The Associated Press

Indianapolis grain

MARKETS

Estimated grain prices Thursday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: cash \$1.96, new \$2.26. Soybeans: cash \$5.54, new \$5.83. Wheat: \$3.25.

Eastern Cornbelt direct hogs Eastern Cornbelt Lean Value Direct Hogs report for Thursday:

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,

\$46.50-\$58.11; weighted average \$57.18. Net prices, including premiums: 0.9-1.0, \$46.50-\$61.12; 1.0-1.1, \$46.50-\$60.08; 1.1-1.2, \$46.50-\$59.04.

Daily movement estimate: 6,764.

Wall Street

NEW YORK — Bullish data on inflation and the housing market sent stocks mostly higher Thursday, with the Dow Jones industrials and Standard & Poor's 500 index posting nearly five-year highs for the third straight session. A jump in oil prices moderated the gains, however, and the Nasdaq composite index finished lower.

The Dow rose 43.47, or 0.39 percent, to 11,253.24, its highest close since May 22. 2001, when it finished at 11.257.24.

Broader stock indicators were narrowly mixed. The S&P added 2.31, or 0.18 percent, to 1,305.33, its best close since May 22, 2001. The Nasdaq composite index slid 12.28, or 0.53 percent, to 2,299.56.

Bonds mounted another strong rally. with the vield on the 10-year Treasury note falling to 4.64 percent from 4.73 percent late Thursday. The dollar lost ground against most major currencies, while gold prices also fell.

Rising crude oil futures eroded some of the major indexes' earlier gains. A barrel of light crude settled at \$63.58, up \$1.41, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Fears of a declining housing market eased after the Commerce Department reported an annualized 2.145 million new homes under construction in February, down slightly from 2.216 million in January but a better figure than economists had expected.

First-time unemployment claims rose again, with 309,000 new jobless claims filed last week, up from 304,000 the previous week. The rising trend, while troubling to the labor market, also reassured investors that consumers' spending power would remain moderate. lowering the risk of inflation and, in turn, rate hikes from the Fed.

"Once again, we're seeing a reaction to soft economic data," said Jeff Kleintop, chief investment strategist for PNC Financial Services Group in Philadelphia. "It seems to be the key to reducing worries about how aggressive the Fed is going to be going forward, which seems to be the catalyst for stocks here."

In corporate news, Ford Motor Co. rose 8 cents, or 1 percent, to \$7.93 despite a Citigroup downgrade to "underweight" from "equal weight," or the equivalent of a "sell" rating. Citigroup said Ford was losing market share in sport utility vehicles and is seeing increased competition in pickup trucks.

Bear Stearns Cos. continued the streak of record earnings posted by Wall Street brokerage houses this week. The company's first-quarter profits beat analvsts' expectations by 59 cents per share. After the session began, however, regulators announced a \$250 million settlement with the company over improper mutual fund trading. Bear Stearns lost 94 cents to \$133.27.

ConAgra Foods Inc. fell 91 cents to \$19.50 after the food producer announced a massive restructuring plan that includes the sale of its seafood and cheese businesses and would result in unspecified one-time charges for the rest of the year. The company also cut its quarterly dividend by 34 percent.

The stock report after the close of markets Thursday:

-	price	change -x
The AES Group	17.58	+0.32
AT&T Corp.	27.11	-0.20
Alcoa	30.23	+0.33
Allstate	54.46	-0.39
ArvinMeritor	15.18	-0.14
Best Buy	56.95	+1.59
BP Amoco	69.90	-0.02
Cinergy Corp.	45.72	+0.34
Comm Health Sys	37.91	-0.80
Cummins	108.06	-0.11
Diageo	65.41	+0.66
Duff & Phelps	10.78	-0.07
Exxon Mobil	61.64	+0.62
Fifth Third Bank	39.17	-0.08
First Indiana Bank	27.17	-0.15
General Electric	34.38	-0.04
General Motors	22.22	+0.72
Guidant	77.26	-0.16
Heartland Bancshrs	13.50	_
IBM	82.87	-0.51
Irwin Bank	19.60	+0.14
KeyCorp.	37.20	-0.06
Kimball Int'l CIB	14.94	+0.04
Kroger	20.75	-0.01
Lilly Co.	57.23	+0.26
Lincoln Bancorp	17.80	_
Marsh Class B	8.10	_
MainSource	18.45	-0.04
National City Corp.	35.42	-0.21
Navistar	28.83	-0.24
Owens-Illinois	17.49	-0.27
Pepsico	59.90	-0.16
Phelps Dodge	72.51	-0.60
Sara Lee Corp.	18.05	+0.06
Schlumberger	123.80	+3.26
Sprint Corp.	25.91	+0.33
Third Century Bncp	13.10	_
Vectren	26.00	-0.05
Verizon	34.52	+0.13
Wal-Mart	46.36	+1.04
Walt Disney	28.68	-0.07
WellPoint	79.43	+0.85

LOTTERY

Here are the winning numbers selected Thursday in the Hoosier Lottery: Daily Three Midday: 7-8-4. Daily Three Evening: 2-0-4. Daily Four Midday: 3-5-2-2. Daily Four Evening: 7-3-3-6. Lucky Five Midday: 1-3-15-22-24. Lucky Five Evening: 9-14-15-23-28. Hoosier Lotto jackpot: \$2 million. Powerball jackpot: \$88 million.

WEATHER

Regional weather

Chicago 36/20



Indianapolis

Greenwood

Columbus

Louisville

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Colder with intervals of clouds and sunshine today. Partly cloudy and cold tonight. Partly sunny and chilly tomorrow. Edinburgh/Franklin: Colder with intervals of clouds and sunshine today. Partly

City Indianapolis

Kokomo

Lafayette

Louisville

Muncie

South Bend

Terre Haute

If there's any

Edinburgh



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are

today's highs and tonight's lows.

Fort Wayne 38/20

State Extremes

Yest. Hi/Lo/W

57/36/c

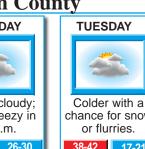
50/34/c

68/44/pc

50/32/sh

39/32/sn







Sun and moon

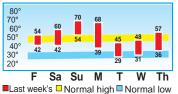
Our III 3C t	oday		6:53 a.m.	
			6:53 p.m.	
			9:48 p.m.	
Moonset	today		7:55 a.m.	
Last	New	First	Full	
Mar 22	Mar 29	Apr 5	Apr 13	
A T	Vootbo	- TIX7	Indows TM	
AccuV	veame	eruv.	maex	
Highest'		Johnso	n County	
Highest'	Todav in	Johnso	n County	
Highest'	Todav in	Johnso to the sun's ult	n County	

What is the vernal equinox?

Weather Trivia[™]

The moment spring begins Wind Chill Today

Willia C	IIIII IUU	ıay
How cold it feels bas 8 a.m.	sed on temperature Noon	e and wind speed. 4 p.m.
25°	28°	34°
Heating D Index of energy con degrees the averag for the day with neg	e temperature was	below 65 degrees
Yesterday Month to dat Normal mon	e	341
Weekly	temper	atures
80°		



River st	age	es	
Fld: flood stage. Sta	ige: in fe	et at 7 a.m.	
Thursday. Chg: cha	nge in p	revious 24 h	ours.
Station	Fld	Stage	Chg
White River		_	•
Mooresville	9	9.32	-0.53
White River (East I		
Edinburgh	12	6.76	-2.11

Statistics for Indianapolis through 5 p.m. yesterday.

Almanac Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006 Average dir./speed E at 15.1 mph lighest speed17

Yesterday's average 60% Today's average 64%

AccuWeather.com

Air quality 24 hrs. ending 5 p.m. yest. 0.00" Source: IAPC Indianapolis Yesterday Year to date 9.88"

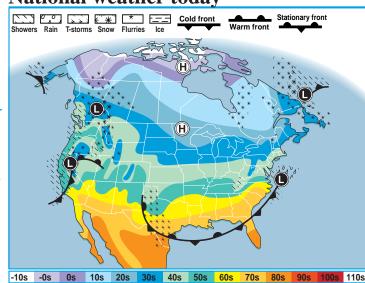
Normal year to date 6.59" 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-151,

Unhealthy (sens. grps.); 151-200; Unhealthy

National weather today

Record low

Precipitation

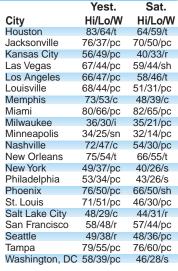


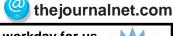
Shown are poon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day

National cities

/W
OC
OC
S
s
S
OC
sf
ЭС
s
/r
ЭС
sf
s
ЭС
/r
c
ЭС
ЭС
ОС
С
sh

Weather (w): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain,







Yest. Hi/Lo/W

64/39/c

38/32/sn

59/37/pc

69/44/pc

45/29/r

43/32/sn

Evansville

Regional summary

Regional cities

Bloomington

Chicago

Cincinnati

Evansville

Fort Wavne

cloudy and cold tonight. Partly sunny and chilly tomorrow.

The Pilgrims sowed seeds at Plymouth Rock, Mass., on March 17, 1621.

Sat. Hi/Lo/W

40/24/pc

44/23/pc

49/26/pc

38/20/pc

41/20/pc

Today in weather history™

Jamie & Lisa Carter Owners

Smell Good Plumbers, Smart Too!

- Drain Cleaning & Jetting
- Leaks & Drips Fixed • Tank or Tankless Water Heaters
- Backhoe or "no dig" water/sewer • Well pumps, Faucet & Toliet Repairs

Saturday is a regular workday for us

Club Member & Senior Citizen Discounts Visa & Mastercard accepted



Fuel-price drop slows inflation • Board (CONTINUED FROM PAGE)

Cost of gasoline, natural gas drops; figures better than expected

Sat. Hi/Lo/W

42/25/pc

43/25/pc

51/31/pc

40/25/pc

39/18/pc

By Martin Crutsinger

WASHINGTON

Inflation, after spiking at the start of the year, slowed sharply in February, reflecting large declines in fuel prices and the cost of clothing.

The Consumer Price Index edged up 0.1 percent last month, the Labor Department reported Thursday. An increase of 0.7 percent in January was driven by higher energy costs.

In February, energy prices fell by 1.2 percent. Pump prices dropped 1 percent, home heating oil was down 2.8 percent, and natural gas prices fell 4.5 percent.

Food prices moderated, rising just 0.2 percent. A big increase in fruit prices was offset by declines and poultry products.

Outside of energy and food, core inflation was well-behaved, climbing 0.1 percent. Core prices were up a moderate 2.1 percent over the past 12 months.

The core inflation figure was better than Wall Street had expected. Analysts said it should allay concerns at the Federal Reserve that the surge of energy costs over the past two years and tightening labor markets were threatening to drive inflation higher.

"We may be looking at the Goldilocks economy redux," said economist Oscar Gonzalez. "The economy is expanding smartly, job growth is solid and inflation remains largely under wraps."

Wall Street investors were cheered by the moderating infla-

in the prices of vegetables, dairy tion pressures. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 43.47 points to close at 11,253.24, the highest in nearly five years.

The Fed has pushed up interest rates gradually since June 2004, with the 15th rate raise expected when Ben Bernanke presides over his first meeting as chair-

man on March 27 and 28. Analysts said as long as inflation remains contained, the central bank may be nearing the end of its rate increases.

"The Fed can take comfort in the fact that core inflation remains tame, despite some modest inflationary pressures, gradually rising wage inflation, tighter capacity constraints and higher oil prices," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at Global Insight, a private forecasting firm.

Behravesh predicted the Fed would raise rates in March and one more time before moving to the sidelines.

Even with the moderation in inflation, the inflation-adjusted weekly earnings of nonsupervisory workers fell by 0.1 percent in February when compared with February 2005.

Weekly wages after adjusting for inflation have been flat or declining for 20 of the past 23 months. Jared Bernstein, senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal think tank, said there were some signs that stronger employment growth was finally helping to boost wage growth, although he said this was occurring much later in this recovery because of the effects of increased global competition.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Parsley and her parents met with

Because the hearing took longer than expected, Hight had not yet had her hearing by 8:30 p.m. when the board was scheduled to vote on whether to overturn the expulsions.

The board agreed to reconvene at 6 p.m. Tuesday to allow Hight and her parents to plead their

An open meeting will be at 8 p.m. so the board can vote on whether the administration was right to expel the girls for the rest of the school year.

Including a 10-day suspension before the expulsion, the girls have been out of school 15 days and said they're worried about being able to make up their schoolwork.

"I just want it to be over," Hight said after the board announced it would continue the hearings.

Heels

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

how to dance reels and jigs for about four years.

This is one of the busiest seasons for Lile's feet. She will dance at three schools and a parade today, and she has three other performances this weekend.

Lile quickly summarized what makes a good step dancer: Toes are turned out. Kick your foot back until it hits your backside. Make

sure your heels don't hit the ground "We have a saying," Owens said. "'Irish dancers kick butt.'"

Lile knows how to dance reels. jigs, slip jigs, hornpipes and trouble jigs. All have a similar rhythm but different steps. The different kinds of dances can be danced individually or as a group.

Lile's looking forward to her next birthday, as 12-year-olds in the competitions can start dancing on the tips of their toes, instead of the ball of their foot.

An array of ribbons, medals and trophies decorate a shelf in Lile's room.

She's still waiting for the dance that will earn her a first-place medal to add to her shelf.

Dancers who achieve this top rating are allowed to wear a solo dress, which differs from traditional costumes.

First-place dancers are allowed to pick the colors and design for their own solo dress, Owens said. Once a dancer earns a solo dress, she can wear the frock in competitions from that point on.

Lile said it's difficult to tell which dance will earn her a firstplace rating. Sometimes judges take off points when she doesn't

notice herself making errors, or they could not see a misstep.

Each year, Lile participates in about 15 feis, the Irish word for competitions. The contests are conducted across the Midwest and around the country. She's traveled to Ohio,

Tennessee and California to compete with other dancers her age. The trips have also helped her make friends across the United States. She has extra incentive for

working for the solo dress, as Owens wants to celebrate with a trip to Ireland, the homeland of

Lile's great-grandfather.

Lile's Irish heritage is proudly displayed in her bedroom. A mural of an Irish castle covers the wall above her bed. Celtic symbols are stenciled on the wall, and a green Care Bear with a shamrock on its stomach sits on a chair. An autographed Riverdance poster hangs on the wall.

She practices her step dancing everywhere, in the living room, while she's waiting for the bus and between classes at her Center Grove school.

"She doesn't walk anymore," Owens said.

Fire

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

children being burned while playing with fire. Two Franklin boys still are hospitalized.

"Indiana hasn't faced this type of crisis that we can remember," Johnson said. "We need to reiterate our fire-prevention message and get it out."

Johnson said there is no common denominator in the cause of the fires, but more than half the victims died in blazes where investigators could find no sign that the burned-out homes had working smoke detectors.

Here's a look at recent fires in Indiana, including several on the southside:

Wednesday: A father and his 3-yearold twin girls died in a house fire in New Harmony in Posey County. The cause is under investigation.

Wednesday: Two children died in a house fire in Gary in Lake County. The cause is under investigation.

Sunday: A family of six, including two adults and four children, were killed in a house fire in Martin County. The cause is still under investigation, but investigators believe it was accidental.

Sunday: One adult died in a house fire in Vevay, in Switzerland County. The cause is under investigation but is believed to be accidental.

RECENT BLAZES Saturday: Fern Carter, 74, died in a

house fire on Santiago Drive in the Center Grove area. Investigators believe the cause was a cigarette that caught her medical oxygen on fire.

March 10: One adult died in a house fire in East Chicago in Lake County. Investigators believe the fire was an arson, and the case has been ruled a homicide.

March 8: A Greenwood woman in her 60s was seriously burned after a fire started in the Cambridge Apartments. Investigators believe a cigarette she lit caught her medical oxygen on fire.

March 7: Two adults and a child died in a house fire in Scottsburg. Investigators determined the cause was a

For smoke detectors to be com-

space heater placed too close to combustibles.

March 5: Two children died in a house fire in Indianapolis, and investigators determined the cause was a space heater that caught the couch on fire.

Feb. 27: Three Franklin boys were burned when a gasoline-filled bottle exploded as one boy tried to set a shoe and other items on fire. Two suffered severe burns and are still hospitalized. The third boy was treated and

Feb. 13: An 8-year-old boy in the Center Grove area used a lighter and hairspray to make a makeshift flamethrower and catch a friend's hair

the Fishers Fire Department. They also should be tested at

said homeowners often install the devices too close to their kitchens, prompting some people to disable them out of irritation because the devices sound when meals are burned. "If you pull the battery, it's not

placed in locations to provide the

best protection, Lipps said. He

going to help you when you need it," he said. "We try to help people locate them in a much better

The state doesn't plan to institute any new educational programs because of the recent fires, but Johnson hopes to be able to better educate residents about the programs local fire departments already offer, including free smoke detectors and installation help.

The Associated Press contributed to

Families must have working smoke detectors in their homes and make sure they discuss escape options, Johnson said.

"Had they taken the time, maybe some calmness would have come to the chaos that erupts during these situations," he said.

pletely effective, they must be installed on every floor of a building, including the basement, said Ron Lipps, deputy fire marshal of

least once a month to ensure the batteries and circuitry still work.

Smoke detectors must be

this report.