

# AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

TUESDAY, January 31, 2006 A B C

News Online [www.ohio.com](http://www.ohio.com)

MO 50¢

Home Delivery 800-777-2442



Al-Jazeera photo via Associated Press  
**Ayman al-Zawahiri appears in a video in which he ridicules President Bush.**

## Terror leader mocks Bush

Al-Qaeda's No. 2 shows he's alive in videotape

By Nadia Abou el-Magd  
Associated Press

**CAIRO, EGYPT:** In a new video aired Monday, al-Qaeda's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, mocked President Bush as a failure in the war on terror, called him a butcher for killing innocent Pakistanis in a miscarried airstrike and chastised the United States for not accepting Osama bin Laden's offer of a truce.

Al-Zawahiri also threatened a new attack in the United States.

The video, broadcast on Al-Jazeera TV, provided the first concrete evidence that al-Zawahiri was still alive after the Jan. 13 airstrike in eastern Pakistan that targeted him.

Please see **Video, A5**

**NEWSMEN IMPROVING:** ABC anchor and cameraman recovering. **A5**

## Smoking ban calls tracked down

North Dakota group phoning at random

By John Higgins  
Beacon Journal staff writer

A North Dakota group is apparently behind the calls being made to Akron residents over a potential smoking ban.

Akron residents are receiving calls from the group, which then transfers them directly to Akron City Council, where citizens can express an opinion on the Summit County smoking ban.

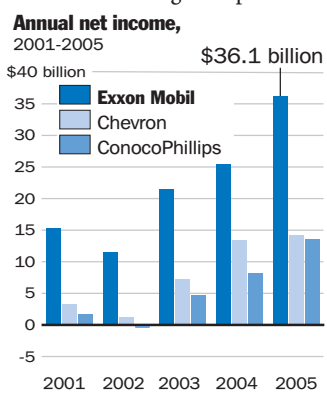
It all started late Thursday afternoon, when the clerk's office received about a dozen calls.

By the time staff came in Friday morning, the voice mail already had 16 calls and by 1 p.m., another 200 calls were received.

Please see **Smoking, A4**

## Exxon breaks record

Exxon Mobil reported record profits for any U.S. company on Monday, the latest oil giant to benefit from high fuel prices.



SOURCES: The companies Associated Press

# Exxon's profits soar

\$36.13 billion in '05 highest ever for U.S. company

By Steve Quinn  
Associated Press

**DALLAS:** For anyone stunned by the size of Exxon Mobil Corp.'s \$36.13 billion profit in 2005 - the highest ever for a U.S. company - some Wall Street analysts have a message: There's more to come.

"Unless (energy) prices collapse, earnings in 2006 will make 2005 look like a cake-

walk," Oppenheimer & Co. oil analyst Fadel Gheit said.

Exxon said Monday that its fourth-quarter profit climbed 27 percent to \$10.71 billion.

And with annual revenue of \$371 billion - an amount that exceeds Saudi Arabia's estimated gross domestic product in 2005 - Exxon will probably dethrone Wal-Mart Stores Inc. from atop the Fortune 500 this spring.

Wal-Mart, with a fiscal year that runs through January, had \$290.29 billion in revenue through December.

Democratic lawmakers expressed outrage at the industry's latest benefit from high oil and natural-gas prices, renewing calls for a windfall profits tax, as well as for increased investment in refining capacity and alternative fuels.

Experts said there wasn't much that could be done in the short term to lower the price of gasoline, which now hovers around \$2.34 a gallon nationwide.

"As long as demand stays high, people will have to pay more," said David E. Dismukes, an energy economist and associate director at Louisiana State University's Center for Energy Studies.

Please see **Exxon, A5**



PAUL TOPPLE/Akron Beacon Journal

## Flying fin at Wingfoot Lake

Wingfoot Lake hangar workers Charles Shankle (left) and Scott Babbo dangle from bosun's chairs Monday while positioning the top tail fin of the Goodyear blimp under construction in Suffield Township. The new airship is shaping up nicely from top to bottom. Read the latest installment of Blimp Garage on Page D1.



PAUL TOPPLE/Akron Beacon Journal

Merida Keatts, who works in the Department of Geology at Kent State, holds seismological data KSU recorded from the Dec. 26, 2004, earthquake in the Indian Ocean.

## Akron quaked, rattled, rolled

It's been 20 years, but it could happen again

By Paula Schleis  
Beacon Journal staff writer

No doubt hardy Californians would chuckle over how many of us recall what we were doing when a 5.0-magnitude tremor shook Northeast Ohio 20 years ago today.

The West Coast gets two or three of those every year.

But, hey, this is Ohio. Most of

**Ohio.com:** For more recollections about the 1986 Ohio earthquake, plus additional graphics, go to this article online.

us had never felt the ground move before. Heck, we didn't even know it could move.

When our houses shivered that winter day, we glanced outside to look for a big truck rumbling down the road, or scanned the sky for military planes due in town for fallen astronaut Judith Resnik's memorial service.

After news reports told us we'd just experienced a bona fide earthquake, we started swapping stories while feeling bad for friends who missed the rare event because they were in cars that absorbed the wave.

Well, if you missed out on the excitement, be patient. A statewide seismic network established in Ohio seven years ago is learning a lot about the mysterious world beneath our feet.

And we're not done shaking.

Please see **Quake, A4**

## FirstWORD

### Today's weather

Flurries  
36° High 27° Low  
NewsChannel 5 forecast, Page B8

### Index

Dear Abby E4  
Business D1  
Classified F1  
Comics E4,5  
Crossword E5  
Deaths B6,7  
Editorials B3  
Horoscope E5  
Local News B1

Lottery A2  
Movies E3  
Region Briefs B5  
Sports C1  
Sudoku E4  
TV Listings E3  
Word Game F4  
Mary Worth F4  
Your Health E1

Search the classifieds  
**Ohio.com**  
<http://www.ohio.com>



### Log on for analysis of Oscars today

Oscar nominations will be announced at 8:30 this morning. Follow real-time commentary by Beacon Journal critic George M. Thomas on his Movie Spotlight blog - on Ohio.com - and read his analysis of the picks in Wednesday's paper and online.

### Bush speaks tonight

When President Bush delivers his fifth State of the Union address at 9 tonight, he will seek to set an agenda for the coming year.

One victory appears to be in the bag: His nominee for the Supreme Court, Samuel Alito, is expected to be confirmed today and join the other justices at the Capitol for the speech, which will air live on the major broadcast networks and cable news channels.

Articles, Page A3.

### Send information for camps listing

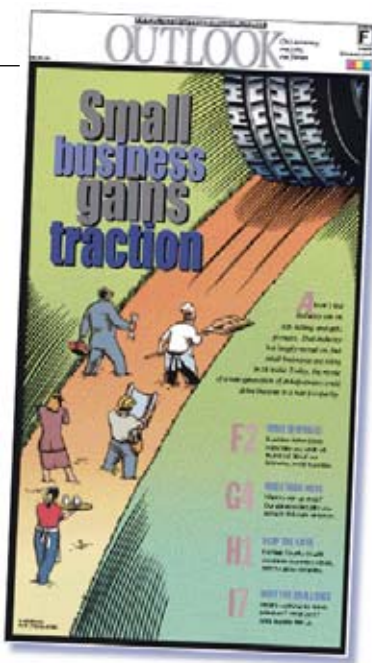
On Feb. 25, the Beacon Journal will run its annual guide to summer camps in the area.

If you run a camp and would like to be included in the section, fax information to Camp Guide at 330-376-9235 or e-mail it to [fcay@thebeaconjournal.com](mailto:fcay@thebeaconjournal.com) by Feb. 18. Advertisers can call 330-996-3410.

### Did you know?

Small businesses have generated 60 percent to 80 percent of net new jobs in the last decade, according to the federal Small Business Administration.

The growth of small business and entrepreneurial thinking is a key to the local economy's health. **Coming Sunday: Outlook, a special report on small business in Northeast Ohio.**



## Visitors to Detroit are in for a surprise

Journalist has message for Super Bowl guests: Everything will be OK

By Mitch Albom  
Detroit Free Press

**DETROIT:** I remember my first time.

I was nervous. I was embarrassed. I was already in my 20s and had never done it before.

But I did it.

And I liked it.

I came to Detroit.

Perhaps you are doing the same thing this week for Super Bowl XL, arriving at our airport, checking into our hotels, looking at our river that leads to a Great Lake. Maybe you've never seen a Great Lake. Don't worry. It's like an ocean, but usually without the waves.

And don't worry about anything else, either. Because

### SUPER BOWL PREVIEW

Patrick McManamon asks QB Trent Diller to size up teams. **C1**

if there's one benefit to a cold-weather Super Bowl in a Rust Belt city that only gets headlines when there's violence or poverty, this is it: Your expectations are so low, we are bound to exceed them.

Our winter? Not as bad as you think. Our storied poverty? Not as bad as you think. Our buildings that are less than gleaming? Not as bad as you think.

Still, it's what you're not expecting that may define your time here. And that's the people. They call Chicago "the city of broad shoulders"? Call us "the city of braced shoulders." We expect visitors to think the worst.

Please see **Detroit, A4**