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ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS – Nov. 24 is Small Business Saturday – a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for our communities. Join the U.S. Small Business Administration and organizations across the country in supporting your local economy by shopping at a small business. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yadkvz6p> to locate participating businesses. For small business owners, this link has helpful marketing information for events and the holidays.

FLORIDA'S MINIMUM WAGE TO INCREASE JAN. 1 – Florida's minimum wage will increase to \$8.46 on Jan. 1, up from last year's minimum of \$8.25 per hour. The annual calculation is based on the percentage increase in the federal Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers in the South Region for the 12-month period prior to Sept. 1, 2018. To obtain the latest Florida Minimum Wage poster for your business, go to <https://tinyurl.com/mpu453b>.

TOPS IN MANUFACTURING – Earlier this year, the Brookings Institution released the 2018 version of its “global manufacturing scorecard” that looks at key factors impacting the manufacturing sector, including overall policies and regulations; tax policy; energy, transportation and health costs; workforce quality; and infrastructure and innovation. For the analysis, Brookings compiled data on 20 indicators and scored 19 leading nations on a 100-point scale. The top-ranked nations in overall manufacturing environment were the United Kingdom and Switzerland (both scoring 78 points out of 100), followed by the United States (77 points), Japan (74 points) and Canada (74 points). When measured in terms of the percentage of national output generated by manufacturing, China leads the pack in manufacturing output, according to Brookings. Florida, which ranks among the nation's top 10 states for manufacturing, is home to more than 19,000 manufacturers employing more than 331,000 workers. To review the full report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y9yoyfpg>.

2018 GLOBAL SPACE INDUSTRY INVESTMENT UPDATE – Worldwide private investment in the space industry remains an active economic sector. Space industry investment deals amounted to just over \$2 billion for the first three quarters of 2018, according to the Q3 Space Investment Quarterly report by the space industry online investment platform, Space Angels. This is a significant increase from Q2's total of approximately \$1.35 billion. Launch sector companies continue to lead space economy investment by crossing the \$1 billion investment threshold and comprising 53 percent of new capital year to date. Coming in a close second was investment in the satellites sector, which grew significantly in the third quarter and now accounts for 45 percent of total investment.

BEST PLACES FOR VETERANS TO LIVE – The personal finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2018's best and worst places for veterans to live. The report compares the 100 largest U.S. cities across 18 key metrics, ranging from share of military skill related jobs to housing affordability to availability of VA health facilities. Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville and Miami ranked Nos. 9, 10, 22 and 35 respectively. Virginia Beach has the highest veteran population, which is 15.3 times higher than in Hialeah, Florida, the city with the lowest at 8.51. Plano, Texas, has the lowest veteran unemployment rate, which is 6.5 times lower than in Detroit, Michigan. To view the full report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ya9aqn85>.

STRONG ECONOMY BOLSTERS ABSORPTION, RENTS IN U.S. OFFICE MARKET – As reported by REBusiness Online, a robust American economy is strengthening the fundamentals of the country's office market, keeping vacancy in check and driving asking rents up, according to a new report from Houston-based Transwestern. Strong job growth resulting in a 3.7 percent unemployment rate in October, coupled with a 3.5 percent increase in GDP during the third quarter, propelled the U.S. office market to nearly 23 million square feet of positive net absorption. Year-to-date absorption in the office market has increased by 17.1 percent compared to the first three quarters of 2017. Year-over-year, the national vacancy rate has held steady at 10.1 percent.

A MAP OF EVERY BUILDING IN AMERICA – As reported by the New York Times, for the first time, a searchable comprehensive database has been released that contains map image representations of every building in the country. The map images are presented in black and white and are drawn from a huge database that Microsoft released to the public this year. The map can be searched by city or ZIP code, and the revealed cityscapes provide an opportunity to see your city as never before. The company's computer engineers trained a neural network to analyze satellite imagery and trace the shapes of buildings across the country. Such information has been available before in some places, but this is the first comprehensive map covering the entire United States. To view your community, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycnucr7c>.

TURKEYS AND CRANBERRIES – Thanksgiving is nearly here, and the USDA has forecasted the number of turkeys raised this year in the United States to be 240 million. The National Turkey Federation has estimated U.S. consumption of turkey to be 16.3 pounds per capita. According to the USDA, total U.S. cranberry production for 2018 will reach 8.63 million barrels, up 3 percent from last year. Wisconsin leads all states in cranberry production, and this year's total is forecast at 5.5 million barrels, up 2 percent from 2017.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! – Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley, Volusia County Community Information director, at jmagley@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.