

DOW JONES

↑ 1.4% to 25,309.99

NASDAQ

↑ 1.8% to 7,337.39

S&P 500

↑ 1.6% to 2,747.30

10-Year Treasury Note

↓ 0.05 to 2.9% yield

30-Year Bond

↓ 0.05 to 3.2% yield

Gold

↓ \$2.40 to \$1,330.30 troy ounce

Crude Oil

↑ \$0.78 to \$63.55 barrel

STOCKS END CHOPPY WEEK UP SLIGHTLY

Wall Street capped several days of choppy trading Friday with a broad rally that gave the stock market a modest gain for the week. Technology companies, banks and health care stocks accounted for much of the market's gains. Energy companies also rose along with crude oil prices.

The rally came as bond yields pulled back for the second day in a row after four-year highs on Wednesday, which sent the 10-year Treasury yield closing in on 3 percent, sent stocks sharply lower.

"There was a lot of concern about what happened if bond yields got above 3 percent, and that probably added to some of the jitters earlier this week," said Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at Baird.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 1.6 percent to 2,747.30. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 347.51 points to 25,309.99. The Nasdaq composite gained 1.8 percent, to end at 7,337.39. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-companies rose 1.3 percent to 1,549.19.

All told for the week, the S&P 500 eked out a 0.6 percent gain, the Dow and Nasdaq gains of 0.4 percent and 1.4 percent, respectively. — AP

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Expanding scan-and-go tech

More stores adopt the convenience, which cuts costs

The Associated Press

Shoppers at self-checkout lanes scanning all their groceries after they're done shopping? Old school. More stores are letting customers tally their choices with a phone app or store device as they roam the aisles.

For customers, scanning as they go can be faster and make it simpler to keep track of spending. For stores, the new technology costs less than installing more self-checkouts.

Like many changes in retail, the expansion of scan-and-go comes from retailers trying to make store shopping more convenient and hang on to customers used to Amazon, which just opened a cashier-less store in Seattle. And like other automation technologies, it shifts more of the work to shoppers while freeing up employees for higher-value tasks. That's especially critical as stores look for ways to make their workers more efficient as they wrestle with rising wages.

The convenience of scanning while she shops is what Kari Malinak likes. She just started using the technology at a Walmart in Fort Worth, Texas.



Tony D'Angelo uses the Express Scan app at BJ's Wholesale Club in Northborough, Mass. For customers, a quick scan of items as they shop can make it simpler to keep track of spending.

"I'm a persnickety shopper," Malinak said. "I can't stand it when they bag my produce. It gets all bruised. I like to have control. And I like the quick-and-easy aspect." She says she also likes the idea of having a running total of spending as she shops.

The technology allows shoppers to scan UPC codes on items as they shop. It can be used for lots of products beyond just groceries, and if people change their minds about

something, they can delete items and change quantities before they check out.

Some stores allow payment directly from the phone, with a greeter then checking over the digital receipt, while others require shoppers to go to a self-checkout lane or a kiosk to finalize their purchases.

A big push is coming this year from big chains: Kroger Co., the nation's largest traditional grocery chain, is adding the scan-and-go technology to 400

stores. Walmart is testing the service in 120 stores, while all 600-plus of its Sam's Club stores have it. BJ's Wholesale Club has launched the service in a handful of stores and plans to add it to about 100 clubs this year.

Walmart says the service is now the most preferred checkout method among those who tested it. Sam's Club says 80 percent of its members who use it use it again within 90 days and its scan-and-go transactions have doubled this year.

BIZBUZZ

NEW YORK

Gothamist news sites back

Gothamist, a pithy news website covering New York City that was shut down last year after reporters unionized, and its satellites in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., are getting a new life. Public radio stations WNYC in New York, KPCC in L.A. and WAMU in the capital announced the purchase Friday, noting it was funded largely through two anonymous donors and station partners. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. Gothamist, LAist and DCist will relaunch in the spring. Gothamist was

held by Joe Ricketts, the billionaire owner of the Chicago Cubs and local news sites DNAinfo, but after New York staff voted to unionize he shut them all down, calling it a business decision.

Ads OK'd in Uber, Lyft cars

A judge gave the green light this week to a Minnesota company that wants to put advertising in vehicles driven for companies like Uber and Lyft in New York City. U.S. District Judge Ronnie Abrams ruled in the case brought by Vugo Inc., a company blocked from putting digital ads in vehicles affiliated with companies summoned by electronic devices, that the city was unable to justify its regulations. Vugo sued the city in 2015 after the Taxi and Limousine



Lyft and Uber cars in the city can display ads, a judge says.

Commission prohibited the ads in vehicles that were not medalion taxis or street-hail liveries. Vugo passes 60 percent of ad revenue to drivers. Nicholas Paolucci, a city law office spokesman, said the ruling was being reviewed.

NATION

General Mills \$8B deal

General Mills announced its

intention Friday to buy high-end pet food maker Blue Buffalo for \$8 billion. It's a return to the pet business for the 150-year-old company, which used to sell food for cats, dogs and birds back in the 1950s. Blue Buffalo Pet Products Inc. had nearly \$1.3 billion in net sales last year, and Minneapolis-based General Mills sees consistent growth of between 3 percent and 4 percent in the \$30 billion pet food market. General Mills has suffered three consecutive years of declining revenue as it follows customers seeking more fresh food on the dinner table. The company will pay \$40 per Blue Buffalo share. That's a 17 percent premium to the pet food company's Thursday closing price of \$34.12. — AP