

UAW leaders set meeting
Tentative health care pact with Ford to be topic Wednesday.

D2

www.ohio.com/business

DOW
-10.81
CLOSE
10,767.77

T-BONDS
+0.02
CLOSE
4.75

S&P
+1.06
CLOSE
1,260.43

NASDAQ
+4.22
CLOSE
2,260.95

Business



Controversial Diebold CEO resigns

Wally O'Dell cites unspecified personal reasons for leaving; Thomas Swidarski is named immediately as replacement

By Dave Scott
Beacon Journal business writer

Controversial Diebold Inc. Chairman and Chief Executive Wally O'Dell resigned Monday, only a few days after meeting with the company's board.

A company statement cited personal reasons for the resignation, which took effect immediately.

Thomas W. Swidarski, a rising star in the company recently put in charge

of an important restructuring, was named O'Dell's successor. John N. Lauer was named nonexecutive chairman.

Diebold's stock has fallen out of favor as it has dealt with poor results from its voting machine business and disappointing cost-cutting efforts in the automated teller machine division.

Monday's announcement came after the market closed with Diebold

shares up 11 cents to \$37.73, but down 32.3 percent for the year. The shares reached a high of \$57.81 earlier this year.

"The board of directors and Wally mutually agreed that his decision to resign at this time for personal reasons was in the best interest of all parties," Lauer said in a news release issued after markets closed Monday.

O'Dell, 60, had been with Diebold since 1999. He was not quoted in the release and was not available for comment. The company did not elaborate on the "personal reasons."

In the same release, the company

reaffirmed its estimates that it will earn between 50 and 60 cents a share when it announces fourth-quarter results on Jan. 31. That includes a 13-cent-a-share charge for restructuring costs. The company made 87 cents a share in the same period of 2004.

The company had disappointing third-quarter results, seeing profits drop 45 percent. On Oct. 26, Diebold announced that Eric Evans, president and chief operating officer, was leaving the company and Swidarski would replace him. Kevin Krakora was

Please see **Diebold, D2**



Diebold Inc. Chairman and Chief Executive Wally O'Dell on Monday resigned, effective immediately, for "personal reasons."

Bloomberg News photo



ROBIN TINAY SALLIE/Akron Beacon Journal photos

Workers move thousands of pounds of floating blimp envelope and gondola across Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s Wingfoot Lake hangar.



Beginnings of a blimp

This is the fifth installment of Blimp Garage, an occasional series chronicling the people and milestones involved in building Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s new blimp at Wingfoot Lake.

Dec. 4: Crew members finish patching the 192-foot-long envelope.

Thursday: The envelope is inflated with helium for the first time.

Friday: The gondola, or car, is attached to the underneath of the envelope.

Sunday: Meet the people who are building the blimp.

Today: The blimp is moved within the hangar.

Ohio.com

For previous articles from the Blimp Garage, plus photos and videos, go to the Newsroom Projects page.



Jared Haren, construction supervisor, anchors the blimp Monday after workers complete the airship's move.

Blimp workers flex some serious muscle

Lighter than air? Just try moving a dirigible

By Jim Mackinnon
Beacon Journal business writer

Moving a 192-foot-long blimp indoors takes human muscle and finesse.

The muscle moves thousands of pounds of floating envelope, attached gondola and ballast bags and just as importantly brings the whole complicated assembly to a stop.

The finesse ensures all goes smoothly and nothing is damaged along the way.

Monday was moving day for the still unnamed airship being assembled by the Blimp Garage gang at Goodyear Tire

& Rubber Co.'s Wingfoot Lake hangar.

Moving the blimp was the next big step after last week's helium inflation and attachment of the gondola, or car, to the now-floating envelope.

The crew needed to walk the airship from what is called "Slot 2" deep inside the hangar to "Slot 1" near the hangar door, basically a bit over a blimp's length away. The new location puts the blimp closer to the hangar shops that will do much of the remaining work in upcoming months.

When work crews walked into the hangar shortly after 7 a.m., the net and many of the

BALLAST BAGS

The Goodyear blimp rebuild team needed a lot of ballast to control the airship inside the hangar.

Each of the ballast bags used indoors weighs about 35 pounds - and hundreds of the canvas bags are needed to raise, lower and balance the blimp as work requires. The ballast bags in the hangar are filled with sand. The bags used on a flying blimp are lighter - 25 pounds - and filled with steel pellets. The bags are sewn shut, and ballast is adjusted before and after a flight, never during.

Please see **Blimp, D2**

U.S. says oil prices won't fall in future

Spikes in natural gas expected to retreat

By H. Josef Hebert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON: Oil prices will persist near or above \$50 a barrel for years and force a shift to more fuel-efficient cars and alternative fuels, the government said Monday, discarding earlier predictions that costs would drop to around \$30 a barrel.

The Energy Department forecast was more positive on natural gas prices. It said they would retreat from the recent spikes - to more than \$14 per thousand cubic feet - and settle at under \$5 in the long-term as demand weakens, especially for electricity production.

The analysis reflected a significant change from the department's projections a year ago when it predicted oil prices in constant dollars - not counting normal inflation - would retreat in the long-term and settle at about \$31 a barrel by 2025.

The report issued Monday said that oil prices will remain in the mid-\$40 range or higher in coming years and average \$54 a barrel by 2025, increasing to an average of \$57 a barrel by 2030 when adjusted for inflation. Crude oil prices have been hovering around \$60 a barrel, briefly soaring as high as \$70 earlier this year.

The long-term forecast, which attempts to gauge the nation's energy picture 20 years from now, assumed no major policy shift such as future restrictions on so-called "greenhouse" gases - including carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels - to combat climate change.

Nor did it assume the government will allow oil development in the Arctic National

Please see **Oil, D2**

Lockheed to build blimp in Akron

Company gets Defense Department contract for massive airship prototype

By Jim Mackinnon
Beacon Journal business writer

The historic Akron Airdock is going to be the home for a large blimp again.

Large as in 17 times the size of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s iconic blimps.

Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems & Sensors has been awarded a long-awaited \$149.2 million U.S.

Defense Department contract to build a prototype blimp called the High Altitude Airship, which can be used for missile defense, communications and surveillance.

The blimp, which will be built at Lockheed Martin's airdock facilities near the Rubber Bowl and Derby Downs, is intended to be a lower-cost alternative to satellites. Design work is already complete.

The blimp is expected to fly in 2009, and Lockheed Martin spokeswoman Kate Dunlap said the company expects to host a large community event to mark the occasion.

"Obviously, we're eager and ready to start," she said.

The contract will allow Lockheed Martin to construct the unmanned and untethered blimp, which has been designed to stay

aloft for as long as a month at an altitude of 11 to 12 miles.

Lockheed Martin's helium-filled prototype will be 400 feet long and 140 feet in diameter.

The prototype blimp will actually be smaller than any succeeding working versions, Dunlap said. She said if the prototype proves successful, the Defense Department will decide the size of the other airships.

Please see **Lockheed, D2**



Lockheed Martin will build a prototype blimp called the High Altitude Airship, which is intended to be a lower-cost alternative to satellites.

Lockheed Martin

BOTTOMLINE

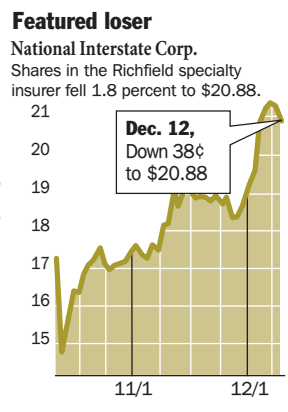
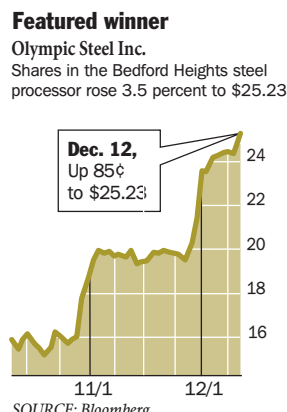
DirecTV deal includes Ohio

Ohio and 21 other states have entered into a \$5 million settlement with DirecTV that will change the way the company advertises and markets its products and may entitle consumers to restitution.

Among consumer complaints were unreadable print in

advertisements, not knowing commitments until after being locked into a contract, paying for but not receiving all local channels and being assessed a fee for terminating service before the "free programming offer" period expired. Consumers who wish to file claims for restitution should file a complaint with the Ohio attorney general by May 11.

Northeast Ohio stocks



SOURCE: Bloomberg

Web sites teach kids how to save, invest money

It's never too early for children to learn how to respect, save and invest money.

Several Web sites offer insights for parents when teaching children about saving and investing. Here are just a few to check out:

Kids' Money
www.kidsmoney.org
Provides a range of topics on saving and earning money.

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Moneyopolis
www.moneyopolis.com
Features interactive math and saving game to help kids learn about managing money.

Right on the Money
www.rightonthemoney.org/shows/203_kids/index.html

Details how parents can teach kids about money.

YoungBiz.com
http://youngbiz.com
Offers saving topics designed for teens in "YoungBiz Hot Spots" section.

Younginvestor.com
www.younginvestor.com/kids
Covers several money topics for kids in four key areas.