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May 2017

More Disruptions Feared from Cyber Attack; Microsoft Slams Government Secrecy

Officials across the globe scrambled over the weekend to catch the culprits behind a massive ransomware worm that disrupted operations at car factories, hospitals, shops and schools, while Microsoft pinned blame on the U.S. government for not disclosing more software vulnerabilities.

Read more [here](#).



Hino Motors Expands Marion Axle Plant, Invests \$280 million in New Production Line for Toyota Trucks

Hino Motors Corp., an Associated Industries of Arkansas Pinnacle Crownmember, launched the expansion of a 110,000 square foot production line recently at the Japanese auto part company's facility in Marion. New workers hired since 2013 will manufacture rear axles and front knuckle assemblies for Toyota Tacoma trucks.

Read more [here](#).



Treasury Secretary Defends Trump Plans for Jobs, Tax Reform

Fox Business reported that "Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin defended the Trump administration's plans to save and create jobs for American workers during his meetings with G7 finance ministers at their annual meeting in Bari, Italy."

Read more [here](#).



Chinese Textile Manufacturer to Invest \$410 Million and Create 800 Jobs

Shandong Ruyi Technology Group recently announced that it will invest \$410 million to remodel the former Sanyo manufacturing facility in Forrest City into a textile factory that will eventually employ about 800 people.

Read more [here](#).



Deloitte, Manufacturing Institute Survey: 76 Percent of Americans Want U.S. to Invest More in Manufacturing

IndustryWeek reports that “a high percentage of Americans want their government to invest further in the manufacturing sector.”

Read more [here](#).



Tyson Foods Inc. Acquires Outstanding Shares of AdvancePierre Foods Holdings Inc.

Associated Industries of Arkansas Summit Pinnacle member Tyson Foods Inc. recently announced a \$4.2 billion deal to purchase all outstanding shares of AdvancePierre Foods Holdings Inc. of Cincinnati, a national producer and distributor of value-added, ready-to-eat sandwiches, sandwich components, entrées and snacks.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Businesses Increased Stockpiles in March

The AP reported that “the Commerce Department says business inventories rose by a seasonally adjusted 0.2 percent in March, matching February’s gain.”

Read more [here](#).



Entergy Arkansas, NextEra Energy

Resource Announce 'Stuttgart Solar' Project

Arkansas State Chamber Pinnacle Apex member Energy Arkansas and NextEra Energy Resource recently christened the state's largest universal solar energy project, the Stuttgart Solar Energy Center, which will span 475 acres and feature more than 350,000 photovoltaic solar panels that will convert sun energy into electricity when complete.

Read more [here](#).



Growth in Home Building "Slow and Steady"

MarketWatch reports that "with inventory of previously-owned homes at long-time lows, economists and housing analysts are looking to home builders to relieve some of the supply pressures in the housing market."

Read more [here](#).



Lanxess Corp. Announces Promotions

Lanxess Corp., formerly Chemtura, an Associated Industries of Arkansas Pinnacle Crown member with operations in El Dorado, recently announced that Patty Cardin has been promoted to Director of Governmental Affairs, NAFTA and Kelly Herrgesell has been promoted to Manager of Public Relations and Land Services for Lanxess Solutions.

For more information on Lanxess, click [here](#).



Wells Fargo: U.S. Industrial Production Likely Grew "Modestly" In April

EconoTimes reported that a Wells Fargo research report finds that "U.S. industrial production likely picked up modestly in April."

Read more [here](#).



Sediver USA Opens Manufacturing Facility in West Memphis

Sediver USA recently opened a new \$15million manufacturing facility in West Memphis that will employ up to 75 workers and produce toughened



glass insulation for high voltage electrical transmissionlines across North America.

Read more [here](#).

Trump's Plan for Arctic Drilling Won't Hit aGusher

Drilling off Alaska isn't drawing much interest from U.S. producers because of the area's harsh weather conditions, hard-to-reach locations and poor infrastructure, which combined with weak oil prices result in operating costs too high for drilling to make sense in the Arctic.



Read more [here](#).

SouthwesternEnergy Plans Heightened Drilling in Moorefield Shale Play in North-CentralArkansas



AssociatedIndustries of Arkansas Pinnacle Peak member Southwestern Energy Co. recently announcedplans to heighten drilling activity in the emerging Moorefield Shale play in north-central Arkansas. located largely in the Arkoma Basin in White County.

Read more [here](#).

Unemployment Rate Projected to Fall Below 4 Percent

MarketWatch reports that Moody's Analytics economist Ryan Sweet projects that the U.S. economy "is going to shrug off that misleading 0.7% growth rate for the first quarter and keep adding jobs at a strong pace for the rest of the year."



Read more [here](#).

Arkansas Blood Institute Now Region'sLeading Blood Provider

Arkansas State Chamber member Arkansas Blood Institute is now the state's preferred blood services provider serving all major hospitals in Little Rock and most of Central Arkansas, including Baptist Health Medical Center, CHI St. Vincent, and Arkansas Heart Hospital.



Read more [here](#).

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