



The Dow Jones industrial average closed at **20,812.24**, up **.20** points, -0.12% from the previous close and +5.31% from Dec. 31.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

H&M announces plan for 3rd store in state

Fashion retailer H&M will open a third location in the state later this year, the company said Tuesday.

Its new 20,000-square-foot store will be located at Outlets of Little Rock. The store will offer clothing for women, men and teens as well as "store within a store" sections for accessories, according to a news release. The store is expected to employ about 30 workers and is expected to open in late 2017.

In late January, the company said it is opening a store at Park Plaza in Little Rock. The Park Plaza location will be 29,000 square feet and will be on two floors. It is expected to open in the fall. The company opened its first Arkansas store in Jonesboro in 2016.

H&M, Hennes & Mauritz AB is based in Sweden and employs more than 16,000 people in 467 locations across the U.S., according to the company.

— John Magsam

J.B. Hunt's full fleet to use tracking tech

J.B. Hunt Transport Services Inc. will implement fleetwide container tracking immediately.

"End-to-end visibility to the entire supply chain is the new expectation and as a technology leader in the industry, we are excited to provide this service to our customers," Terry Matthews, executive vice president and president of the intermodal division, said in a news release.

The Lowell-based company chose Orbcomm Technology, The New Jersey company sells machine-to-machine communications systems that can track and monitor fixed and mobile assets. J.B. Hunt's 90,000 pieces of trailing equipment, the nation's largest 53-foot container fleet, will feature solar-rechargeable GPS tracking devices and sensors to detect cargo.

The companies have been piloting the technology on the fleet for over a year, and installation will continue throughout 2017.

— Emma N. Hurt

Index slides 6.42, ends day at 350.20

The Arkansas Index, a price-weighted index that tracks the public companies based in the state, sank 6.42 to 350.20 Tuesday.

"The major averages pulled back modestly as investors moved to the sidelines ahead of President [Donald] Trump's highly anticipated speech to Congress," said Bob Williams, senior vice president and managing director of Simmons First Investment Group Inc. in Little Rock.

Total volume for the index was 361 million shares.

The index was developed by Bloomberg News and the *Democrat-Gazette* with a base value of 100 as of Dec. 30, 1997.

The Arkansas Index

Close Chg

Axiom Corp. 28.52 -0.63

America's Car-Mart 31.85 -0.35

Arvest Bank 31.00 -0.00

Bear's of the Ozarks 54.73 -0.69

Bear Stearns Financial 9.52 -0.44

Deltic Timber Corp. 74.32 +0.33

Dillard's Inc. 54.52 -1.59

Eagle BancShares 28.14 -0.50

JB Hunt Transport 58.87 -1.95

Murphy Oil Corp. 28.29 -0.48

National USA 63.73 -1.14

PAM Transportation 18.23 -0.69

Simmons First Nbd. 57.50 -1.10

Tyson Foods 62.56 +0.20

USA Truck 9.51 +0.23

Uniti Group* 28.97 -0.27

Wal-Mart Stores 7.93 -0.81

Windstream 7.47 -0.27

*Formerly Communications Sales & Leasing Inc.

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Grand opening today for steel mill



DAVID SMITH
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

to produce more than 90,000 tons of steel in February, which would approach or pass the world record for production for a plant's second month of operation, he said.

The record numbers are based on statistics kept by SGS Group of Dusseldorf, Germany, Stickler said.

The \$1.3 billion mill near Osceola produced 63,000 tons of hot rolled steel in January, its first full month of operation, a world record for similar small mills, CEO Dave Stickler said in an interview last week. The mill was expected

that the mill is constantly learning, Stickler said.

Stickler said the mill is a "Google driverless car."

"The first day, the car doesn't know how to drive itself, but the more it drives, the more it learns," he said. "It's the same with this mill. The algorithms and the artificial intelligence tools allow the mill to correct any production deficiencies automatically."

The mill is also the first of its kind to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification,

See MILL, Page 4D

Tech Park building opens



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/BENJAMIN KRAIN

Ritter Communications employees (left) meet Tuesday at the Little Rock Technology Park as contractors complete work on the building, which opens officially to clients today. The tech park includes property located in and next to a downtown city block between Main and Scott streets off Capitol Avenue.

Herbicide bills filed in Legislature

Fines increased for drift damage; Senate targets dicamba

JOHN MAGSAM
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

New bills increasing the penalty for the egregious use of herbicides in Arkansas were filed in both the House and Senate on Tuesday.

Senate Bill 501 would allow the state's Plant Board to levy fines of more than \$1,000 but not more than \$25,000 for violations for the use of the herbicide dicamba or a re-

lated products that the board determines were egregious.

To be egregious, the violation must result in significant off-target crop damage because of the application of the products. The bill is sponsored by Sen. Blake Johnson, R-Corning, and David Wallace, R-Leachville.

The current maximum fine for illegal application of a pesticide or herbicide in Ar-

kansas is \$1,000 per incident, which several Plant Board members and some farmers have said is too low to be a deterrent.

Last summer, some farmers illegally sprayed older versions of the herbicide dicamba on crops, harming thousands of acres of cotton, soybeans, fruits and vegetables in Arkansas and neighboring states. On Oct. 27,

2016, a dispute over spraying with dicamba resulted in the fatal shooting of an Arkansas farmer.

Wallace said Tuesday that dicamba was a particularly volatile herbicide and the Plant Board needed a stiffer monetary deterrent when dealing with its misuse.

Wallace, a farmer, said his bill targeted dicamba specifically.

See **BILLS**, Page 4D

Amazon breakdown in cloud computing affects eastern U.S.

MAE ANDERSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A glitch Tuesday in Amazon's cloud-computing service, Amazon Web Services, in its eastern U.S. region, caused unprecedent and widespread problems for thousands of websites and apps.

Beginning around midday on the East Coast, one region of its "S3" service based in Virginia began to experience what Amazon called "exceptional error rates," Amazon is the largest provider of cloud computing services in the U.S.

In a statement, Amazon said it was still experiencing "high error rates" that were

"impacting various [Amazon Web Services] services."

"We are working hard at repairing S3, believe we understand root cause, and are working on implementing what we believe will remediate the issue," the company said.

Amazon's Simple Storage Service, or S3, stores files and data for companies on remote servers. It's used for everything from building websites and apps to storing images, customer data and customer transactions.

"Anything you can think about storing in the most cost-effective way possible," is how Rich Mogull, chief executive officer of data se-

See **CLOUD**, Page 2D

Banks' earnings rise 7.7%, but bigger loan losses logged

MARY GORDON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — U.S. banks' earnings in the final quarter of 2016 rose 7.7 percent from a year earlier, as lending continued to grow and banks set aside less for losses on loans for the first time since late 2015.

The FDIC reported that U.S. banks earned \$43.7 billion in the fourth quarter.

ance Corp. showed strength in the industry more than eight years after the financial crisis struck. However, banks continued to post bigger losses on loans, especially for credit cards and commercial and industrial loans.

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See **BANKS**, Page 4D



A United Airlines jet lands at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J., in this file photo. The airline said it plans to add more flights from key airports this summer.

Going on offense, airline exec says

United to add flights, upgrade fleet, renovate terminals

DAVID KOENIG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — United Air-

lines, which lost the distinc-

tion of being the world's big-

gest carrier after shrinking

for several years, plans to

regain lost ground by adding

more flights from key air-

ports this summer.

The airline wants to up-

grade facilities at airports

and trim the use of smaller

planes on some business

routes.

Delta and American Air-

lines Group Inc. have been

adding flights, often on big-

ger planes, between major

cities. Not United.

If the expansion plan

stalls, which will nearly 2 per-

cent in the past five years,

while revenue at industry

leader Delta Air Lines Inc.

rose 8 percent.

United has slipped in

other ways, too. Only once

in the past five years did

United's operating income

top Delta's operating income.

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adding flights, often on big-

ger planes, between major

cities. Not United.

United is the only airline to

have been shriveling in

recent years, and our competi-

tors have been growing at our

expense," says Scott Kirby,

who jumped from president

of American Airlines to Uni-

ted's top job in August.

"We're going back on

offense."

Many analysts are upbeat

about United's prospects but

say the path won't be easy for

the company to find a

new home in the sky.

"Delta is not standing still

either, so it's not only getting

back to where they were to

be, but it's leapfrogging Del-

ta," says Michael J. Smith,

an analyst with Jefferies

Financial.

See **UNITED**, Page 4D

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