

GM picks executives for 14 top posts

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NEW YORK — General Motors Co. named more than a dozen new executives to top international posts on Thursday, as the automaker's sweeping shake-up of top management spreads to its sprawl-

ing operations overseas.

GM appointed 14 new executives to its Shanghai-based international operations, including new vice presidents of purchasing, quality, human resources and manufacturing. The Shanghai appointments take effect by Sept. 1.

The new appointments are part of GM's new culture of "product and customer focus, speed, risk-taking and accountability," said Nick Reilly, GM executive vice president.

The automaker also named Mike Arcamone, a longtime executive in man-

ufacturing and global purchasing, CEO of GM Dae-woo, the company's Korean operations. He replaces Michael Grimaldi, who is retiring Oct. 1.

GM also appointed Alan Batey managing director of GM Holden, the automaker's Australian unit.

VW global market share rises

By George Frey
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFURT — German carmaker Volkswagen AG said Friday it was able to increase its global car market share during the first six months of the year despite difficult operating conditions.

The Wolfsburg-based company said its market share for the January-June period increased to 12 percent from 9.9 percent in the first six months of 2008, despite selling less cars because of the recession.

Volkswagen said that for the first six months it saw a 5 percent decrease in overall deliveries to 3.1 million compared with 3.3 million in the first six months of 2008. However, the overall car market's sales receded even faster — nearly 18 percent — during the same period.

Despite the decline for the whole of the first six months, Volkswagen said that in June it delivered 609,800 cars, up 6.5 percent from 572,700 in June 2008.

"The comparatively good development of our sales proves that Volkswagen is on the right path," Detlef Wittig, VW's production chief, said in a report.

"We're on target with these results. Still, great strides will be necessary during the second half of the year to stay on this path of success," he said.

Stimulus funds to help VW plant in Tenn.

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CHATTANOOGA — A \$6 million railroad project in Chattanooga for the new Volkswagen plant and suppliers at the Enterprise South Industrial Park will be funded partly with federal stimulus funds.

The project will help Volkswagen deliver cars when production starts in early 2011.

Hamilton County Railroad Authority director Tim Andrews told the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* that the work will include expanding a rail overpass near the site where Volkswagen is building the \$1 billion plant.

Chattanooga and Hamilton County seek the federal grant money.



Toyota Motor Corp. has decided to liquidate its stake in the manufacturing plant in Fremont, Calif., that it jointly operated with General Motors, a Japanese news agency reported Thursday. PAUL SAKUMA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toyota-GM joint venture turns sour

Japanese want out of plant in California

By Dan Strumpf and Tomoko A. Hosaka
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Toyota Motor Corp. is moving toward liquidating its stake in a California manufacturing plant that it jointly operated with General Motors, the Japanese automaker said Friday.

The plant's fate was thrown into question last month when GM announced it was withdrawing from the 50-50 joint venture. General Motors Co. emerged from bankruptcy protection shortly after the announcement, and the company's stake in NUMMI is now part of Motors Liquidation Co., also known as Old GM, where it will be liquidated under court supervision.

The NUMMI plant, established in 1984, employs 4,600 workers and makes the Pontiac Vibe station wagon for

GM, and the Corolla compact car and Tacoma pickup truck for Toyota.

Toyota has decided to begin discussions with the "Old GM" toward dissolving the joint venture, said Toyota spokesman Paul Nolasco.

"Since GM pulled out, we've had to look at all kinds of things we could do," Nolasco said. "Toyota right now is in a really difficult situation."

He said it will take time for Toyota to "work out how to wind down" the Fremont, Calif.-based New United Motor Manufacturing Inc., also known as NUMMI.

A GM spokeswoman in Detroit declined to comment on Friday.

Toyota has been re-examining its U.S. strategy after plummeting U.S. auto sales helped drag it to its worst-ever overall loss for the fiscal year ended in March.

Monday, Yoshi Inaba, president of Toyota Motor North America and chairman of Toyota Motor Sales USA, said the Japanese automaker was carefully evaluating its options for NUMMI and

hoped to make a decision "as quickly as possible."

Toyota takes stock

He said Toyota was studying whether it could be economically viable and considering factors such as the company's idle factory space, labor and image.

NUMMI officials have said that the facility's labor costs and business conditions are not competitive. NUMMI's unionized factory workers are paid about \$27 to \$28 per hour. But workers at Toyota's other U.S. factories are paid between \$15 an hour at newer plants to as high as the upper \$20s at older facilities, such as its factory in Georgetown, Ky., according to a Toyota spokesman.

The United Auto Workers union represents employees at the joint facility, and its labor contract expires next month. The joint venture was developed to have American workers learn Toyota's production methods, which were much leaner and more efficient.

CRIME REPORT

Stabbing victim dies of wounds

A woman found stabbed early Wednesday morning died Thursday night at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Metro police say Jacqueline Whitaker, 43, was found unconscious with multiple stab wounds to her torso outside Ken's Sushi Restaurant, at 20th Avenue and Division Street, about 4 a.m.

Investigators say an employee of the restaurant stabbed Whitaker while she was inside the restaurant, but the reason for the stabbing hasn't been released.

The employee invited Whitaker and Harold Williams, 49, to the restaurant for drinks after business hours, a police spokeswoman said.

The district attorney's office is reviewing the

case, police said. No charges have been filed in the case.

— NICOLE YOUNG

Man surrenders in beating death

The man accused of the July 14 beating death of Wendell Harris outside Riverchase Apartments has surrendered to Metro police.

Will Sawyers, 33, is facing charges of criminal homicide and violation of probation in connection with Harris' death.

Witnesses identified Sawyers as the man who repeatedly struck Harris even after Harris was unconscious, police said. Harris, 42, of North Second Street, was transported to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where he died on July 17.

— NICOLE YOUNG

Oak Ridge nuclear landfill work starts

OAK RIDGE — Officials say a \$35 million expansion of the Department of Energy's nuclear landfill in Oak Ridge is under way, thanks to federal economic stimulus funding.

A statement this week from government contractor Bechtel Jacobs says the yearlong project should create up to 60 jobs and provide disposal space for scrap, debris and contaminated soils from the ongoing cleanup of the govern-

ment's Oak Ridge Reservation.

Opened in 2002, the landfill is on the reservation and is the size of almost 20 football fields.

It is licensed by state and federal regulators to hold low-level radioactive and hazardous waste. The project will increase the landfill's capacity to about 17 million cubic yards or about 113,000 standard dump-truck loads.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arguments continue over voting machines

The argument over what type of voting machines should be used in next year's elections continues.

House Democratic Leader Gary Odom issued a prepared statement Wednesday demanding that Secretary of State Tre Hargett take the necessary steps to buy newly certified paper ballot voting machines.

Democrats want all Tennessee counties to use optical-scan machines that count votes by scanning paper ballots. The new machines would replace the touch-screen machines used in the last two election cycles by all but two of the 95 counties.

Hargett has said no rules are in place to certify

optical-scan machines. But Odom said the federal Election Assistance Commission has certified paper ballot machines that Tennessee voters can use in 2010.

The secretary of state's office then issued a press release refuting Odom's claims.

Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins said the equipment certified this week doesn't meet the security and reliability standards required by the Tennessee Voter Confidence Act, according to the statement.

Both Democrats and Republicans have said it will cost \$25 million to replace the touch-screen machines.

— STAFF REPORTS

Ky. camp turns strangers into family

» CAMP FROM PAGE 1B

every time you come here," said Salieah Curvey of Nashville.

Family is also the way that Jarod Lawson, a former camper-turned-counselor, describes Barefoot. Being at the camp, far from home and their set of friends, makes it easier for people to get along, he said. "It puts us all on a level playing field," he said.



Tommy Rhodes founded the camp.

Rather than trying to force kids from different cultures to get along, Rhodes and other leaders see themselves in a support role. They run activities and make things go smoothly. Then they watch what unfolds, said staff nurse Diann Mustin.

"They are working it out," she said. Rhodes, 37, first started thinking about beginning a camp when he

was in college. He'd grown up in a single-parent home, where there was rarely much extra money, and he'd never been to camp before. While a student at Belmont, he took a job at Camp Mac, a Christian camp in the Talladega National Forest outside of Birmingham and was hooked.

"As a kid from a low-income family, I kept thinking, 'Why didn't I get to do this growing up?'" he said.

That love for camping stuck with Rhodes as he continued his education. He got a master's in biology at Middle Tennessee State University, then enrolled in the doctoral program at Vanderbilt, while working as a researcher.

But his heart wasn't in it. So Rhodes dropped out of the doctoral program and



Campers Shane Renfrow and Damiyelle Smith paint a banner at Barefoot Republic, a Christian camp that brings together kids from diverse backgrounds. The idea is to see if they can learn to live together as a family. GEORGE WALKER IV / THE TENNESSEAN

kept working in the lab while trying to get the camp started. In 1999, Rhodes and his wife bought a 55-acre farm outside of Scottsville as a site for the camp. For the down payment, he sold off his childhood baseball collection for about \$18,000.

"I had some Mickey Mantles and Hank Aarons," he said. "I was one of those dorky kids who ran around on a banana seat bicycle with binders under his arms, trading cards in the

neighborhood."

It took nine more years to raise the money for camp facilities. For the first seven years, the camp used rented buildings, but this year was the first season at the farm in new facilities. All the while, Rhodes worked in the lab and volunteered at the camp. He quit last year to work full time as Barefoot's executive director.

Camp reflects world

Over the past 10 years,

Rhodes has developed about 35 partner churches and agencies, which send kids to the camp. And some groups have sent volunteers and campers year after year.

Mark DeVries, youth minister at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, said the congregation sends about 20 to 25 people every summer.

"I'm a big fan," he said. "It's not all *Remember the Titans*, where everything is great. It's a hard week — but we love what they do."

Mike Staires, director of communications for the Christian Camp and Conference Association, said that camps like Barefoot go beyond superficial attempts at diversity.

Getting people out of the normal environments and having them work and play together creates long-lasting friendships, he said. But it also gets under people's skin.

"At some point, in the heat and overtiredness, they are going to get on each other's nerves," he said. "When that happens, they will really start to talk about deeper issues. If you can get past the façade and the masks fall off, you've really done something."

Back on the sidelines of the soccer field, Bailey, community minister at City Church of East Nashville, said that while the camp is sometimes challenging, the rewards are great.

"If you want to stay in a safe environment, you can do that," he said, breaking into preacher mode. "But if you want to do something different, if you want to rebel against the fear that's been fostered for years, this is the place. The reality is the world looks like this. This is what the world really looks like."

Contact Bob Smietana at 615-259-8228 or bsmietana@tennessean.com.