U.S. Fears Mass Boycott as Chinese Turn to Homegrown Brands

A wave of nationalism sweeping mainland China could be bad news for Western brands.

Read more here.

Congress Faces Major Hurdles to Spending Deal

Senators broke a months-long stalemate over funding the government by starting work on a package of four spending bills, but major hurdles remain to avoid a shutdown in November.

Read more here.

U.S. Trade Envoy Meets with Lawmakers on Proposed USMCA Trade Agreement

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer met with Democratic lawmakers to try to resolve their concerns about the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

Read more here.

Manufacturing Production Fell in September for Sixth Time This Year

Manufacturing production declined 0.5 percent in
September, falling for the sixth time this year. Read more here.

Dan Brouillette To Replace Outgoing Energy Secretary Rick Perry

President Trump announced he plans to nominate Deputy Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette to replace outgoing Energy Secretary Rick Perry. Read more here.

The Aging of the Manufacturing Workforce: Challenges and Best Practices

The skills gaps and the need to attract and retain a skilled workforce continues to be the number one concern facing manufacturers in the U.S. Read more here.

The Devastating Consequences of Ignoring Workplace Ergonomics

Companies need to deploy a systematic process for identifying, analyzing and controlling workplace risk factors that lead to workplace injuries. Read more here.

Supreme Court to Consider Whether States’ Climate Lawsuits Can Proceed

The Supreme Court will determine whether state cases involving climate-related public nuisance claims against oil companies can move forward. Read more here.

EIA: U.S. Crude Expands Its Global Footprint

Surging domestic oil production has allowed the U.S. to reduce its dependence on imported crude
and boost exports by 2.2 million barrels per day since January 2016.

Read more here.

**Technology Affects Workforce Training, Costs, Pay**

Manufacturing technology is outpacing workers' knowledge and skill levels, so companies need to make certain workers are properly trained.

Read more here.

**Column: Soft Skills Remain in Short Supply**

Companies need programs to develop deeper skills such as negotiation, critical thinking and emotional intelligence.

Read more here.

**Aluminum Cans Facing Off Against Plastic Bottles**

Global bottled water giants are ramping up trials of easily recyclable aluminum cans to replace the plastic that pollutes the world’s seas.

Read more here.

**Can an Apprentice Network Fill U.S. Skills Gap?**

Collaborative apprenticeship programs involving multiple manufacturers and partners can attract more participants and local investment.

Read more here.

**How Biotechnology May Change Manufacturing**
The field of biotechnology is expanding rapidly, as hundreds of startups work on startling innovations. Read more [here](#).

“Old Age” Is Made Up and the Concept Is Hurting Everyone

Products designed for older people reinforce a bogus image of them as being passive and feeble. Read more [here](#).