

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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In the news

■ **Jaime Andrade**, an Illinois state legislator, said "I think they just got me" as the Democrat's head was hit by pigeon droppings while he spoke about the need to clean a Chicago Transit Authority stop called by some "pigeon poop station."

■ **Hwang Kyo-ahn**, the leader of South Korea's largest opposition party, shaved his head to protest President Moon Jae-in's appointment of Cho Kuk, a key political ally, as justice minister despite allegations of academic fraud and financial crimes against Cho's family.

■ **Wande Okunoren-Meadows** of Little Ones Learning Center, a preschool in Forest Park, Ga., that helps children sell fresh produce, has asked the City Council to reverse a decision shutting down the center's neighborhood farm stand because it violates city zoning laws.

■ **Juwone Scott**, 26, an autistic Special Olympics athlete who works as a grocery store bagger in Shreveport, is being praised for chasing down a man who ran off after snatching a customer's purse, wresting the purse away from the thief and returning it to the woman.

■ **James Bloodworth III**, 27, of Decatur, Ga., accused of attempting to fill a forged prescription at a pharmacy in Hartselle, Ala., was charged with possessing a controlled substance after police said they found more than 1,550 doses of codeine cough syrup in his car.

■ **Jesse Azbill**, 34, of Waterloo, Iowa, who had given his 12-year-old son permission to drive the family car when it struck and injured a 4-year-old boy, pleaded guilty to child endangerment and other counts and was sentenced to seven years in prison, prosecutors said.

■ **Alicia Pitre**, 23, of Calhoun, La., who forgot her wallet beside a store cash register, was arrested on a drug possession charge after a clerk, trying to identify the owner, looked inside and found a bag of crystal methamphetamine, police said.

■ **Robert Hodges**, 65, was rescued by a U.S. Coast Guard crew a little more than an hour after his small plane crashed into the Gulf of Mexico about 8 miles from Southwest Pass, La., when an emergency transmitter led searchers to his location.

■ **Aaron Thomas**, 31, and Megan Mondanaro, 35, arrested on charges of being under the influence while riding bicycles on Amelia Island, Fla., face public indecency and other counts after a Nassau County deputy said the couple took their clothes off and had sex in the backseat of his patrol car.



AP/SUSAN WALSH

Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh has seen Republicans such as President Donald Trump rally to his defense in the wake of an article by *The New York Times*.

Paper's story on justice attacked

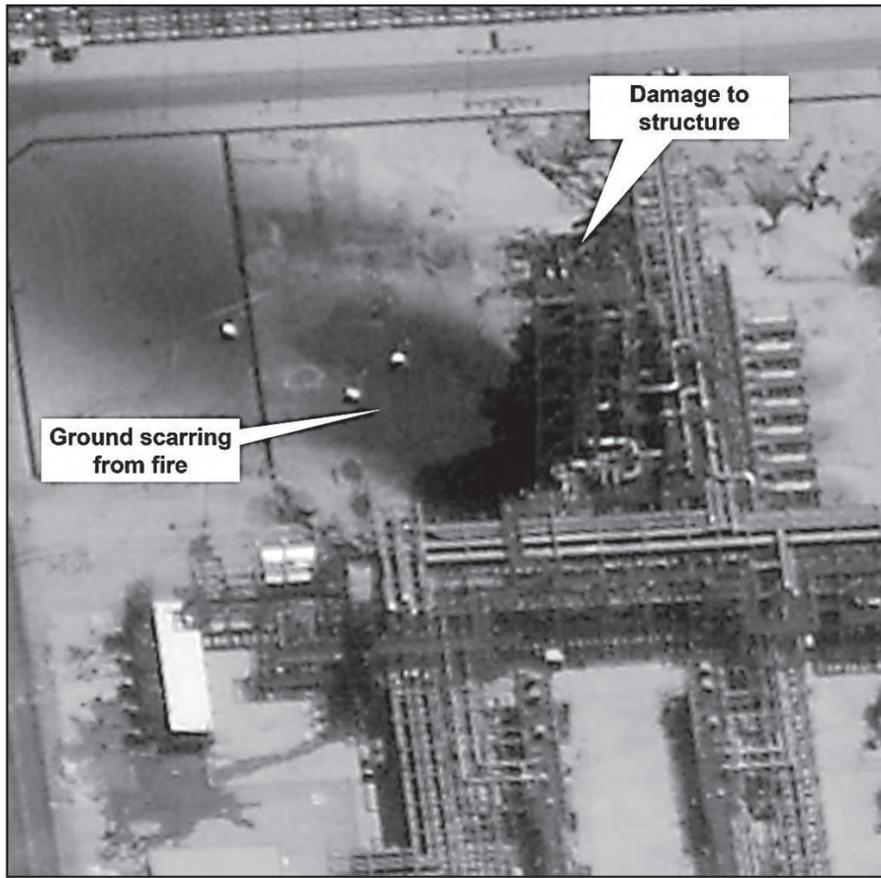
Woman doesn't recall incident

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS
NEW YORK — President Donald Trump on Monday said Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh is under assault after *The New York Times* revised a story about a sexual misconduct allegation to reflect that the woman identified as the victim couldn't recall the incident.

"I call for the Resignation of everybody at The New York Times involved in the Kavanaugh SMEAR story," Trump tweeted Monday night, arguing that the newspaper "can never recover, and will never return to Greatness, under current Management."

The newspaper has also apologized for a tweet that was sent out to promote the weekend article. The tweet See **JUSTICE**, Page 2A

Trump: Iran suspect in strike



Damage to structure

Ground scarring from fire

Damage from the attack on Saudi Arabia's Khurais oil field is shown in this image taken Sunday.

Not looking for conflict, he assures

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS
WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump declared Monday that "it's looking" like Iran was responsible for the weekend attack on Saudi Arabian oil facilities, but he stressed that military retaliation was not yet on the table.

"We're having some very strong studies done, but it's certainly looking that way at this moment," Trump said when asked whether Iran was responsible. "And we'll let you know. As soon as we find out definitively, we'll let you know. But it does look that way."

Trump also said he would "like to avoid" a military conflict with Tehran and emphasized his interest in diplomacy after the attack, which was the most destructive blow to Saudi Arabia since it began waging war in Yemen more than four years ago. See **ATTACK**, Page 4A

Oil prices skyrocket after attack

Gasoline futures soar; 15- to 30-cent rise at pump said likely

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS
Oil surged the most on record after a devastating weekend attack on key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia intensified concerns about growing instability in the world's most important crude-producing region.

In an extraordinary start to the week's trading, Brent futures in London leaped a

record \$12 a barrel in early trading Monday, before settling just above \$69 for the biggest one-day percentage gain since the contract began trading in 1988. Prices may remain elevated after Saudi officials downplayed prospects for a rapid recovery of production capacity, analysts said.

U.S. gasoline futures jumped 13%. Saudi Aramco faces weeks

or months before most output from its giant Abqaiq crude-processing complex is restored, according to people familiar with the matter. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry said Iranian weapons were used in the attacks on Saudi Aramco, while some U.S. officials blamed Iran for the attacks.

If crude stockpiles can tide over global markets and production bounces back

quickly, the episode will have a negligible effect on pump prices.

But should the recovery take weeks or months, the impact could be far-reaching and lasting. Higher fuel prices can not only motivate consumers — the main drivers of the economy — to cut spending elsewhere, but they can also ultimately reach nearly every corner of the economy. See **OIL**, Page 2A

GM, union struggle for deal as strike rolls into 2nd day

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS
Negotiations between striking United Auto Workers union members and General Motors continued Monday after more than 49,000 workers walked off the job, bringing more than 50 factories and parts warehouses to a standstill.

The union's top negotiator said in a letter to the company that the strike could have been averted had the company made its latest offer sooner.

The letter dated Sunday suggests that the company and union are not as far apart as the rhetoric leading up to the strike had indicated. But union spokesman Brian Rothenberg said the two sides have come to terms on only 2% of the contract. "We've got 98% to go," he said Monday.

Asked about the possibility of federal mediation, President Donald Trump said it's possible if the company and union want it.

"Hopefully, they'll be able to work out the GM strike

quickly," Trump said before leaving the White House for New Mexico. "Hopefully, they're going to work it out quickly and solidly."

Trump sought to align himself with the auto workers, telling reporters that he has a "great relationship" with them.

"I don't want General Motors to be building plants outside this country," Trump said. "I don't want General Motors building plants in China and Mexico."

The strike is the union's See **GM**, Page 4A



AP/The Flint Journal/JAKE MAY

General Motors employees, United Auto Workers members and labor-union supporters hold a demonstration Monday outside GM's assembly plant in Flint, Mich.

State Senate's leader unveils e-cigarette bill

Tax rise, curbs on public use proposed

HUNTER FIELD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
Arkansas' Senate leader on Monday publicized a draft bill that would raise taxes on electronic cigarettes and bar their use in places where traditional cigarettes are prohibited.

Senate President Pro Tempore Jim Hendren, R-Sulphur Springs, said he drafted the legislation to give the General Assembly a "starting point" as it contemplates how to address the rising popularity of e-cigarette use, commonly called vaping.

State lawmakers held their first hearing on the matter last week as public

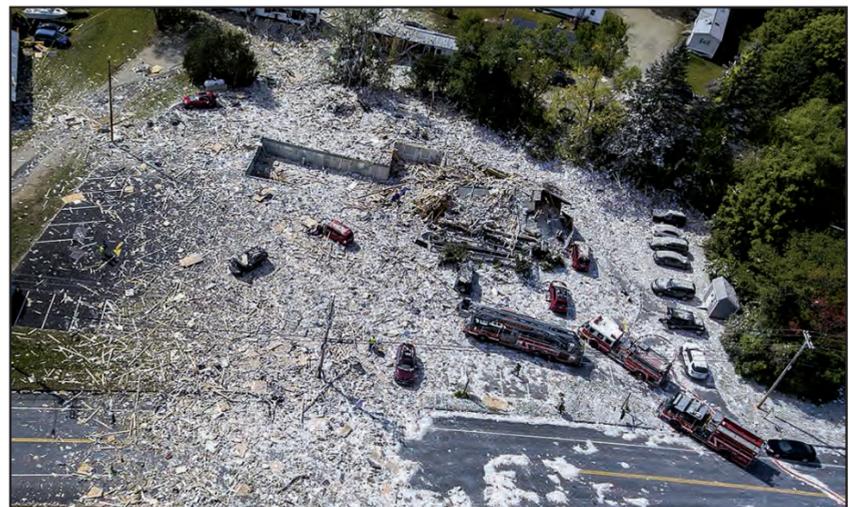
health officials locally and nationally caution against vaping because of an outbreak of respiratory illnesses across the country and six deaths associated with e-cigarette use.

During the regular legislative session earlier this year, Hendren sponsored a bill to tax e-cigarettes, but it died in the House after passing in the Senate. He acknowledged that there's still work to be done to build a consensus on the matter, and he expects Monday's proposal to be tweaked.

"The potential harm to our children's health makes it imperative that we act with

See **BILL**, Page 2A

Propane blast in Maine



AP/Sun Journal/RUSS DILLINGHAM

Debris lies scattered across a wide area in Farmington, Maine, after a propane explosion that flattened a newly constructed two-story building. The explosion occurred after firefighters arrived to investigate reports that the smell of gas had been detected at the site. A firefighter was killed and eight people were injured in the blast.

Article, 3A

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Mostly sunny.
High 95.
Tonight Mostly clear.
Low 72.



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