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CIT 110

WSJ #1

Article 1: Tesla Says China Output Hits Target - Tuesday, December 31, 2019

The first article I read talks about Tesla making vehicles in Shanghai, China. It is reported that Tesla has hit its target of making 1000 vehicles a week in its factory in China, called Gigafactory Shanghai. The factory’s overseer, Song Gang, says that Tesla has been able to produce 28 vehicles within an hour. This is important for Tesla because it means that the company can grow within China, and has a possibility of growing in other parts of the world as well. This is also beneficial to Tesla because they can lower shipping costs. Along with the making of these vehicles, Tesla also has 36 retail stores and around 300 charging stations in China. I feel that this is a relevant topic because Tesla vehicles have become more popular recently, getting peoples’ attention in regards to electric cars. This is also important because more countries and other parts of the world will more easily get access to these electric vehicles, which can raise the popularity of electric vehicles and affect what kinds of vehicles people around the world normally drive.

Article 2: Apple Keeps Alerting Users on Tracking - January 2, 2020

Another article I read talks about Apple’s iOS 13 update for their devices. Many users of Apple’s iPhones have experienced frequent notifications regarding apps that track their location even while the app is not in use. Because of this update, it is reported that tens of millions of users have blocked some apps’ abilities to track their location. This blocking of location tracking, however, has made some app developers concerned that their apps will not be used effectively. Some examples include Life360, which allows family members to track each other’s location and call an ambulance in a vehicle accident, and Tile Inc., which makes tracking devices for different items like wallets. This is an important topic because people have concerns for their own privacy, and notifications like these made people more aware of apps that track their location. It is also important because changes like these can make companies aware of how these changes can help, or in this case, hurt other companies in the process. In this case, this update hurts app makers who make apps that rely on tracking peoples’ locations.

Article 3: Robots Help With Walmart’s Groceries - January 9, 2020

The third article I found talked about Walmart’s efforts in improving their selling of groceries. A Walmart store in Salem, NH has a robotic system that workers operate. The worker uses a screen to assemble online orders, and robots collect those items and bag them for shoppers to pick them up. The use of robots can help Walmart fulfill orders faster and allows them to cut back on labor costs. An estimation says that store workers collect 80 store items an hour, while the robot system, called Alphabot, is made to collect 800 items an hour while operated by just one person. I feel this is important because it can affect how quickly buyers receive their groceries, making buying online more convenient. On the business side of it, Walmart can more effectively fulfill peoples’ orders and make more money from the sales and cutting back on labor costs. This could also affect Walmart workers because positions for working with the robotic system would open, but not as many workers would be necessary for the other positions that handle online orders.