

Business

PORTFOLIO

January 19, 2010

Dow Jones Industrials	+115.78	10,725.43
Nasdaq composite	+32.41	2,320.40
Standard & Poor's 500	+14.20	1,150.23
Russell 2000	+11.19	649.15

Health stocks pull market higher

NEW YORK — Investors moved back into stocks on hopes that an election in Massachusetts will weaken Senate Democrats and make it harder for President Barack Obama to make changes to health care.

The vote Tuesday to fill the seat of late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy could shift power in the Senate if Republican Scott Brown wins. That would give Republicans the 41 votes necessary to block Democratic proposals, including the health care bill.

The prospect of a logjam in Washington over health care eased concerns that profits at companies like insurers and drug makers would suffer. Rising health stocks pulled the broader market higher. The Dow rose 115.78, or 1.1 percent, to 10,725.43.

Kraft Foods, Cadbury agree \$19.5B deal

LONDON — After months of fierce resistance, Cadbury's about-face to accept a sweetened 11.5 billion pound (\$19.5 billion) takeover from Kraft Foods Inc. — forming the world's biggest candy company — has alarmed British unions, lawmakers and chocolate lovers.

With Cadbury shareholders expected to agree to the deal and a rival bid from The Hershey Co. looking less likely, opponents fear the U.S. multinational's impact on one of Britain's oldest and best-loved brands.

Just days after Cadbury declared its suitor a "low growth" company with a "long history of underperformance," the British maker of Dairy Milk chocolates and Dentyne gum capitulated to a raised bid of 840 pence (\$13.78) per share.

Citigroup loses \$7.8B as losses continue

NEW YORK — Citigroup Inc. became the latest bank to take a cautious view of consumers' credit problems, reporting a \$7.77 billion fourth-quarter loss due to failed loans and the costs of repaying \$20 billion in government bailout money.

Even with the loss, Citigroup, the hardest hit of the big U.S. banks during the credit crisis and recession, plans to give big bonuses this month to its top employees.

The earnings report Tuesday, which met analysts' expectations, reflected Citigroup's struggles and changing status in the banking industry.

—The Associated Press



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

STAR instructor Katie Orrel and Vice President of Economic Development for Altamaha Tech Hank Martin look on as student Rebekah Risteter completes a Work Ready test at the STAR Foundation.

Certificate program will drive growth, Chamber says

Designation shows capable work force

By LINDSEY ADKISON
The Brunswick News

Local leaders want Glynn County to become more competitive for industry in 2010 and the Georgia Work Ready Program is one avenue being pursued.

The state-sponsored program uses a test to measure a worker's skills in mathematics, reading and locating information. Scores are ranked on a scale and a rating is given in one of three competency levels — bronze, gold or platinum. Workers can use their rating to make themselves more marketable to potential employers.

The program also extends to the community with requirements the community demonstrate a commitment to improving public education. High school graduation rates must also show a positive progress. Once the schools meet the goals and enough workers have completed the program, the area will be certified as "work ready."

It's advantageous for all, says Ken Farrel, vice chair of industrial affairs at the Brunswick Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce.

"This is a valuable tool to attract new business to our area. Based on the Certified Work Ready Community (CWRC) County Report posted on the Georgia Work Ready Web site, Glynn County now has a total of 397 Certificates Earned. This is approximately double the number we had at mid-summer," he said.

Farrel says that the Chamber and the Development Authority are encouraged by the results so far.

"The Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Development Authority, hosted a Work Ready Orientation with local business leaders in November. The purpose of this session was to outline the importance of ensuring our local workers have the best skills, easy access to training and world-class job opportunities available through Work Ready Certification," he said. "Once Glynn County obtains Certification as a Certified Work Ready Community, we will acquire a designation showing that the county has a skilled workforce businesses demand and the educational infrastructure to drive economic growth and prosper-

ity."

The current figures are promising, says Hank Martin, vice president of economic development at Altamaha Tech. The target rates, which are set by the state and are based on area's population. They include numbers for the private sector, government, the unemployed, GEDs, tech. students and high school seniors.

"The target for the private sector the target is 305, 71 have been completed and we need 234. For the government the target is 79, 20 have been completed and we need 59," Martin said.

The target rate for the unemployed is 258, with 176, the community needs 82 more certified workers. Those who received GEDs also should get involved in the program.

"The target for GED graduates is 43, 18 have been completed and we need 25," he said.

On the other hand, the area has exceeded the number of certified tech. students and high school seniors who have been certified. The target rate for technology students is 7 and 22 have completed the program. The target number for high school seniors is 50 and 55 have been certified.

Once the numbers have been reached, the Work Ready program will help drive the local economy and match the right people with jobs that fit them best. It's something that Nathan Sparks, executive director of the Brunswick Glynn County Development Authority is excited about.

"The Georgia Work Ready Community designation demonstrates to both prospective and existing employers that our community is ready and able to provide a quality workforce that is capable of succeeding in a variety of occupations," Sparks said.

He views it as a kind of seal of approval for the county.

"The Work Ready Community designation is yet another feather in Glynn County's cap when we are being considered for industry location projects," he said.

"By the same token, receiving a Work Ready Certificate benefits job seekers by demonstrating to prospective employers that these individuals are not only competent and capable — it also shows that they truly care about their futures and have gone the extra mile to become certified."

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PEOPLE, INC.

NEWS ABOUT PERSONNEL, RECOGNITIONS AND STARTUPS

New business

Shop for skateboard enthusiasts opens

Skatebonez Skateshop, a skate board and accessories shop at 506 G St., Brunswick, is now open from 1 to 7 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. The owners are Jet Turner and Nick Stevens.

Personnel

Glynn County gets second endocrinologist

Dr. Frank Robert Kohler Jr. has joined Southeast Georgia Health System as a board certified endocrinologist. Kohler joins

Dr. Shenon Badre at the Endocrinology & Diabetes Care Center, an affiliate of Southeast Georgia Health System. Badre and Kohler are the only two endocrinologists practicing in Glynn County. Kohler is a graduate of Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa., and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, where he later served

Kohler

on the internal medicine faculty.

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The Brunswick News publishes news about people in business in Brunswick.

We'd like to know if you have a new job, a promotion, attended a professional seminar, obtained a professional designation or are starting a new business; we'll share your news with Brunswick News readers.

Send personal business news to Lindsey Adkison, business reporter, at ladkison@thebrunswicknews.com or 3011 Altama Ave., Brunswick, GA 31520.