Mickey Gates, District 13 justice of the peace, said the committee won't consider submissions offered after the deadline, which will be set for later this month. Offending departments will have to operate on their 2014 budgets, minus a 5 percent cut in every line item.

Gates said late submissions could create scheduling conflicts for JPs during the Oct. 22-23 budget sessions, warning that budgets need to be given to Mary Culpepper, the county judge's chief of staff, by the deadline.

"In years past, we've had JPs who have had to use their vacation time to be here," Gates told the committee and department heads in the quorum court room gallery.

"Then when it gets pushed back, they weren't able to be here because they already set their vacation time," he said.

"The date is set in concrete. I encourage you, unless you want a reduction, to make sure your budget is in Mary's hand by (the deadline)."

Library Director John Wells asked the committee for clarity regarding the administrative fee it proposed charging the county library last year.

"Now that it's budget time, I need some guidance to give my board," he told the committee. "Are they going to charge us? Are they not going to charge us? Are they going to wait until '16?"

The $20,349 fee floated last year is a function of the overhead the county clerk's office expends in managing the library's finances and payroll. It's based on a percentage of the bookkeeping and payroll clerks' salaries, the licensing fee the clerk pays its software vendor and other operating costs, said Dorothy Guthrie, deputy county clerk. The percentages are derived from the man-hours the clerk's office dedicates to the library's administrative work relative to other county departments.

Culpepper told the committee the figure would be similar if it's considering levying the fee in next year's budget. No county department currently pays an administra-

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Ross: State should look at alternative sentencing programs

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

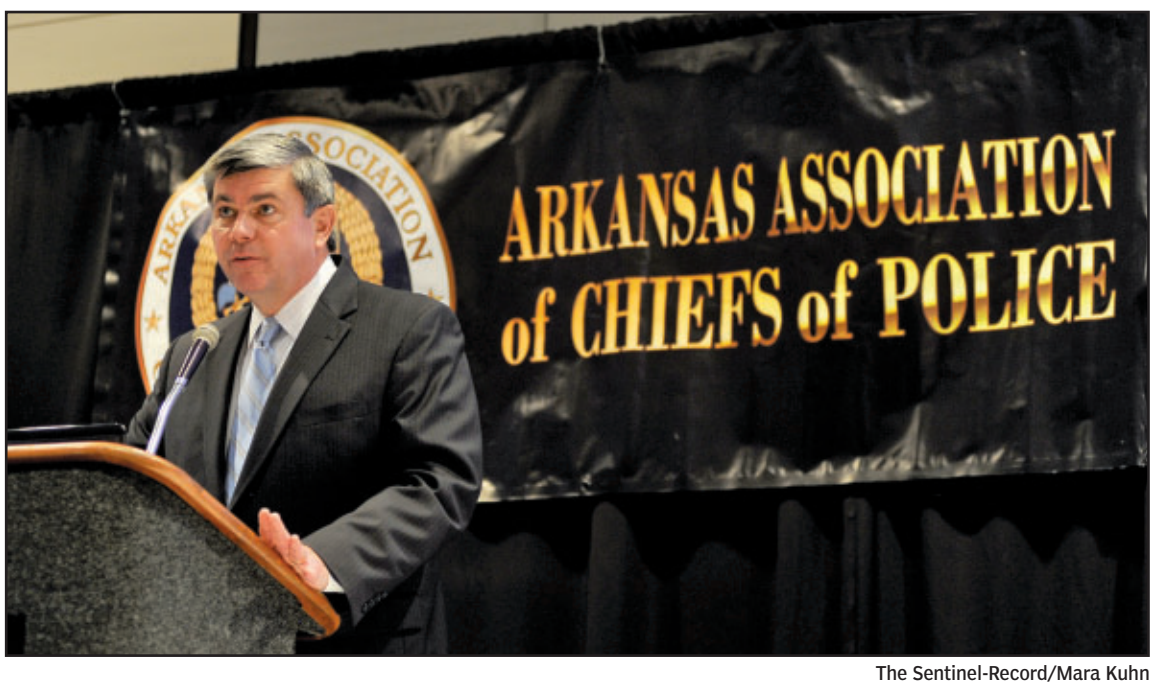
Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mike Ross said Wednesday that the state needs to look at alternative sentencing programs to alleviate the overcrowding problem in state prisons.

"There's talk about building another state prison, and we may need to do that, but if we do, we need to tie some meaningful prison reforms to it. Every time we build a 1,000-bed prison, it costs $100 million in one-time money and $25 million a year to operate it from now on. That is your tax money we're talking about," he said.

Addressing the 47th annual convention of the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police at the Hot Springs Convention Center, Ross said prison inmates who are backed up in county jails put stress on the communities.

"I think it's very important we have enough prison beds available for the people who want to harm us, our neighbors and our community. I think Gov. (Mike)

ROSS, PAGE 3A



The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

AACP PRESENTATION: Gubernatorial candidate Mike Ross spoke of alternative sentencing and other campaign topics Wednesday during a presentation at the 47th annual convention of the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

DEA expands options to dispose of medications

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Garland County Sheriff Larry Sanders said Wednesday that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's implementation of legislation that expands the options available to safely and securely dispose of potentially dangerous prescription medications is a positive step.

"Any place that can collect unused medications like that is going to be of benefit to the public, not only from the aspect of keeping them from getting into the wrong hands, but also to keep them from being flushed down the toilet and having to be dealt with in the water system," Sanders said.

The DEA on Monday released its Final Rule for the Disposal of Controlled Substances, which implements the Secure

MEDICATIONS, PAGE 3A

Slip-sliding away

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

Anna Fletcher, 11, left, and Davilyn Milson, 10, both of Hot Springs, ride down a slide during the Garland County Fair on Tuesday.

Man held on drug, firearms charges

STEVEN MROSS
The Sentinel-Record

A local man on parole was arrested on multiple charges involving drugs and guns Tuesday after a traffic stop because his passenger wasn't wearing a seat belt.

Christopher Wes Hambrick, 30, who lists an address of 203

ARREST, PAGE 3A

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Weather

SHOWERS LIKELY. HIGHS IN THE HIGH 70S. LOWS IN THE MID 60S.

SUNRISE: 6:52 A.M.
SUNSET: 7:26 P.M.

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FRIDAY: HIGH 73° LOW 60°

SATURDAY: HIGH 75° LOW 58°

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