

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

General Motors Files To Sell Shares To Public

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Co. on Wednesday filed the first batch of paperwork required by regulators to sell stock to the public, a step that brings the automaker closer to its goal of shedding government ownership.

The 700-page registration form, filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, begins a process that will lead to an initial public offering of GM's stock. No date was set for the sale, but experts say the IPO could come as early as October.

Stakeholders in the company, including the U.S. Treasury Department, initially will sell common stock, while GM will sell preferred shares that are similar to bonds.

The forms did not say how many shares would be sold and it was unclear just how much stock the government wants to unload.

"Treasury will retain the right, at all times, to decide whether and at what level to participate in the offering," the department said.

Egg Recall Grows To 380 Million

ATLANTA (AP) — A recall of eggs linked to a salmonella outbreak is being dramatically expanded to 380 million eggs.

Health officials said Wednesday that hundreds of people have been sickened in a salmonella outbreak linked to eggs in three states and possibly more. A recall first announced last week was expanded from 228 million to 380 million eggs — the equivalent of nearly 32 million dozen-egg cartons.

Eggs from Wright County Egg in Galt, Iowa, were linked to several illnesses in the three states. Thoroughly cooking eggs can kill the bacteria. But health officials are recommending people throw away or return the recalled eggs.

Assault Rifles, Ammo Intercepted In Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP) — Officials with Nigeria's security services say they've intercepted 52 Kalashnikov rifles and more than 1,700 rounds of ammunition rounds heading for an area that has been the scene of religious violence.

The Borno state director of the Nigeria State Security Service says five men were arrested for trying to bring the weapons from neighboring Chad. Director Abdullahi Ahmed told reporters Wednesday that the men hid the rifles, ammunition and about \$32,000 underneath vegetables and dried fish in two cars.

Ahmed says the weapons were heading for Jos, the epicenter of religious violence in Nigeria's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups vie for control of fertile lands. Hundreds of Christians and Muslims have died in fighting there this year alone.

Morocco Border Blockade Suspended

MELILLA, Spain (AP) — A merchants association says activists in Morocco who have been blockading food shipments into a Spanish enclave have agreed to suspend the protests until the end of Ramadan next month.

Trade association chief Yusef Kaddur said the deal means the intermittent blockade is over for now, but will resume if the problem that triggered it — alleged brutality and racism by Spanish border police against Moroccans entering the enclave of Melilla — flares up again.

The agreement was reached Wednesday, after truckers again halted food shipments from Morocco into Melilla, a Spanish city of 70,000 on the North African coast.

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Blagojevich Retrial Looms; Will It Be Different?

BY MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — "Blago on Trial, The Sequel" promises to be as circus-like and nearly as expensive as the first trial of the former Illinois governor. And in a state with a huge budget deficit, some people would prefer not to see it at all.

But the next round could also look different if prosecutors adjust their strategy after listening to jurors who deadlocked on all but one charge against Rod Blagojevich. And despite their defiance after the verdict, defense attorneys could offer a few surprises too — if they are still on the job.

Could prosecutors decide to call witnesses such as White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel? Could the defense finally put Blagojevich on the stand?

Asked the latter question, Blagojevich attorney Sheldon Sorosky said, "The answer to that is, absolutely yes. It doesn't mean he will. But he could."

Prosecutors plan to retry Blagojevich on charges that include allegations he tried to sell President Barack Obama's old senate seat. U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said the prosecution is nearly ready to start jury selection, and the presiding judge set a hearing on the matter for Aug. 26.

Blagojevich attorney Sam Adam Jr. blasted Fitzgerald for insisting on a second trial, questioning the expense. His father, also named Sam Adam, called Fitzgerald "nuts."

"I wish this entire group would go upstairs and ask Fitzgerald one question: I understand he's

got an important job, but why are we spending 25 to 30 million dollars on a retrial? You couldn't prove it the first time," said Sam Adam Jr., who did not explain how he arrived at that figure.

But it's unknown whether either of the two flamboyant lawyers will still represent Blagojevich in a second trial.

According to Sorosky, all of Blagojevich's attorneys who went through the just-ended trial want to stay with him. But money, as well as various legal requirements, may determine whether that happens.

To pay his legal bills over recent months, the judge permitted Blagojevich to dip into a campaign fund dating back to his time as governor. But Sorosky said that well has run dry.

So Blagojevich's attorneys may have to be paid as public defenders using tax dollars — at a rate of around \$100 an hour, Sorosky said. That may lead the judge to try to cut Blagojevich's legal team from more than half a dozen attorneys to just two or three.

AP Poll: BP Image Recovering, Still Low

BY TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — BP's image, which took an ugly beating after the Gulf oil spill, is recovering since the company sealed the well, though the oil giant's approval level is still anything but robust. A majority of Americans still aren't convinced it is safe to eat seafood from parts of the Gulf or swim in its waters, a new AP poll shows.

Politically, President Barack Obama's rating on handling the nation's worst oil spill has nudged up to about 50 percent, the poll indicated. Fewer people now think the spill is a major national issue, and more support increased drilling in U.S. coastal waters than oppose it.

Safety remains a worry. "Normally, I would go to the casinos and eat seafood, but now I'm going to be kind of skeptical of eating," said Samuel Washington, 44, who lives in Norfolk, Va., but also owns a home in Ocean Springs, Miss. "My biggest concern is whether or not they are really testing all the affected areas."

Approval for Obama's handling of the mess has risen from 45 percent in June, while BP's marks have more than doubled — from 15 percent to a still lackluster 33 percent. Some 66 percent of those surveyed continue to disapprove of BP's performance, down from a whopping 83 percent in June.

More than half, 54 percent, said they weren't confident that it is safe yet to eat seafood from the

spill areas, and 55 percent said they weren't confident that the beaches in the affected areas were safe for swimming.

Still, just 60 percent of those surveyed called the spill an important issue now, down from 87 percent in June. Only 21 percent said it would affect them and their families a great deal or a lot in the next year, down from 40 percent in June.

"At least it did get capped. It could have been done a whole lot sooner," said Deshon Jenkins, 33, of Arlington, Texas, who works in shipping and warehousing and was among those who said the spill would "not at all" affect his life.

Shrimper Patrick Hue of Buras, La., said BP has been hard at work. "You can't deny that," he said. "They got boats out here, they got people working. ... I guess they're cleaning up what they're supposed to clean up."

Between June and the week that the Associated Press-GfK poll was conducted, Aug. 11-16, BP sealed the well, its gaffe-prone chief Tony Hayward lost his job and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said most of the oil had dissolved, dispersed or been removed.

Those developments probably contributed to the improved public attitude, though the NOAA findings have been challenged by some ocean researchers as far too optimistic.

Whatever the case, it is clear that the spilling of over 100 million gallons of crude oil into

the Gulf no longer looms as a commanding political issue for voters heading toward midterm elections in November.

Voters are far more concerned about the economy, jobs and bulging federal deficits.

The poll showed that 48 percent favor increasing drilling for oil and gas in coastal waters, up from 45 percent in June. Some 36 percent said they opposed increased drilling, down from 41 percent. The rest didn't have an opinion.

The spill began on April 20 when the offshore drilling rig Deepwater Horizon, leased by well owner BP and operated by Transocean Ltd., caught fire and sank, killing 11 workers. Only the deliberate dumping of oil by Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War ranks in the world as a larger spill.

For weeks, the spill in the Gulf of Mexico riveted the public's attention as oil and gas spewed relentlessly from the ocean floor, fouling marshes and beaches and leading to the shutdown of fisheries.

Obama, who just prior to the spill had called for an increase in offshore drilling, struggled to demonstrate leadership and fend off GOP attacks suggesting the crisis was his equivalent of Hurricane Katrina.

As repeated attempts to cap the well failed, Obama expressed compassion with Gulf Coast residents and anger toward BP, delivered a prime-time address on the issue and imposed a drilling moratorium. He success-

fully pressed BP to set up a \$20 billion liability fund.

Fishing and commercial shrimping activity has been resuming as the drilling of two relief wells, begun in May, nears completion. The first one to reach the damaged well will seal it from below with mud and cement. The flow of oil was cut off from the top in mid-July.

Mike Voisin, who runs a Louisiana-based oyster harvesting and processing business, said despite waves of anger directed at BP by the public, the company has succeeded in working well with local communities. "Did they make mistakes? Sure. Should they have been better prepared? Yes," Voisin said. He estimated his business took a 50 percent hit "but we'll work our way through it."

"With more than half of the American people still worried about swimming in the Gulf or eating its seafood, we must be vigilant about monitoring the spill and its continued effects," said Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass. Markey heads a House panel on energy and the environment that is holding a hearing Thursday on seafood safety and where the oil went.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cell phone interviews with 1,007 adults nationwide and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Muslims Pray Daily At Pentagon's 9/11 Crash Site

BY ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — While Americans are bitterly debating the proposed building of a mosque near New York's ground zero, Muslims have been praying for years less than 80 feet from where another hijacked jetliner struck.

The Pentagon chapel is part of a memorial to the 184 people killed in 2001 when hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 flew into the west side of the Pentagon and plowed through three of the building's five office wings.

As part of its massive renovation, the Pentagon opened the nondenominational chapel in November 2002. The chapel hosts a daily prayer group and weekly worship service for Muslims and provides similar services for Jews, Hindus, Mormons, Protestants, Catholics and Episcopalians.

Pentagon officials say that no one in the military or the families of the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks has ever protested.

They describe the 80-seat chapel as a peaceful place where some 300 to 400 Pentagon employees come to pray each week.

The goal of the Pentagon chapel office, which runs the chapel, is to "provide assistance and support for the religious, spiritual and morale needs of all service members and employees," said Army spokesman George Wright.

A proposal to build an Islamic cultural center near ground zero

in New York has prompted angry protests by victims of the 2001 attacks, which were done in the name of Islam. A majority of New Yorkers say they are opposed to the plan.

Last week, President Barack Obama inserted himself into the debate when he said Muslims have the same right to practice their religion as everyone else in the U.S. Republicans assailed him as out of touch with mainstream America, and Obama later told reporters that he wasn't endorsing the specifics of the mosque plan.

Perhaps one reason the Pentagon chapel has failed to attract much attention is that it looks more like a conference room than a place of worship with its gray walls and maroon carpet and drapes.

Its stained glass windows, which overlook the Pentagon's outdoor memorial to 9-11 victims, depict a soaring eagle and American flag.

There are no obvious religious statues or symbols, except Catholic holy water at the door, a Bible beneath each seat and an unadorned altar up front.

Otherwise, religious accommodations are brought in for various worship services. Wright said that Muslim employees can gather for a daily prayer service Monday through Thursday, and attend a Friday worship service run by an imam from a local mosque.

Two in-house Army chaplains

run the chapel, neither of which are Muslim. Col. Daniel Minjares is associated with the Church of the Nazarene; his deputy, Lt. Col. Ken Williams, is Southern Baptist.

Wright said the chaplains provide religious services for their denomination but can provide services such as grief and marital counseling to employees of any faith.

Other faiths rely on local temples and churches to lead worship services.

Abraham Scott, whose wife, Janice, was a civilian Army employee killed at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, said that while he opposes the lower Manhattan mosque, he "can live with" the fact that Muslims pray at a Pentagon chapel.

"It's not a mosque that's built specifically for Muslims," Scott said. "It's a facility where Muslims can go and pray."

Broken Pipes...Wet Walls... Flooded Basement...

DO

- Stop the water flow if possible
- Remove as much excess water as possible
- Towel wood furniture, counter tops, etc.
- Relocate all knick-knacks, lamps, etc. to a dry safe place
- Use wax paper or wood blocks under furniture that cannot be relocated to a dry area
- Pin up draperies and upholstery skirts to prevent water circles
- Turn on your heating and/or air conditioning system, provided water has not entered the ducts
- Remove all non-color fast items like rugs, pillows, etc. and place in a dry area
- Remove all loose items on the floor to a dry area

DON'T

- Go near contaminated (sewer) water
- Use electrical appliances and outlets in wet areas
- Use your household vacuum to extract water
- Place wet items on any absorbent surface
- Turn on your heating and/or air conditioning system if water has traveled in or through the ducts
- Enter rooms if the ceiling is wet and sagging
- Lower absorbent materials like boxes, papers, pillows, etc. in the wet area
- Let children or the elderly enter the affected areas

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Begin lining up at 5:00pm

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I, _____, state that I am the parent or legal guardian of _____, a minor child, I hereby give my consent for _____ to participate in the Kiddie Parade sponsored by Yankton Riverboat Days, Inc. In considerations for my child or ward's participation, I agree to waive any liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, or expenses which I or my child or ward or our assignees, successors, or heirs may have against Yankton Riverboat Days, Inc., as a group or as individual committee members, directors, volunteers or employees, which may arise out of my child or ward's participation in the Kiddie Parade.

BY SIGNING BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS FORM, AND I REALIZE THAT BY SIGNING I AM RELEASING YANKTON RIVERBOAT DAYS, INC., FROM ANY LIABILITY.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2010. _____
Signature

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Bring registration to parade. For more information call 605-665-1657, E-mail to: office@riverboatdays.com

17TH ANNUAL Bull-A-Rama

Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010

7:00pm

Clay County Park Rodeo Arena
(2 miles west of Vermillion on Timber Road)

Followed by Fireworks from Fireworks Unlimited Inc.
Dance with music provided by Riata Band

Friday, Aug. 27 • 7pm
FREE Admission, unloading of the bulls at Rodeo Grounds. Hog Roast will be served at \$5 per plate.

Saturday, Aug 28 • 11am-1pm
Bull Stops Here! at the Hy-Vee parking lot in Vermillion. There will be bulls, bull fighters, clowns, bull riders, horse rides, giveaways, raffles. Registration for Mutton Busting and Steer Rides.

Saturday, Aug 28 • 7pm
17th Annual **BULL-A-RAMA**
Cowboy Church Service

Sunday, Aug. 29 • 9am
Take the trail ride along the Missouri River with lunch to follow. Free-will donation.

Sunday, Aug. 29 • 11am
Take the trail ride along the Missouri River with lunch to follow. Free-will donation.

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- #5 Open Class Bull Riders** (NO MAIN EVENT RIDERS)
For Registration Call Linda Hawley 605-202-0194 by August 21
- #5 Steer Riders** (ages 9-13)
- #15 Mutton Busters** (ages 5-8)
For Registration Stop at Hy-Vee, Saturday, Aug. 28, 11am-1pm

TICKET INFORMATION:
ADULTS: \$12 Gate/\$10 Advance
SENIOR CITIZENS: \$10 Gate/Advance
AGES 7-12: \$6 Gate/Advance
AGES 6 & Under: Free

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