



## BOOK OF LISTS

Watch your mail next week for the annual compendium of *Arkansas Business* lists, the must-have reference guide for doing business in 2018.

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## TOP 10 BUSINESS STORIES FROM 2017



### Exec Q&A: Sherece West-Scantlebury

The CEO of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation is looking to make systematic change in Arkansas. [P46]

#### Whispers [P3]

Movie Tavern moves ahead on project



## MADE IN ARKANSAS, BY CHINA

#1

Gov. Asa Hutchinson with Qiu Yafu, chairman of Shandong Ruyi Technology Group, which is putting a \$410 million yarn factory in the old Sanyo television factory in Forrest City. The mill will employ some 800 workers.

Photo by Lance Turner

BY ARKANSAS BUSINESS STAFF

**R**eversing the "Made in China" label, this year Chinese manufacturers stamped their future as "Made in Arkansas."

A wave of Chinese companies announced factory plans in the state or pushed them nearer to fruition in 2017, and Gov. Asa Hutchinson made his third trip to China, cementing deals and planting seeds for more.

Manufacturers seized on Arkansas as an ideal spot for "reshoring," returning factory jobs to the United States after a long trend in the other direction, and products from cotton yarn to pulpwood products to pet treats will soon be made in Arkansas.

The companies will pay Arkansas workers more than they pay their Chinese laborers, but will save on transporting goods.

"Over the last two years, four Chinese companies have announced plans to locate new facilities in Arkansas," Hutchinson said in early October, before another major project was announced for Jonesboro. "These companies will create a total of 1,520 new jobs while investing \$1.4 billion in the state." The biggest prize, in terms of capital investment, is Sun Bio Materials Co.'s

TOP 10 CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

YEAR IN REVIEW



Best & Worst // P15-17



"The owner has a lot of card games."

Best Quotes // P19-21



Notable Deaths // P22

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2017



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Baldwin & Shell Construction Co.  
Best General Contractor

- Best Engineering Firm**  
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*Finalists*  
Bernhard TME • Garver

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- Best General Contractor**  
Baldwin & Shell Construction Co.  
*Finalists*  
CDI Contractors • Nabholz

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- Best HVAC Contractor**  
Middleton Heat & Air  
*Finalists*  
Bob & Ed's Heating & Air Conditioning • Dash Heating & Cooling

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- Best Plumbing Contractor**  
Russell & Lemay Plumbing Heating Air  
*Finalists*  
Ray Lusk Plumbing • Sanders Services

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- Best Interior Office Designer**  
Shayla Copas Interiors  
*Finalists*  
Evo • Innerplan • Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects

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- Best Interior Plant Service**  
PLANTation Services  
*Finalist*  
Plant Services

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- Best Office Cleaning Services**  
Dow Building Services  
*Finalists*  
Corvus Janitorial Systems • J&J Cleaning Services

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Best Team Building Center (PHOTO PROVIDED)

- Best Trucking Company**  
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CalArk • JB Hunt

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- Best Auto Maintenance and Repair Company**  
Christian Brothers Automotive  
Finalists  
Austin Brothers • Foster's Garage

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- Best Promotional Items Company**  
Southern Branding  
Finalists  
Allegra Marketing • ASAP • Magna IV

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- Best Dry Cleaning Service**  
Hangers Cleaners  
Finalists  
Moose Cleaners • Shickel's Cleaners • Tide Dry Cleaners

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- Best Vending Services**  
Imperial  
Finalists  
PepsiCo • Snack Vending Co.

---

- Best Team Building Center**  
C.H. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center  
Finalists  
Camp Winnamocka • Pinnacle Valley Restaurant & Party Rooms

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- Best Courier Service**  
Parrish Delivery Services  
Finalists  
FedEx • UPS

---

- Best Wireless Telephone Provider**  
Verizon Wireless  
Finalists  
AT&T • Sprint

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- Best Glass Company**  
Ace Glass  
Finalists  
Glass Erectors • Jones Glass

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