

MARKETS

The Associated Press

Indianapolis grain

Estimated grain prices Wednesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: cash \$2.01, March \$2.05. Soybeans: cash \$6.14. Wheat: \$3.35.

Eastern Cornbelt direct hogs

Eastern Cornbelt Lean Value Direct Hogs report for Wednesday: Trend: Barrows and gilts were 23 cents lower compared with previous day's close.

Base-market carcass basis plant-delivered: 0.9 to 1.1 square inches of back fat, \$48.75-\$56.91, weighted average \$56.16.

Net prices, including premiums: 0.9-1.0, \$48.75-\$57.00; 1.0-1.1, 48.75-59.07; 1.1-1.2, 48.75-58.05. Daily movement estimate: 7,844.

Wall Street

NEW YORK — Stocks rose moderately Wednesday as investors digested Tuesday's gains, which followed the Federal Reserve's signal that it may be nearing the end of its streak of short-term interest rate hikes.

Tuesday's rally "seemed to take people by surprise," said Richard E. Cripps, chief market strategist for Legg Mason of Baltimore.

Retail sales reports, rising oil prices and mixed economic news capped the day's gains.

"The last week of the year is coming in pretty lame" for retailers, said Jack A. Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank in Chicago. A third month of disappointing sales from American automakers added to the sense that consumer spending may be slowing.

Crude oil futures crossed \$63 a barrel, further cooling investor enthusiasm. A barrel of light sweet crude settled at \$63.42, up 28 cents in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 32.74, or 0.3 percent, to 10,880.15. The S&P 500 rose 129.91, or 1.21 percent, on Tuesday.

Broader stock indicators were higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 4.66, or 0.37 percent, to 1,273.46. The tiny gain was enough to send the index to a four-and-a-half year high. The Nasdaq composite index rose 19.72, or 0.88 percent, to 2,263.46, reflecting a \$10.01 jump in Google Inc. after Bear Stearns upgraded the stock.

Bonds rose, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note falling to 4.35 percent from 4.37 percent late Tuesday. The U.S. dollar was lower against other major currencies. Gold prices were higher.

Investors remain uncertain about the transfer of power at the Federal Reserve, as Alan Greenspan retires and Ben Bernanke takes his place.

"It's like we're all waiting for something to start," said Frank Gannon, senior equity portfolio manager, AIG SunAmerica Mutual Funds.

The day's scant economic news was mixed. While November orders to U.S. factories posted their biggest gain in three months, the increase came entirely from higher demand for commercial aircraft. Without transportation, orders were essentially unchanged, the fourth month of the past five that this broad category of the economy's health has either fallen or shown no growth.

Traders are quietly cheering for a minor economic slowdown, in the hopes that it will bring a quicker end to the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes. The Fed has raised short-term interest rates 13 straight times in the past year-and-a-half.

Upgrades helped ExxonMobil Corp. and Google. Banc of America upgraded ExxonMobil to "buy" from "neutral." ExxonMobil rose 10 cents to \$58.57.

The stock report after the close of markets Wednesday:

Table with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes AES Group, AT&T Corp, Alcoa, Allstate, ArvinMeritor, Best Buy, BP Amoco, etc.

LOTTERIES

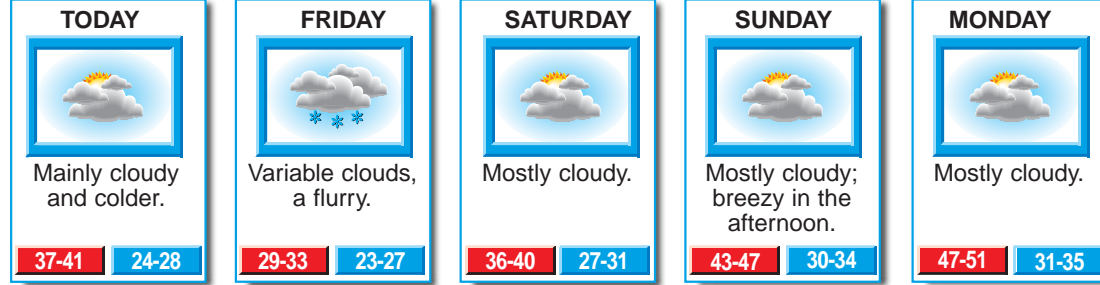
Here are the winning numbers selected Wednesday:

Indiana Daily Three Midday: 6-2-2. Daily Three Evening: 3-5-8. Daily Four Midday: 0-6-0-1. Daily Four Evening: 1-2-1-6. Lucky Five Midday: 4-13-14-17-33. Lucky Five Evening: 1-8-31-32-35. Hoosier Lotto: 12-16-18-24-31-35. Jackpot: \$24 million.

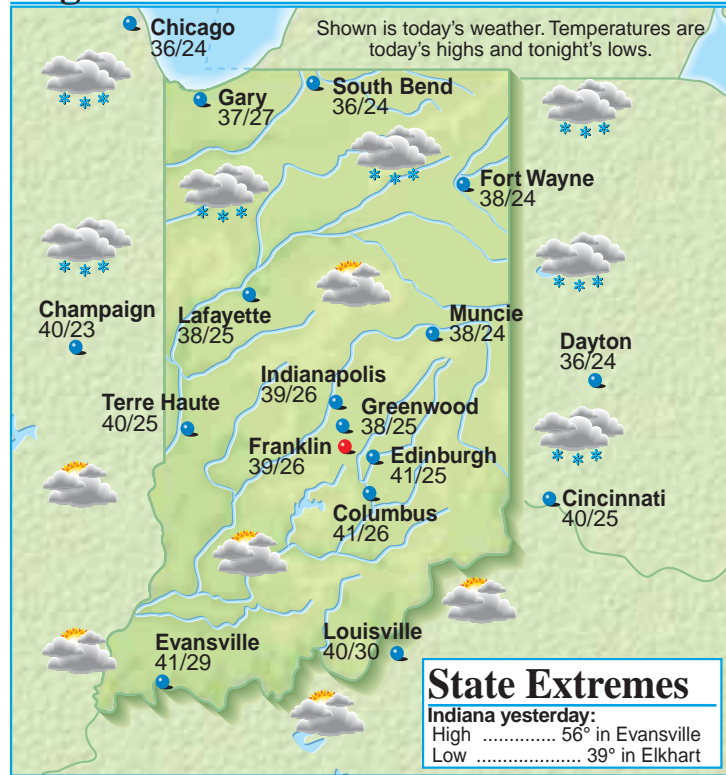
Powerball 10-23-42-48-54. Powerball: 3. Power Play: 4. Jackpot: \$47 million.

WEATHER

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County



Regional weather



State Extremes table: Indiana yesterday: High 56° in Evansville, Low 39° in Elkhart.

Regional summary

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Mostly cloudy, windy and colder today. Mostly cloudy and cold tonight. A flurry in spots tomorrow. Edinburgh/Franklin: Mostly cloudy, windy and colder today. Mostly cloudy and cold tonight. Variable cloudiness with a flurry tomorrow.

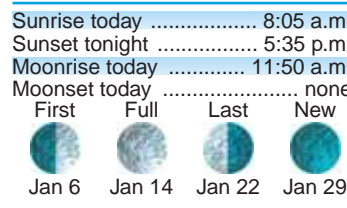
Today in weather history™

Freezing rain on Jan. 5, 1983, tied up morning traffic from North Carolina to eastern Pennsylvania.

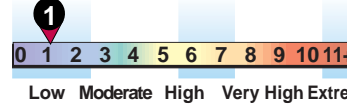
Regional cities

Table comparing weather conditions (High/Low) for various regional cities like Anderson, Bloomington, Chicago, etc.

Sun and moon



AccuWeather UV Index™



Weather Trivia™

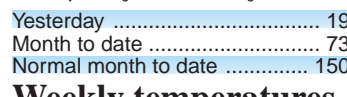
What is the U.S. record for one-day temperature variation? Browning, Mont., January 1916.

Wind Chill Today



Heating Degree Days

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day with negative values counting as zero.



River stages

Fid: flood stage. Stage: in feet at 7 a.m. Wednesday. Chg: change in previous 24 hours.

Table of river stages for White River, White River (East Fork), and Edinburg.

AccuWeather.com Almanac

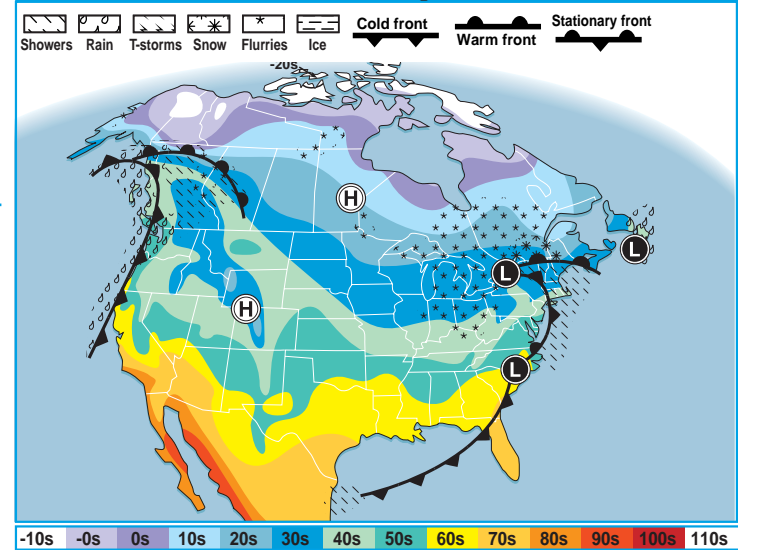
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006 Statistics for Indianapolis through 5 p.m. yesterday.

Temperature, Wind, Humidity statistics table.

Air quality Indianapolis

Source: IAPC Yesterday 49 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-151, Unhealthy (sens. grps.); 151-200; Unhealthy

National weather today



National cities

Table comparing weather conditions for various national cities like Albany, NY, Houston, etc.

Weather (w): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice.

Service Experts advertisement with phone number 781-2580 and \$20.00 OFF coupon.

Despair

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

The tale that is emerging from the Sago Mine disaster is one of miscommunication, wishful thinking and an unwavering faith in God and the toughness of West Virginia coal miners.

About 38 hours after Monday's blast at the International Coal Group mine in north-central West Virginia, the hopes of one of 13 miners' families came crashing down. Gov. Joe Manchin told families gathered at the little white clapboard church in the hollow across from the mine that rescuers had found one man dead.

But in the same instant in the mist-shrouded hollow, the hopes of 12 other families rose. The buggy the men had ridden into the mine had not been damaged in the suspected methane gas blast, and the men had apparently gathered their self-rescue gear and lunch buckets and walked off under their own steam.

Suddenly, at about 11:48 p.m. Tuesday, people came streaming out of the hollow from the church. They were screaming: They've found them! All 12 are alive!

Casto, who knew three of the trapped men, was standing in the church's tin-roofed fellowship hall when a man burst through the front door and shouted: "There still are miracles, because there are 12 men alive!"

Bridgette Lusk, whose uncle Martin "Junior" Toler was among the trapped, said her first cousin was a mine foreman at Sago who had called family at the church to report, "They just said they're alive."

The word spread like wildfire. The crowd erupted into cheers and applause. Burly men in cam-

ouflage hugged each other as a woman shouted "Thank you, Lord!" into the foggy night.

A peal of joy came ringing forth from the tiny belfry. When the bells ceased, Pastor Wease Day stood on the fellowship hall's front porch and led the crowd in an a cappella chorus of the hymn "How Great Thou Art."

In the midst of the jubilation, the family of fire boss Terry Helms, who was presumed dead in the initial blast, floated dazedly through the crowd like a black cloud on a spring day.

Shortly thereafter, Casto said, another man rushed into the sanctuary and grabbed the microphone. Standing beneath a framed tapestry of Da Vinci's "The Last Supper," the unidentified man said the emergency crews were going to bring the men up to the church to feed them and reunite them with their families.

"It's going to be another Christmas this year," the man said.

Ben Hatfield, ICG's chief executive, said Wednesday that taking the miners to the church was never part of the plan, which called for any survivors to immediately be transported to a hospital.

"We had no idea what they were being told," Hatfield said.

Manchin had been in the church praying with the families when the unidentified man made the announcement. He looked around at his troopers and communications people in puzzlement.

"Have we confirmed that?" he asked. No, was the reply.

Manchin told the families that he was going back over to the mine to get more information.

Wanda Groves, the mother of trapped miner Jerry Groves, was walking beside Manchin when she stumbled. As the governor helped the struggling woman regain her footing, Darlene Groves, the woman's daughter-in-law, touched

the sleeve of the governor's leather jacket and asked him: "Are all 12 men alive?"

Darlene Groves said the governor turned to her and said quietly, "Yes."

Manchin would say later he got "caught up in the euphoria." But what was supposed to have been a personal exchange was overheard, and a private word of encouragement suddenly took the shape of official confirmation from the highest level of state government.

Shortly after midnight, Manchin repeated in a telephone interview that 12 men had been found alive.

"It is a miracle; there's no other explanation," he said.

Hatfield, the mining company chief executive, said that mine officials held off announcing the men were dead while they tried to make certain that was the case.

"In the process of being cautious, we allowed the jubilation to go on longer than it should have," he said, his voice cracking.

Hatfield said the initial mistake resulted from a miscommunication among the rescue crews. Another ICG executive, vice president Gene Kitts, suggested that the misunderstanding resulted because the rescuers who reached the victims in the mine were wearing full-face oxygen masks and used radios to report their findings.

Kitts said Wednesday that the rescuers agreed not to use the words "survivor" or "victim" while communicating during their search. Instead they were instructed to use the word "item" when locating one of the trapped miners.

"That system worked when the first miner was found," he said.

But the code failed when the other miners were discovered, Kitts said, because people on the surface were told "12 are alive."

"In the jubilation of the moment the rules didn't hold," Hatfield said.

faced the board of commissioners are similar to the ones Ferrill faced when he was commissioner for 12 years.

His final term ended in 1990, and he also served as an insurance agent for Allstate in Franklin.

Ferrill said three big issues in the county are the same as they were when he was commissioner: building an animal shelter, handling growth in the county and bringing more economic development to the county.

His experience in the District No. 2 seat will help him handle the county's issues, Ferrill said.

Both Grose and Ferrill agreed that an east/west corridor is also an important priority for the county and needs to be addressed immediately.

Eight

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Each candidate will have three minutes to address committee members and tell them why they should be the District No. 2 commissioner. The seat represents the county's middle townships: Union, Franklin and Needham.

Grose has been a member of the Johnson County REMC board and currently serves as vice president.

He decided to apply for the commissioner seat because he believes he can bring a needed conservative voice to county government, he said.



FERRILL



GROSE

Three needs face the county: more jobs, better roads and keeping county employees in their positions, he said.

Grose admits he has a lot to learn about how county government works because he hasn't been involved before.

But he said he thinks he can bring new opinions to the board of commissioners.

Many of the same issues that

Bills

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

everything they can to cut costs.

Cautious homeowners are turning down thermostats and bundling up with blankets as they look for ways to trim hefty heating bills.

A few of those homeowners are starting to see some savings or at least are keeping their costs flat. But that doesn't mean that they're not worrying about the months ahead.

Indianapolis resident Sharon Wilcox said her thermostat is kept at 65 degrees, and she's resealed the windows at her home.

She thinks the new roof on her home is also helping her keep her monthly heat payments from going over budget.

But with warnings about gasoline costs and property taxes going up, she said hearing about heating costs jumping just adds another worry.

"Heating bills are taking all the fun out of life," Wilcox said.

Trafalgar resident Mary Jane Turnmire paid an extra \$100 to lock in propane prices for the year and signed up to be on a budget billing plan.

She keeps her house at 70 degrees, a temperature she said is warmer than she would like it to be but necessary for her 6-month-old baby.

Turnmire said she tries to keep her garage door closed and made sure there was a seal around her front door.

So far, her efforts are keeping her bills within her \$225 per month target, but she worries that she might go over budget.

Indianapolis resident Laurel Sparks said she has saved money by covering herself with a blanket and turning the thermostat down to 65 degrees from the 70 degrees she prefers. Her most recent bill for her old home dropped to \$129 compared to \$140 for the previous month.

Sparks said she hasn't seen the heating hike that experts are forecasting yet, but she's nervous about the coming months.

"It feels like the hammer is about to fall," she said.

While some residents' efforts are paying off, it hasn't stopped sticker shock from setting in when they opened their most recent bill.

Greenwood resident Christine DeHart said her most recent bill was about \$260, roughly the same as what she paid for heat the month before.

DeHart said she's still getting used to the higher heating prices

HEATING HELP

Some utility companies are offering help to the neediest residents in paying heating bills.

Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana is partnering with a state program to provide heating help to residents whose income falls between 150 and 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

Through the Help Thy Neighbor Heating Fund, residents who meet the income guidelines and receive a disconnect notice can get a one-time \$200 credit on their heating bill.

For example, a family of four that makes \$558 to \$774 per week, or a one-person household that earns \$276 to \$386 per week would meet the income guidelines.

Funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. To apply, visit www.vec-tren.com or call (800) 227-1376.

but hasn't had to make any major budget changes yet.

The single mom turns down the heat a little bit at night and is saving on gasoline costs by working from home.

Though her home office with lots of windows is drafty, DeHart wraps up in a blanket and cuddles up with her white Samoan dog Wynter while she works on her computer.

"I'm trying to do my best," she said.

Millicent Jenkins said she's been lucky to keep her costs to less than \$70 per month in the duplex where she lives in Indianapolis.

She keeps her heat as low as 55 to 60 degrees at night, dresses in the cold and doesn't turn up the thermostat until she gets home from work in the afternoon.

But Jenkins is worried about how heating bill jumps will affect seniors who aren't able to keep their heat as low as she does for health reasons.

Utility companies and area human services groups offer assistance to some residents who meet federal poverty guidelines.

Some area seniors said they're still able to pay for mounting heat costs but were surprised by recent jumps in their bills.

Frank Strack and his wife, Lorraine, paid twice as much to heat their New Whiteland home than the month before, with their most recent bill reaching almost \$200.

New Whiteland senior Betty Hill said that, even though her home is well insulated, her most recent heating bill was \$229, double the amount she paid the month before.

But Hill said she's keeping her thermostat set above 70 degrees despite the extra costs.

"I'm not going to freeze to death," Hill said. "I'm going to be warm even if it costs me more."