

- **Uber's Vision of Self-Driving Cars Begins to Blur**

After Dara Khosrowshahi took over as Uber's chief executive last August, he considered shutting the company's money-losing autonomous vehicle division. A visit to Pittsburgh this spring changed that. In town for a leadership summit, Mr. Khosrowshahi and other Uber executives were briefed on the state of the company's self-driving vehicle research, which is based in Pittsburgh. The group was impressed by the progress its autonomous division has made in testing driverless cars in Pittsburgh and in Arizona, according to the three people familiar with the ride-hailing company, who were not authorized to speak publicly.

Source: NY Times Aug 19, 2018

- **Netflix Tests Promotional Videos but Users See 'Commercials'**

It's easy for a Netflix subscriber to watch one episode after another of a favorite show: a viewer makes a selection and lets them keep on coming. Netflix might interrupt a binge after several hours of inactivity by asking "Are you still watching?" and a user has to respond to keep the episodes rolling. But now subscribers face a different interruption: promotional videos which can last from 10 to 20 seconds.

Source: NY Times Aug 20 2018

- **Pepsi to Buy SodaStream for \$3.2 Billion in Shift to Healthier Drinks**

Pepsi Inc. has agreed to buy SodaStream International Ltd. for \$3.2 billion, the latest move by the cola giant to diversify away from sugary sodas and salty snacks. Israel based SodaStream makes countertop machines that allow consumers to carbonate tap water and other beverages at home by filling a reusable bottle and flavoring with an array of syrups.

Source: The Wall Street Journal Aug 20 2018

- **Sears CEO Puts His Board on the Spot**

For years Edward Lampert has called the shots at Sears Holding Corp. as its chief executive, largest shareholder and biggest lender. But his latest play to keep the struggling chain afloat is out of his hands. The hedge-fund manager turned CEO said earlier this year that he would be interested in buying the Kenmore appliance business and other assets, after a two-year strategic review by the company failed to result in a deal for the units.

Source: Wall Street Journal August 19 2018

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