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June 2017

Trump's Goal: Create Five Million New Apprentice Positions

Bloomberg News discusses President Trump's recent executive order meant to expand apprenticeship opportunities, exploring whether his informal goal of creating five million new apprentice positions over the next five years is feasible.

Read more [here](#).



Oil Prices Hit the Skids, Slipping Back into Bear Territory

Oil prices slipped to \$43 last Wednesday, USA Today reports, a 20 percent decline from the 2017 peak of \$54 per barrel in February.

Read more [here](#).



Disaster Assistance Services Announced for Arkansas Businesses Impacted by Severe Weather/Flooding

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Arkansas resource partners are offering services to help businesses recover from the effects of severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding that occurred April 26 through May 19 in the state.

Read more [here](#).



Blue Dog Democrats Meet with Cohn, Mnuchin on Tax Reform

The Hill reports that “Blue Dog Democrats huddled with the leading members of President Trump’s economic team recently in the Capitol, where the lawmakers pressed the administration to seek bipartisan reforms to the nation’s tortuous tax code.”

Read more [here](#).



Construction Planned Next Spring for Arkadelphia Pulp Mill

Construction is expected to begin next March for a planned \$1 billion pulp mill in south Arkansas. The plant will take two years to build and will require up to 2,000 workers during the construction phase.

Read more [here](#).



Ryan, Pence Pledge Tax Reform This Year at NAM Manufacturing Summit

In speeches to NAM’s annual manufacturing summit last week, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Vice President Mike Pence renewed Republican commitment to achieving lasting tax reform this year.

Read more [here](#).



TeleTech Bringing Call Center, 350 Jobs to Morrilton Area This Summer

TeleTech, a global company with more than 48,000 employees worldwide, will open a “customer experience center” this summer in Morrilton that will create at least 350 new jobs.

Read more [here](#).



Amazon-Whole Foods Deal Could Transform Grocery Business

Amazon’s decision to pay \$13.7 billion for Whole Foods Market could create challenges for supermarkets, food manufacturers and companies that deliver groceries to customers’ homes.

Read more [here](#).



Mercy Clinic Fort Smith Opens \$7.9 Million Chaffee Crossing Facility

Mercy Clinic-Fort Smith opened a \$7.9 million, 13,500 square-foot, 28-room facility with eight practicing physicians on June 12.

Read more [here](#).



Housing Starts Fell in May, But Home Builders Still “Optimistic”

Reuters reported that “U.S. homebuilding fell for a third straight month in May to the lowest level in eight months as construction activity declined broadly.”

Read more [here](#).



American Cities Showing Rise in Small-Scale Manufacturing

Marketplace reported that “because of changes in technology and consumer tastes, smaller-scale manufacturing is making a comeback in urban areas around the country.”

Read more [here](#).



Trump’s Approach to Regulation Has Boosted Manufacturing, Coal Industry

Rolling back what President Trump calls “job-killing regulations” has been “the only area” where he “has chalked up big wins on his economic agenda so far,” but “that has been enough to quickly bolster confidence across the manufacturing sector and help revive the coal industry.”

Read more [here](#).



Manufacturers Issue NAFTA Recommendations To Strengthen Manufacturing in the United States

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) recently issued a 35-page set of comments to the USTR on the impact that NAFTA has had on the manufacturing sector with recommendations to strengthen jobs and manufacturing outcomes for the United States.

Read more [here](#).



Supreme Court Ruling on Class

Action Lawsuits “An Important Victory for Manufacturers”

The U.S. Supreme Court’s June 12 ruling in Microsoft v. Baker is an important victory for manufacturers because it could prevent certain types of class-action lawsuits and expensive piecemeal litigation.

Read more [here](#).



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