

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **Governments are** resisting a plan by OpenAI's Sam Altman to reduce robot risk by scanning the eyeballs of every person on Earth and pay them with Worldcoin, his own cryptocurrency. **A1**

◆ **For the largest global** automakers, profits in China have been hit by falling sales as consumers embrace electric vehicles from homegrown brands such as BYD, which last year supplanted VW as China's bestselling carmaker. **B1**

◆ **Discount airlines are** introducing bundle deals that include amenities such as checked bags, alcohol and priority boarding, seeing an opportunity to sell a more premium experience without abandoning their low-cost status. **B1**

◆ **Startups promising** to power planes, ships and trucks with clean fuel are sputtering before they get started, showing how hard it will be to wean many industries off oil and gas. **B3**

◆ **X said it is closing** its Brazil operations after a clash over a judge's order to remove certain content, escalating friction between Elon Musk and governments about content regulation on his platform. **B4**

◆ **Just 9% of U.S.** venture funds raised in 2021 distributed any capital to limited partners three years after launching, according to a new report from financial-software provider Carta. **B9**

◆ **Young Americans are** embracing a rent-first lifestyle, preferring to try out goods from furniture to everyday clothing rather than committing to ownership. **B1**

World-Wide

◆ **Democratic voters' energy** for Kamala Harris spread to a series of critical races in California, and the party's congressional candidates are hoping to use it to win back the House of Representatives. **A5**

◆ **Some Trump allies warn** that he risks squandering his opportunity to return to the White House if the candidate fails to stick to the issues and continues to indulge in personal attacks against his opponent. **A6**

◆ **Law-enforcement officials** and protest organizers said they intend to maintain the peace at this year's Democratic National Convention in Chicago, a city that was the scene of widely televised violence at the event in 1968. **A4**

◆ **Russian conscript soldiers** taken prisoner during Ukraine's incursion into Russia pose a threat to Putin's credibility after he promised that professionals only would participate in active combat against Kyiv's forces. **A7**

◆ **Expelled former congressman** George Santos was expected to plead guilty to criminal charges, according to people familiar with the matter, averting a trial for the New York Republican that was scheduled for next month. **A3**

◆ **Vietnam's new leader,** To Lam, is making China the destination of his first foreign visit, signaling the continuing importance Hanoi places on its giant neighbor. **A16**

◆ **Died: Alain Delon,** 88, charismatic French film actor. **A16**

JOURNAL REPORT

Cybersecurity: You've got questions. We've got answers. **R1-5**

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Ukraine Incursion Forces Russians to Seek Shelter



SEARCH FOR SAFETY: Russian civilians evacuated from the Kursk region took refuge Sunday in a boxing gym following the incursion by Ukrainian forces. The advance by Kyiv dealt a blow to Putin's image as a guarantor of stability and security. **A7**

A Once-Cautious Harris Is Now The Democrats' Driving Force

In her first months as vice president, Kamala Harris's staff faced a dilemma: When a military officer saluted her as she boarded Air Force Two, should

By Rebecca Ballhaus, Tarini Parti, Emily Glazer and Annie Linskey

she salute back? Harris's predecessors—including Joe Biden when he was vice president—routinely saluted back. But Nancy McElowney, then her national security adviser, explained that

military protocol didn't require her to do so given that Harris wasn't commander in chief and not in the military chain of command. Doing so could make Harris look like she was trying to inflate her role, former administration officials said.

Boarding one of her first flights on Air Force Two, Harris skipped the salute. Conservative commentators accused her of disrespecting the military. Soon after, aides were told Harris would salute going forward. One wrote up a memo on proper saluting protocol—including pictures of previous presidents

who had gotten it wrong—and the vice president even practiced in private, people familiar with the matter said.

"She really wanted to do the right thing and did not want to be out of step either with military protocol or with perceptions of her role as vice president," McElowney told The Wall Street Journal, adding that Harris has "deep respect" for military service members.

The deliberations show how a cautious approach to decisions big and small became a defining characteristic of Harris's vice presidency. She also was wary

of offering her own policy views and in building out her political infrastructure. Much of her behavior has been driven by a desire not to overshadow President Biden and to demonstrate loyalty to a man she vigorously attacked during the 2020 Democratic primary.

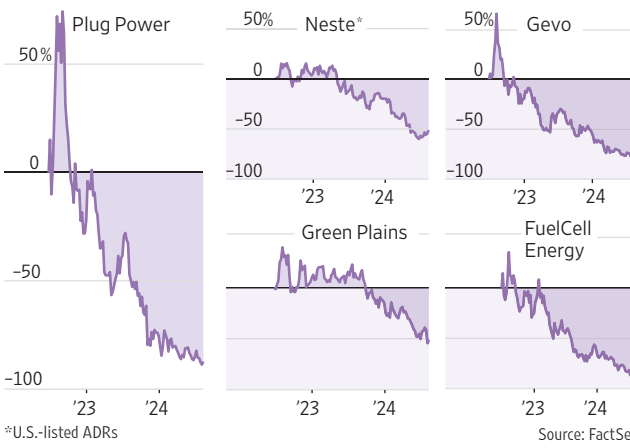
Her caution was exacerbated

◆ **Economic concerns keep swing county in play..... A4**
◆ **Chicago police vow no repeat of 1968..... A4**
◆ **Trump courts Pennsylvania Democrats..... A4**

Clean-Fuel Startups Struggle

Companies promising to power planes, ships and trucks with clean fuel are sputtering, showing how difficult it will be to wean many industries off oil and gas. **B3**

Share-price performance of hydrogen and biofuel companies since summer 2022, weekly



Hey, Can I Get Your Number? And I Mean Your Credit Score

Financial metric is hot on dating apps for what it might mean about reliability

By HARRIET TORRY

Forget about looks and smarts. When it comes to finding a partner, some would-be paramours are most interested in their date's credit score.

Alexander Marks, a lawyer who works in public education and lives in Las Vegas, was flummoxed when potential dates on match-making apps messaged him to ask about his credit score at least a dozen times in recent years.

"It's an odd approach because you're just reducing me to a number," said Marks, 38. "That's an immediate

turnoff for me."

The little three-digit numbers are made when credit bureaus collect information on your payment and debt history from lenders, which credit-scoring companies then use to assign a numerical value ranging from about 300 to 850.

Banks use the scores to decide who gets a loan.

Those on the hunt for love say they're not bad for scoping out romantic partners either—well, except when they are.

Dan Fiscus, 25, said he often messaged with women about credit scores when he

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Slain Hezbollah Commander Lived an Almost Invisible Life

BEIRUT—Fuad Shukr had eluded the U.S. for four decades, ever since a bombing killed 241 U.S. servicemen in a Marine barracks in the Lebanese capital, which it says he

By Sune Engel Rasmussen, Adam Chamseddine and Carrie Keller-Lynn

helped plan. At the end of July, an Israeli airstrike found him on the seventh floor of a residential building not far away.

The militant was one of the U.S.-designated terrorist group Hezbollah's founders

and most senior operatives, a longtime trusted friend of the leader Hassan Nasrallah who played a key role in developing the missile arsenal that has made Hezbollah the world's best-armed nonstate militia. For the past 10 months, he had commanded the group's increasingly intense cross-border skirmishing with Israel.

Yet despite being one of the most important figures in Hezbollah's history, he lived an almost invisible life, appearing only in small gatherings of the group's trusted veterans. He emerged in public early this

Altman's Worldcoin Takes On Fight Over Eye Scans

Governments resist initiative aimed at helping differentiate people from robots

By ANGUS BERWICK

Sam Altman wants to save us from the AI-dominated world he is building. The trouble is, governments aren't buying his plan, which involves an attempt to scan the eyeballs of every person on Earth and pay them with his own cryptocurrency.

Altman's OpenAI is creating models that may outsmart. His Worldcoin initiative said it is addressing a risk that could follow: We won't be able to tell people and robots apart.

But more than a dozen jurisdictions from Hong Kong to Spain have either suspended Worldcoin's operations or looked into its data processing. Among their concerns: How does the Cayman Islands-registered Worldcoin Foundation handle user data, train its algorithms and avoid scanning children?

Altman has tried to push back. The project plays a vital role in the OpenAI chief executive's vision for society's future, by attempting to ascribe every human a unique signature.

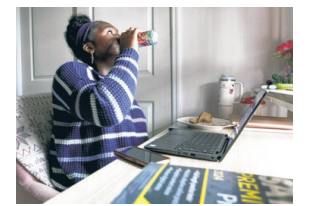
Worldcoin verifies "humanity" by scanning irises using a basketball-sized device called the Orb. Worldcoin said irises, can better distinguish humans than fingerprints or faces.

Users receive immutable codes in an online "World ID" passport, to use on other platforms to prove they are human, plus payouts in Worldcoin's WLD cryptocurrency.

Worldcoin launched last year and said it has verified

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INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL
Teens' energy-drink habits can disrupt classes and even cause seizures. **A9**



BUSINESS & FINANCE
Budget airlines take a page from big carriers' playbooks by adding premium upgrades. **B1**

CEO Accrued a Fortune As Hospital Chain Failed

By JONATHAN WEIL

Steward Health Care System was in such dire straits before its bankruptcy that its hospital administrators scrounged each week to find cash and supplies to keep their facilities running.

As it was losing hundreds of millions of dollars a year, Steward paid at least \$250 million to its chief executive, Dr. Ralph de la Torre, and to his other companies during the four years he was the hospital chain's majority owner.

Steward filed for bankruptcy in May, one of the biggest hospital failures in decades. Conditions at some of its hospitals have grown dire. In one Florida hospital, a pest-control company last year found 3,000 bats.

Steward's bankruptcy has drawn government scrutiny. A Senate committee launched an investigation and subpoenaed de la

Torre to testify next month.

Last month, on the day Steward said it would close two Massachusetts hospitals, de la Torre was in France to attend Olympic equestrian events at the Palace of Versailles.

The former cardiac surgeon owns a 190-foot, \$40 million yacht and a 90-foot, \$15 million sportfishing boat, according to the Senate committee. He owns an 11,108-square-foot Dallas mansion, valued at \$7.2 million by the county.

He paid at least \$7.2 million in 2022 for a 500-acre ranch 45 miles south in Waxahachie, according to the deed. Two private jets that the same Senate committee valued at \$95 million were owned by a Steward affiliate that is majority-owned by de la Torre.

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey called for de la Torre to be federally investigated. "He

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