

## ● **Preliminary NAFTA Deal Reached Between U.S. and Mexico**

The United States and Mexico have reached agreement to revise key portions of the 24-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement, a crucial step toward revamping a trade pact that has appeared on the brink of collapse during the past year of negotiations. President Trump said on Monday that the countries would be entering into a new trade deal called the United States Mexico-trade agreement, and that he wanted to get rid of the name NAFTA, which he said sounded bad.

Source: NY Times August 27 2018

## ● **Volkswagen's Efforts to Stop Scandals Needs More Work, Reports Say**

Nearly three years after Volkswagen admitted to a vast emissions cheating scheme, the company has only just begun to take steps necessary to prevent future scandals. That was the main takeaway from a report issued Monday by a prominent American lawyer appointed to monitor the company's behavior. Among other things, Volkswagen still has work to do to create an adequate whistle-blower program, the lawyer, Larry D. Thompson, wrote in the report.

Source: NY Times Aug 27 2018

## ● **In Egypt's Vision of Energy Independence, Egyptians Pay More**

Egypt's government is taking an unconventional approach towards becoming the Middle East's next big energy exporter: Its own citizens are footing the bill. President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi's government has coaxed some big oil companies back to Egypt in part by paying foreign companies more for natural gas and by raising the price of electricity and gas for consumers, who also face rising costs for transportation, water and other basic goods. In June, electricity prices rose 26% overnight while natural gas prices rose as much as 75%

Source: Wall Street Journal Aug 27 2018

## ● **Natural Grocers Shrug Off Amazon-Whole Foods Threat**

When Amazon Inc. bought Whole Foods last year, Kemper Isley worried about how his regional health-food chain would compete with the e-commerce giant. A year later, the chief executive of Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage Inc. is sleeping better. Sales are up, shares have nearly doubled since January and the Colorado based company is expanding its network of 147 stores.

Source: Wall Street Journal Aug 26 2018

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