

Guest Speaker – March 9th -Torian Auditorium from 11 am-11:45 am

COBA Research Day 2018 – March 20th -Torian Auditorium from 11am-1pm

● **With lumber in short supply, record wood costs are set to juice home**

Lumber costs are turning sharply upward, assuming buyers can even get diminished wood supplies delivered. A series of fires across prime forests along with a trade dispute between the U.S. and Canada have crimped the amount of timber in the market and a shortage of railcars and trucks is adding steeper transportation costs to record-high prices for lumber. The price-supply concerns are adding to growing stresses in the U.S. housing market, with home sales sputtering and inventories of homes tight. Builders expect to step up the pace of construction this spring, but double-digit gains in transport rates in some markets means the costs will keep rising even when they can find the lumber they need.

Source: The Wall Street Journal/ Logistics News March 1, 2018

● **Trump threatens to impose tariffs on European cars**

The fallout from new U.S. trade barriers may reach far beyond steel mills. Officials from Europe, Canada and Japan were among leaders raising alarms over the Trump administration's planned import curbs, and the WSJ's Ben Leubsdorf and Rebecca Baulhaus write that goods including Harley-Davidson motorcycles, Kentucky bourbon and bluejeans could be targeted under retaliatory actions. President Donald Trump has upped the ante, saying the U.S. could respond with new tariffs on European car exports. That would hit even more U.S.

Source: The Wall Street Journal/ Logistics News March 3, 2018

● **Optimism for manufacturers upended with Trump's tariff pledge**

Supply chains at the center of the U.S. industrial sector may undergo a wholesale overhaul under potential new tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. Suppliers and manufacturers from the food industry to automobile parts makers are examining their sources and orders of raw materials as well as their sales commitments as they look at the possible impact of the Trump administration's plan for 25% tariffs on imported steel and 10% on aluminum.

Source: The Wall Street Journal/ Logistics News March 4, 2018

● **Investors want to talk food waste with Amazon**

Amazon.com Inc. is starting to feel pain from a natural result of moving into the grocery business—spoilage. Investors looking at the company's recent drive into the supermarket arena are pushing Amazon to explain how much of the food from its operations goes to waste.

Source: The Wall Street Journal/ Logistics News March 1, 2018

For more information contact or visit:

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