



August 2018

U.S., China Place Additional \$16 Billion Worth of Tariffs on Each Other's Goods

Reuters reports that the U.S. and China “escalated their acrimonious trade war, implementing punitive 25 percent tariffs on \$16 billion worth of each other’s goods, even as mid-level officials from both sides resumed talks in Washington.”

Read more [here](#).



Aerojet Rocketdyne Investing More Than \$50 Million in Camden Plant

Aerojet Rocketdyne, an Associated Industries of Arkansas Pinnacle Crown member, recently announced plans to invest more than \$50 million in its Camden plant and hire 140 new workers over the next three years.

Read more [here](#).



EPA Unveils Less Stringent Alternative to Obama Power Plant Rule

The Trump Administration recently proposed replacing an Obama-era policy to combat climate change with a weaker plan that would let states write their own rules on coal-fired power plants.

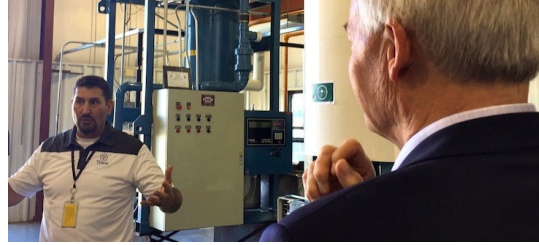
Read more [here](#).



Northwest Technical Institute To Build \$3.5 Million Ammonia Refrigeration Center

Northwest Technical Institute of Springdale, a State Chamber member, plans to break ground in September on a new 19,000-square-foot building that will more than triple the capacity of its ammonia refrigeration center.

Read more [here](#).



Fed Minutes Signal Rate Hike at Next Meeting

According to minutes from the Federal Reserve's last meeting, officials "said that it would 'likely soon be appropriate' to boost their benchmark interest rate, a strong signal that rates will be going up in September."

Read more [here](#).



Arkansas' Top Job-Hunters Say Unfilled Jobs Hurting Economy, Cite 'Skills Gap'

Arkansas' top job recruiters empathized with manufacturing industry leaders recently concerning the growing U.S. jobs skills gap that is hurting productivity and leaving thousands of key positions unfilled.

Read more [here](#).



NAR: Existing-Home Sales Fell 0.7 Percent in July

According to data recently released by the National Association of Realtors, existing-home sales fell 0.7 percent in July – marking the fourth consecutive month of decline.

Read more [here](#).



BHP Sells Fayetteville Shale Assets for \$300 Million to MMGJ Hugoton III

BHP Billiton Ltd. recently sold its Fayetteville Shale assets in Arkansas for \$300 million to MMGJ Hugoton, a limited liability partnership owned by Dallas-based Merit Energy Co.

Read more [here](#).



NAM Opposes State-By-State Net Neutrality Laws, Urges Congress To Pass Legislation To Keep

Internet “Permanently Open”

In a blog post for Shopfloor, NAM Director of Innovation Policy Stephanie Hall opposes state-by-state neutrality laws, instead urging Congress to pass legislation to keep the Internet “permanently open.”

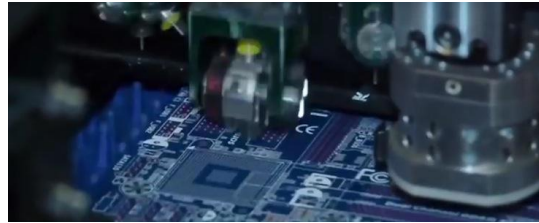
Read more [here](#).



Alpine 4 Acquires American Precision Fabricators

American Precision Fabricators, a State Chamber member, agreed to be acquired by Alpine 4 of Phoenix in April. As a result, Alpine 4 recently announced an expansion in Fort Smith.

Read more [here](#).



100 Manufacturers Increasing Hiring, Investment, Wages and Bonuses Due to Tax Reform

The Daily Signal reports on the experiences of 100 manufacturers who have “boosted hiring, expanded, or given raises [and] bonuses thanks to tax reform.”

Read more [here](#).



Seal Energy Solutions Teams Up with LightWave Solar

Seal Energy Solutions, a State Chamber member and certified Energy Efficiency and solar company, recently teamed up with LightWave Solar, a solar engineering, procurement and construction firm.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Administration Wants To Expand “Buy America” Rules To Include Government Infrastructure Projects

CNBC reports the Trump administration “is preparing a new executive order expanding rules favoring American-made products in government projects.”

Read more [here](#).



Amazon Planning Distribution Center in North Little Rock

Amazon is planning to build a distribution center in North Little Rock, according to city officials. The location is 1920 N. Locust St. just off Interstate 30.

Read more [here](#).



Veranda Luxury Pontoons Buys Manufacturing Plant, Plans To Hire Another 100 Employees

The Arkansas Democrat Gazette recently reported that Veranda Luxury Pontoons “announced its purchase of a 377,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in Hot Spring County and plans to hire another 100 workers.”

Read more [here](#).



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