

BUSINESS

PPL gets financing for \$300M in improvements

PPL Corp. on Tuesday announced a new financing arrangement with 21 regional and local banks in eastern and central Pennsylvania to provide a \$300

million revolving credit facility that will be used for general corporate purposes, including infrastructure investments by the company's subsidiaries.

Paul A. Farr, PPL's executive vice president and chief financial officer, said the company believes the financing will contribute to community development, including job creation and training, affordable housing and support for small businesses.

"By strengthening the loan portfolios of these excellent institutions, we are enhancing the ability of these banks to fund other local development projects," Farr said in a press release.

Over the next five years, PPL's Pennsylvania companies plan to invest more than \$4 billion in improvements to the electricity infrastructure, Farr said. The \$300 million revolving credit facility will be used as a tool in the effective

management of the company's liquidity needs over that five-year period.

The banks that are part of the credit facility operate more than 1,200 branches in central and eastern Pennsylvania, with \$65 billion in deposits.

PNC Capital Markets LLC and Manufacturers and Traders Trust Co. served as the lead arrangers for the transaction. National Penn Bank will serve as documentation agent, PNC Bank N.A. as the administrative agent and Manufacturers and Traders as the syndication agent.

Other participating include Citizens Bank of PA, First National Bank of Pennsylvania, Mauch Chunk Trust Co. and Susquehanna Bank.

GM stock rises as gov't sells off more shares

By the Associated Press
 DETROIT — Shares of General Motors rose to their highest level in almost three years Wednesday after analysts applauded news that the company could be free of U.S. government ownership by the end of the year.

The Treasury Department, in a monthly report to Congress, said Tuesday that it sold \$1.2 billion worth of GM stock in October. The report didn't say how many shares were sold, but it's likely that the government's stake in of the company is now less than 4 percent.

"We believe the exit will be complete by year-end, which, in our view, is a positive catalyst for the stock," Sterne Agee analyst Michael Ward wrote

in a note to investors Wednesday morning.

Shares rose more than 5 percent to \$38.53 late in the afternoon. That was the highest intraday price since the stock reached \$39.48 on Jan. 3, 2011, shortly after GM's post-bankruptcy return to the stock market with an initial public offering. At the close, the stock pulled back slightly to \$38.44, still up 4.9 percent for the day. Trading volume topped 43 million shares by the close, more than double the normal daily sales.

The government's exit could clear a path for GM to start paying dividends or buy back more of its stock, Buckingham Research analyst Joseph Amaturro wrote to clients.



Precision Vinyl Systems Inc.
CONTRACTORS & DO-IT-YOURSELFERS
 Chainlink, Galvanized Pipe, Privacy Slats, Large Selection of Fittings
VINYL, ALUMINUM, COMPOSITE RAILING & FENCING
 VINYL RAILING MADE TO EXACT SIZE • CUSTOM FABRICATION
WE CAN SUPPLY ANY PROJECT SIZE!
DECKING, DOORS, WINDOWS, SHUTTERS, CARPORTS & GARAGES, HARDWARE, EDENPURE HEATERS, BAG COAL, ROCK SALT & MORE
 Store hours: M-F 8-4, Sat 9-12
570-636-9878 • www.precisionvinyl.com
 642 Foster Ave/Route 940 (Between Freeland & White Haven)

GOT KIDS - GOT PETS - GOT SPILLS

All our Products Feature the Best in Soil - Stain & Pet Urine Resistance

WATER PROOF & PET PROOF CARPET PADDING

will not Mold or Mildew!
 Superior Comfort & Luxury - Also good for Concrete Floors



Good Products at Affordable Prices
We are One Stop Shopping

Hardwood Flooring • Waterproof Pet Proof Flooring
 Ceramic & Porcelain Tile & Glass Tile

WINDOW TREATMENTS

- Vertical Blinds
- Pleated & Cellular Shades
- Wood Blinds
- Top Treatments
- Installed by our own People

AREA RUGS

In Stock Huge Selection



Take One Home Today

PLUS THE BATHROOM STORE!
 A showroom like no other!
 Tub Surrounds Walk-in Showers
 Vanities, Faucets, Tops
 Bath Products for Elderly & Disabled



McKINLEY CARPET AND FLOORING COMPANY
 & The BATHROOM STORE
668-5391
 MON., TUES. & THURS. 9-7;
 WED. & FRI. 9-5; & SAT. 9-3

Strong holiday outlook lifts stocks

By STEVE ROTHWELL
 AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK — Macy's gave the stock market some early holiday cheer.

Stock indexes climbed back into record territory Wednesday after the department store chain gave an optimistic forecast for holiday sales. Macy's surged 9 percent, leading strong gains among retailers including

J.C. Penney, Nordstrom and Target.

The shopping season is a make-or-break time for retailers because it can account for as much as 40 percent of annual revenue. It also gives investors an indication of where consumer spending, a crucial component of the U.S. economy, is headed.

"When the consumer starts spending, it's pretty much a rising tide," said Ron

Florence, deputy chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank. "That gives a big lift across the board."

The S&P 500 rose 14.31 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,782, its 34th record close this year.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 70.96 points, or 0.5 percent, to 15,821.63, also a record. The Nasdaq composite rose 45.66 points, or 1.2 percent, to 3,965.58, well below its record close of 5,048.52 reached in March 2000.

Macy's jumped \$4.35 to \$50.68. Its earnings climbed 22 percent for the quarter ended Nov. 2. The department store chain, which rose the most in the S&P 500 index, was the first major retailer to report earnings for the quarter.

U.S. stocks started the day lower as investors considered when the Federal Reserve might start reducing its economic stimulus.

The Fed is buying \$85 billion of bonds a month to keep interest rates low and support the economy. That has helped drive a rally in stocks this year. Surprisingly strong reports on economic growth and hiring last week have led investors to speculate that the Fed may pare back its stimulus sooner than expected.

EARLY PSYCHIATRIC & COUNSELING SVC, PC
Dr. S. Rahman, M.D. (Psychiatrist)

Expertise in
 • Most Sleep Disorders • Panic Attack • Depression
 • Anxiety • OCD • Bipolar • PTSD • ADHD
 Accepting new patients for medication management & counseling. Patients of all ages welcome.

Mountaintop SHAVERTOWN (DALLAS) HAZLETON BLOOMSBURG
 474-0100 674-3939 454-2545 784-5663

SLEEP & NEUROLOGICAL DIAGNOSTIC CENTER
 • TREATS MOST SLEEP DISORDERS
 • Has Board Certified Physician in Sleep Medicine
 • Performs Sleep Apnea Testing For CDL Truck Drivers
 • HOME SLEEP TESTING AVAILABLE (no referral needed) • Performs Sleep Disorder Studies (PSG & CPAP)
 • Accepts Patients 12 years and Older
 • Scheduling & Report in as little as 1 week
 • Affordable Payment Plan Available

MOUNTAINTOP (On Route 309) 474-5599
 Accepting Medicare, Medical Assistance, BC/BS, Geisinger & most insurances.



UGG australia
 Areas Best Selection
 Cambridge
 Classic Short
 GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE



SNEAKER KING
 www.sneakerking.com
 Follow Us On f t
HAZLETON, LAUREL MALL (570) 501-1177






"Health Care Reform is here and it's never been easier to go with Blue."

Denise Cesare, President and CEO
 Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania

If you're an individual looking for comprehensive and affordable insurance, we have a health plan that works for you. If you're a large or small employer and want to stay with or switch to Blue Cross, it's easier than ever. Call, shop online, or visit our retail stores.

BlueCross 75 YEARS
 Northeastern Pennsylvania
 LEADING THE WAY

1.866.632.7209 | BlueCrossNEPAstore.com

Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.
 © Registered Mark of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.