



INDUSTRY INSIGHT

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ARKANSAS

Business matters.

May 2018

Trump's Threatened Tariffs on Imported Autos/Parts Have Industry Up in Arms

The Detroit Free Press reports that "some policymakers and powerful business groups criticized President Donald Trump's threatened tariffs on imported autos and auto parts into the U.S. on national security grounds, suggesting Trump is abusing his authority."

Read more [here](#).



Nucor To Expand Hickman Plant, Adding 100 More Jobs

Nucor Corp. recently announced it will invest \$240 million in a new galvanizing line at its Hickman-based sheet mill. The new line will employ about 100 workers and will produce 500,000 tons each year.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Jobless Claims Rise

MarketWatch reports that "the number of people who applied for jobless benefits ahead of Memorial Day weekend rose to a seven-week high, but the increase is likely tied to seasonal swings in education-related employment."

Read more [here](#).



Creators Wanted - Registration Now Open for MFG Day 2018

Registration is now open for MFG Day 2018, which will take place the first Friday in October, on Oct. 5. Thousands of manufacturers will open their doors to show the American public what modern manufacturing really looks like. Please consider hosting an event at your facility.

Read more [here](#).



Study Shows Economic Impact of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives

Electric cooperatives in Arkansas contributed \$1.76 billion annually to the state between 2012 and 2016, according to a study the cooperatives recently released showing the economic impact the cooperatives have had on the state, towns and communities that the cooperatives serve.

Read more [here](#).



Electric Cooperatives
of Arkansas

ELFA: U.S. Business Borrowing Held Steady in April

"U.S. businesses borrowing to spend on capital goods was little changed in April from a year earlier," as "companies signed up for \$7.9 billion in new loans, leases and lines of credit last month," according to Reuters.

Read more [here](#).



Arkansas Regulators Approve \$4.5 Billion Wind Catcher Project

The Arkansas Public Service Commission recently approved Southwestern Electric Power Co.'s (SWEPCO) Wind Catcher Energy Connection project, a \$4.5 billion project that will deliver wind energy from the Oklahoma Panhandle to the utility's customers in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.



Read more [here](#).

U.S. Shale Production To Grow More Slowly Than Expected, Oil Veteran Says

U.S. shale production growth will likely disappoint in the future and climb at a slower-than-expected rate, said Mark Papa, former CEO of EOG Resources and current chairman and CEO of Centennial Resource Development.

Read more [here](#).



Gränges To Restart Newport Plant, Hire 100 New Employees

Gränges, a Swedish company that specializes in the production of rolled aluminum products for heat exchanger applications and other niche products, will spend \$26 million to expand its facility in Newport.

Read more [here](#).



NAM Supports Jobs for Success Act

The National Association of Manufacturers published a statement from President and CEO Jay Timmons supporting the Jobs and Opportunity with Benefits and Services (JOBS) for Success Act of 2018.

Read more [here](#).



CHI St. Vincent Breaks Ground on \$17 Million Neuroscience Facility

CHI St. Vincent recently broke ground on a \$17 million expansion of its Arkansas Neuroscience Institute. The new facility is being built on the campus of CHI St. Vincent North in Sherwood.



Read more [here](#).

Manufacturing Activity at “Strongest Level Since September 2014”

MarketWatch reports that “rising activity in U.S. private sector firms adds to evidence of a rebound in growth in the second quarter.”

Read more [here](#).



Bekaert Plans \$16 Million Expansion, 40 New Jobs at Van Buren Facility

A \$16 million, 100,000-square-foot expansion is planned for Bekaert's wire product plant in Van Buren.



Read more [here](#).

Report: Trump Has Cut Nearly Twice as Many Regulations as Promised

The Washington Examiner reports the Administration "is showing no signs of slowing its slashing of Obama-era regulations, beating their plans to cut two for every new rule."

Read more [here](#).



Calstrip To Invest \$15 million in Processing Facility at Hickman

Calstrip Industries recently announced plans to build a new processing facility on the Nucor Inc. campus in Hickman. Construction will begin during the second quarter of 2018.



Read more [here](#).

'Opportunity Zones' Could Stimulate Economic Efforts in Struggling Areas of State

Arkansas Economic Development Commission Executive Director Mike Preston is hopeful a new spinoff of last year's federal tax cut bill could help up to 85 impoverished communities across the state.



Read more [here](#).

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