



The Dow Jones
industrial
average closed
at 11,382.51.

BUSINESS & FARM

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Ruling upheld in payday lending case

The Arkansas Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling Thursday that will require the owners of a payday lending store in Hot Springs to pay almost \$160,000.

Charles Stewart filed a class-action lawsuit against Check Mart of Hot Springs LLC in 2001, claiming that the interest charged by Check Mart exceeded the interest allowed by the Arkansas Constitution.

When Stewart won the lawsuit, he was unable to collect the judgment from the company because it had since shut down. So Stewart sued Jerry Anderson, Mike Stout and John Dunn, who had been owners of Check Mart, to recover damages from them individually, citing violation of the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. Last year, Anderson, Stout and Dunn were ordered to pay about \$159,800 to former customers of Check Mart.

The former owners appealed the decision, but the Supreme Court upheld it Thursday.