

BUSINESS

STOCK WATCH

Market watch

Jan. 10, 2011

Dow Jones Industrials	11,637.45	-37.45
Nasdaq composite	2,707.80	-24.58
Standard & Poor's 500	1,269.75	-17.75
Russell 2000	791.53	-18.75

NYSE diary

Advanced:	1,565
Declined:	1,468
Unchanged:	96
Volume:	5.2 b

Nasdaq diary

Advanced:	1,457
Declined:	1,188
Unchanged:	117
Volume:	1.8 b

AP

BRIEFLY

Ford plans to hire 7,000

DETROIT (AP) — Ford Motor Co. says it will add more than 7,000 workers in the U.S. over the next two years, including 750 engineers with expertise in batteries and other advanced technology, as it begins producing several new vehicles.

The company plans to hire 4,000 manufacturing workers this year.

Almost half those workers will be at the Louisville Assembly Plant in Kentucky that will make the new Ford Escape starting late this year.

Comp changes on way

Two meetings scheduled to clarify issues for workers

BY JIMMY SETTLE
THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

Changes in Tennessee's Workers Compensation Law affecting the construction industry will be addressed in two meetings, the first of which is on Wednesday.

To clarify the changes and answer specific questions, Dunn Insurance Inc. has partnered with the Clarksville-Montgomery County Homebuilders Association and Legends Bank to bring a workshop to Clarksville on Wednesday

and Feb. 8.

Wednesday's meeting is at Legends Bank, 2120 Wilma Rudolph Blvd., from 9-11 a.m. (breakfast compliments of Legends Bank).

Representatives of the state departments of Labor & Workforce Development, and Commerce & Insurance will be on the program.

"We had to schedule another meeting in February, because the turnout for the January meeting was so great," said Dana Dewberry with

Dunn Insurance.

The February meeting is at same location and time with the same speakers.

"They need to RSVP our office because all the attendees will be getting a lot of handouts," Dewberry said. That number is 647-6400.

Jimmy Dunn, owner, says the construction industry will see major changes this year in workers comp under the revisions that apply to all contracting classifications, whether it be homebuilding or commercial construction.

In June, the Tennessee General Assembly passed Public Chapter 1149, which seeks to strike a balance between what was viewed as a workers comp

law that went too far, and a law that allowed too much abuse in misclassifying employees as subcontractors.

Public Chapter 1149 will allow legitimate business owners in the construction industry to obtain an exemption from the requirement to cover themselves with a workers comp policy. Employers in construction will still need to cover their employees, even if they have only one employee.

This week's meeting will clarify the law's restrictions, explain who is exempt, how to obtain an exemption, how much it costs, and much more.

Jimmy Settle, 245-0247

Business editor

jimmysettle@theleafchronicle.com

Sound Gear Studios open

THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

Sound Gear Studios has opened for business at 1229 U.S. Highway 79 in Dover, across from the Stewart County Athletic Association Ballpark.

Partners Lee Miller and Butch Reed offer a "fully loaded recording studio for inspired and professional musicians.

"We offer mixing and mastering, promotions, graphic design, CD duplication, booking, event planning, record label, and artist management," Miller said.

"We also give lessons in guitar, piano, bass guitar, drums and vocals. We even tune pianos," Miller said.

Miller and Reed can be contacted by phone at 931-305-8835 or 931-627-1725.

VW merges into crowded market

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — In its quest to become a top-selling car company in the U.S., Volkswagen must win more middle-class American car buyers with the new, redesigned sedan it introduced Monday.

Yet the Passat, a bigger and less expensive version of the older model, is jumping into a crowded field, and its looks may not go far enough to help VW steal customers from strong competitors such as the Ford Fusion and Hyundai Sonata.

The German company took the wraps off its revamped car during media previews at North American International Auto Show in Detroit, promising a car that will "change the rules in the midsize segment," according to Jonathan Browning, VW's president and chief executive of the Americas.

The unveiling followed a movie clip

featuring cowboys on horseback riding through a western landscape. The message was clear:

The Passat must appeal to American tastes and middle-class budgets if the company wants to meet its ambitious goal of tripling overall sales in the U.S. within a decade. VW sold just 360,000 vehicles in the United States last year.

The Passat's unveiling came on the same day car companies at the auto show unveiled a new Honda Civic, Chrysler 300 sedan and the Prius wagon, Toyota's first entry in a planned family of Prius hybrids.

Decades ago, VW captured car buyers' fancy with the iconic Beetle. The new Passat isn't that striking, analysts aid.

Volkswagen will make the new Passat at its \$1 billion Chattanooga plant — the company's first U.S. assembly plant since it closed its New Stanton, Pa., plant in 1988 following disappointing sales.