

MARKETS

The Associated Press

Indianapolis grain

Estimated grain prices Thursday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: cash \$2.06, new \$2.10. Soybeans: cash \$5.62, new \$5.62. Wheat: \$3.52.

Eastern Cornbelt direct hogs

Eastern Cornbelt Lean Value Direct Hogs report for Thursday: Trend: Barrows and gilts were 49 cents lower compared with previous day's close.

Base-market carcass basis plant-delivered: 0.9 to 1.1 square inches of back fat, \$53.50-\$64.50; weighted average \$62.12. Net prices, including premiums: 0.9-1.0, \$53.50-\$65.92; 1.0-1.1, \$53.50-\$65.15; 1.1-1.2, \$53.50-\$64.44. Daily movement estimate: 7,050.

Wall Street

NEW YORK — Wall Street slid lower Thursday, with inflation concerns and a disappointing earnings report from Viacom Inc. prompting investors to collect profits. A drop in oil prices failed to mitigate the losses.

Investors grew jittery as the latest unemployment figures showed strength in the labor market. First-time jobless claims fell by 20,000 from the previous week to 278,000, a far sharper drop than economists had expected.

While a strong labor market is generally good news, Wall Street remains concerned that the additional buying power that comes with steady employment could push prices higher and spark inflation, prompting the Federal Reserve to keep hiking interest rates.

Still, investors were pleased with a drop in oil prices, which fell below \$60 per barrel at one point after the Energy Department reported a rise in crude oil stockpiles. A barrel of light crude settled at \$60.54, down 47 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"Certainly the move in oil is good, and the market certainly perked up somewhat after that inventory report," said Peter Cardillo, chief strategist and senior vice president at S.W. Bach & Co. "For the intermediate term, there doesn't seem to be a supply/demand problem out there. But you don't know when that'll change."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 67.95, or 0.61 percent, to 11,069.22. Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 4.88, or 0.38 percent, to 1,287.79, and the Nasdaq composite index dropped 3.85, or 0.17 percent, to 2,279.32.

Bonds fell, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbing to 4.56 percent from 4.53 percent late Wednesday. The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices rose.

Stocks jumped to fresh 4½-year highs over the past few weeks as strength in the economy encouraged investors. Yet concerns remain, including whether the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes will cut off economic growth. With little news Thursday to keep momentum alive and uncertainty about the state of the economy later in the year, profit-taking ate into the rally.

"It's very difficult for investors to extrapolate anything from these short-term moves in the market," said Christopher Conkey, chief investment officer at Evergreen Investments. "Don't get too excited about days like yesterday, and don't get too excited about days like today, either."

In its first earnings report since spinning off CBS Corp., Viacom Inc. said its fourth-quarter profits fell due to poor performance at its Paramount movie studio arm as well as one-time charges related to the company's reorganization. Viacom fell 96 cents to \$41.

Home builder Toll Brothers Inc. rose \$1.05 to \$33.54 after the company said fourth-quarter profits jumped 49 percent and that its backlog of building projects rose 22 percent by the end of the quarter. However, the number of new contracts fell 21 percent, raising new concerns about a softening housing market.

The stock report after the close of markets Thursday:

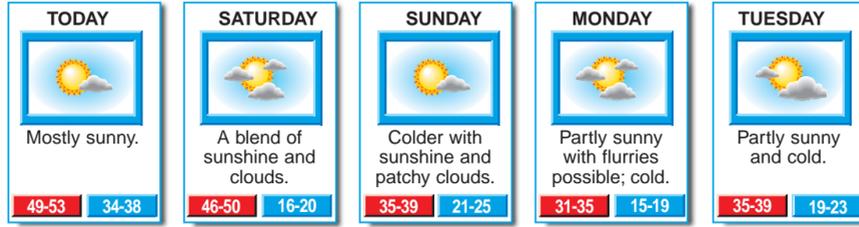
	price	change -x
The AES Group	17.40	-0.02
AT&T Corp.	27.94	-0.31
Alcoa	30.09	-0.21
Allstate	54.49	-0.21
ArvinMeritor	16.25	-0.26
Best Buy	54.65	-0.46
BP Amoco	67.40	-0.41
Cinergy Corp.	43.98	-0.55
Comm Health Sys	39.65	+1.61
Cummins	106.76	-0.77
Diageo	61.65	+0.09
Duff & Phelps	11.02	-0.03
Exxon Mobil	59.83	-0.43
Fifth Third Bank	39.59	+0.04
First Indiana Bank	33.98	-0.50
General Electric	33.26	-0.13
General Motors	20.59	-0.60
Guidant	76.60	+0.15
Heartland Bancshrs	13.75	-0.05
IBM	80.20	-1.15
Invin Bank	20.08	-0.09
KeyCorp.	37.54	-0.04
Kimball Int'l CIB	14.14	-0.08
Kroger	20.10	+0.17
Lilly Co.	55.93	-0.17
Lincoln Bancorp	17.25	—
Marsh Class B	7.90	+0.09
MainSource	19.01	-0.10
National City Corp.	35.34	-0.53
Navistar	28.83	-0.67
Owens-Illinois	19.30	+0.15
Pepsico	59.66	+0.66
Phelps Dodge	141.23	-5.02
Sara Lee Corp.	17.84	-0.12
Schlumberger	116.90	-0.12
Sprint Corp.	24.19	+0.39
Third Century Bncp	13.00	+0.10
Vectren	26.58	-0.26
Verizon	33.92	-0.07
Wal-Mart	45.70	+0.22
Walt Disney	27.71	+0.25
WellPoint	77.48	-1.07

LOTTERY

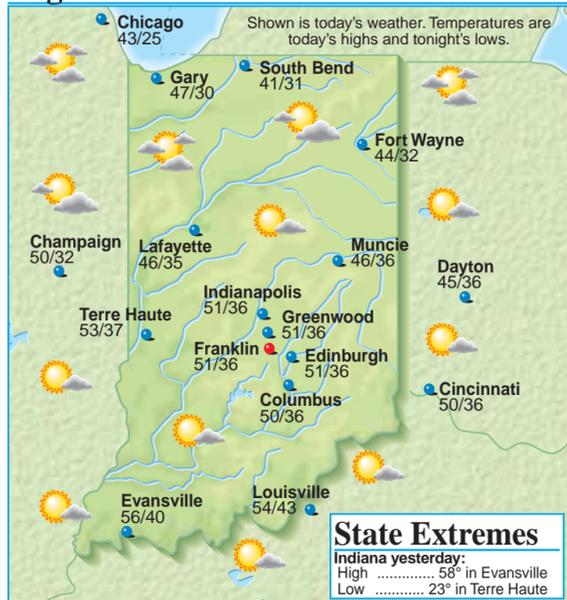
Here are the winning numbers selected Thursday in the Hoosier Lottery: **Daily Three Midday:** 5-0-4. **Daily Three Evening:** 1-0-6. **Daily Four Midday:** 1-3-9-8. **Daily Four Evening:** 1-4-7-3. **Lucky Five Midday:** 5-10-12-22-25. **Lucky Five Evening:** 16-17-25-30-33. **Hoosier Lotto jackpot:** \$5.5 million. **Powerball jackpot:** \$20 million.

WEATHER

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County



Regional weather



State Extremes

Indiana yesterday:

High	58° in Evansville
Low	23° in Terre Haute

Regional summary

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Times of clouds and sunshine today. Partly cloudy tonight. Chilly with times of clouds and sunshine tomorrow. **Edinburgh/Franklin:** Mostly sunny today. Clear to partly cloudy tonight. Times of clouds and sunshine tomorrow.

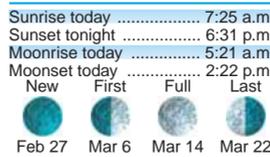
Today in weather history™

Ice on the lower Susquehanna River in Maryland began to break on Feb. 24, 1852. During the preceding 40 days, an ice bridge had been used for the crossing of 1,378 freight cars.

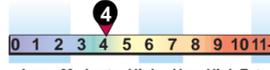
Regional cities

City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Anderson	51/26/s	44/20/pc	Indianapolis	52/24/s	43/21/pc
Bloomington	56/23/s	53/19/pc	Kokomo	52/28/r	43/21/pc
Chicago	44/28/sf	36/14/pc	Lafayette	53/24/pc	44/20/pc
Cincinnati	55/24/s	51/19/pc	Louisville	57/29/s	55/28/pc
Evansville	58/26/s	54/22/pc	Muncie	51/28/s	41/21/pc
Fort Wayne	49/25/pc	38/20/sf	South Bend	45/24/sh	35/14/sf
Gary	48/26/sh	39/14/pc	Terre Haute	55/23/s	50/17/pc

Sun and moon



AccuWeather UV Index™



Weather Trivia™

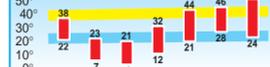
What is the coldest major city in the world?
 -10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s

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.



Weekly temperatures



River stages

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

Station	Fid	Stage	Chg
White River	9	8.22	-0.07
Mooresville	9	8.22	-0.07
White River (East Fork)	12	4.81	-0.08
Edinburgh	12	4.81	-0.08

AccuWeather.com Almanac

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

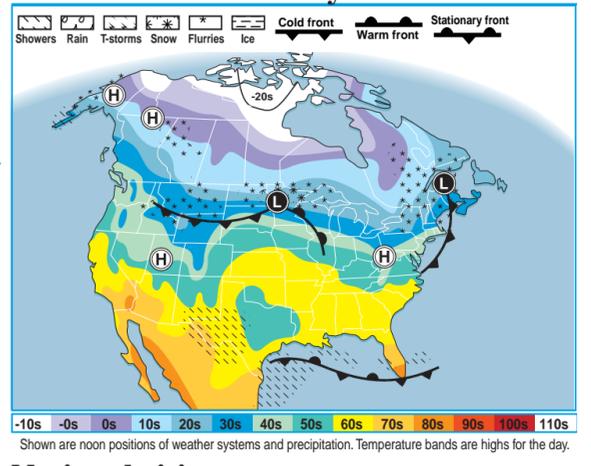
Temperature
 High 52°
 Low 24°
 Normal high 43°
 Normal low 25°
 Record high 71° in 2000
 Record low -1° in 1889

Precipitation
 24 hrs. ending 5 p.m. yest. 0.00"
 Month to date 1.89"
 Normal month to date 1.93"
 Year to date 5.19"
 Normal year to date 4.41"

Humidity
 Yesterday's average 62%
 Today's average 48%

Air quality
Indianapolis Source: IAPC
 Yesterday 78
 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-151, Unhealthy (sens. grps.); 151-200, Unhealthy

National weather today



National cities

City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Albany, NY	41/27/sn	25/14/sn	Houston	72/53/c	60/48/r
Atlanta	56/48/r	50/35/r	Jacksonville	74/58/sh	68/42/t
Atlantic City	47/35/sh	47/25/sh	Kansas City	58/26/pc	44/19/s
Baltimore	54/36/sh	51/24/sh	Las Vegas	67/39/s	72/46/s
Boston	44/30/sn	34/18/sn	Los Angeles	72/45/s	74/50/s
Buffalo	40/32/pc	28/10/sn	Louisville	57/29/s	55/28/pc
Burlington, VT	39/32/sn	21/14/sf	Memphis	62/33/pc	56/33/pc
Champaign	54/22/s	46/19/pc	Miami	84/66/pc	80/69/sh
Charleston, SC	66/60/r	59/40/r	Milwaukee	36/29/sf	29/11/pc
Cheyenne	43/22/s	40/22/pc	Minneapolis	29/14/pc	22/6/s
Chicago	44/28/sf	36/14/pc	Nashville	59/33/pc	53/28/pc
Cleveland	50/32/pc	39/15/sf	New Orleans	72/62/sh	68/48/r
Columbia, SC	61/56/r	55/39/r	New York	48/37/sh	39/23/sn
Columbus, GA	64/57/r	50/39/r	Philadelphia	46/36/r	44/25/sh
Dallas	60/34/sh	60/42/sh	Phoenix	72/43/s	79/52/s
Denver	53/16/pc	45/22/s	St. Louis	63/30/pc	50/20/pc
Des Moines	40/25/pc	34/10/s	Salt Lake City	48/34/pc	48/30/s
Detroit	50/26/sh	36/15/sf	San Francisco	66/42/s	65/53/pc
El Paso	60/49/sh	70/38/s	Seattle	47/41/r	44/36/pc
Fairbanks	1/-15/c	14/-6/sn	Tampa	79/67/pc	76/58/t
Honolulu	78/66/pc	78/63/sh	Washington, DC	56/37/sh	50/28/sh

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

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Wal-Mart changing health-care plan • School

The Associated Press

BENTONVILLE, Ark.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., under attack for its health care coverage for its employees, plans improvements that would include expanding the availability of its lowest cost plan and shortening the waiting periods to enroll part-time workers and their children. At the same time, Wal-Mart Chief Executive Lee Scott said Thursday that employers cannot continue to meet the rising costs of health care and urged a government-business partnership to find an answer.

The announcement marks the second time in six months that the world's largest retailer has moved to improve health benefits and comes ahead of Scott's speech Sunday about the issue to the nation's governors, who are looking for ways to cap rising costs for taxpayer-funded health plans that cover the uninsured. Details of the new health benefit plans are expected to be unveiled in the coming months. Scott is also expected to renew Wal-Mart's criticism of bills filed in at least 22 states that would force the retailer to spend more on health care. Maryland has become the first state in the

nation to require Wal-Mart to spend more on employee health care or pay the difference into the state's Medicaid fund. The Retail Industry Leaders Association has challenged the law in court. "The soaring cost of health care in America cannot be sustained over the long term by any business that offers health benefits to its employees," Scott said in a statement released ahead of the speech to the National Governors Association. Wake Up Wal-Mart, one of Wal-Mart's harshest critics, called the retailer's attempts to improve its health care plan as "nothing more than a facade."

Project

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

High Grade Excavating could not finish roadwork before asphalt companies closed down for the winter, he said. December snowstorms and relocating utility lines slowed the project, he said. Roadwork should resume in April and be finished in May. Contractors will have installed 8,000 feet of new storm sewers, 40

inlets and 20 manholes as part of the project. The work is being paid for with a \$1.98 million federal loan and a \$500,000 grant. The town will use storm-water user fees to pay back the loan over 40 years. Before the project began, the streets were essentially layers of pavement piled on top of each other. Water drained into yards and buildings, instead of the street, McCarthy said. The hair-and-nail salon flooded every time it rained hard, Ridge said. Her brother raised the busi-

Traffic

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

ness's floor by 3 inches to limit flood damage, most of which they cleaned up themselves. The work should improve storm-water drainage in the southwest part of town because of lowered roads, new sewer mains and a new sewer line, McCarthy said. The main line extends about a mile from County Road 144, west on Harriman, south on Indiana Street and west on Old South Street. It dumps into Stotts Creek. Road-closed signs are at both ends of Harriman, but cars, school buses and trucks still use the road. Business owners said

Although the developments will add work, Kite and Pitcher both are awaiting the added tax money they will bring to public safety. Commercial developments, such as the Wal-Mart, add more money to the city's coffers than subdivisions. But Homecoming will add more than smaller neighborhoods would since it includes nearly 1,000 homes. Police officers are preparing for

an increase in calls when the Wal-Mart store opens in April, but they aren't sure how many more they'll get. Greenwood officers make more than 150 runs a year to the city's Meijer store on State Road 135 and receive more than 50 calls from the Super Target just south of there. Police expect to see more traffic and calls to the Wal-Mart store because of how busy the area is and how close it is to the

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

not always easy if parents had a bad experience at school, he said. "Some parents simply don't trust the schools, and we have to find a way to reach out to them and connect with them," he said. One idea is finding parents in different areas of the city who can serve as liaisons between the schools and parents in their neighborhood, he said. A committee of 13 community members, teachers and administrators will work on ways to get information into parents' hands and help them get their children ready for school.

"We don't want them to read these lists and feel overwhelmed," Patterson said. "We want to find ways to help them get their children ready." Franklin officials also hope to revive the district's foundation and use any donations for early-childhood programs. The district will receive about \$315,000 over three years from a countywide grant to offer preschool programs. About 90 students who show on screenings this spring that they are not ready for kindergarten will be able to attend a kindergarten camp for three weeks in July to help them get a head start, Patterson said. The district offered the program last year, but for only 18 students.

Highway

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Senate for a vote. If it passes, it would be reviewed and possibly voted on again by both the House and the Senate. Discussions with a Perry Township citizens group, which also includes members from Johnson County, contributed to the decision. A shift of the interstate would stop businesses and homes in the area from moving and contributing to a loss of jobs, State Sen. Brent Waltz said. Waltz, a Republican who represents parts of northern Johnson

County and most of Perry Township and a small part of Center Township in Indianapolis, spearheaded the changes. Senators estimate that more than 1,000 jobs could be lost if the interstate were built, he said. In addition, houses and businesses moved would total about \$120 million in lost property values for the township, he said. Other groups in the state have also asked that the interstate route be moved. For example, the Hoosier Environmental Council would like to see I-69 follow Interstate 70 to Terre Haute and then U.S. 41 to Evansville. This route would have the smallest impact on environmental resources in the state, executive director Tim Maloney said.

Moving the Perry Township section is estimated to cost as much as \$500,000 for studies and research, Waltz said. If the bill passes, it would be up to the Indiana Department of Transportation and Daniels to plot a new course for the interstate. The Senate committee made other changes to the bill, which would allow Daniels to complete a deal to lease the Indiana Toll Road across northern Indiana to a private, Australian-Spanish consortium for 75 years for \$3.85 billion. The company would maintain and operate the highway and receive its toll revenue. Although changes approved Thursday would not affect the proposed toll road lease, one

change would require a governor to get legislative approval to make any other highway or bridge a tollway. Daniels wants to make the planned extension of I-69 through southern Indiana a toll road and lease it. Another change would set aside \$400 million in a trust fund that could not be tapped until its balance had grown to \$1 billion. After that, interest from the fund could be spent on transportation projects. In a news conference Thursday, Daniels said he would be flexible in moving the interstate as long as the project could move forward with no further delays. "As long as we can build I-69, I'm very open to variations in

Associates, a manufacturing company next to the salon. Its customer base does not include walk-ins or drive-bys. However, employees are just as eager for the project to end. Road-construction workers in September smashed a piece of construction equipment against Habecker and Associates, damaging windows of the 100-year-old building and pushing a wall in, business vice president Jenny Habecker said. Workers also accidentally tore off the business's awning, she said. Heiniger at first worried about an increase in calls and traffic when the company announced plans to build in Beech Grove. But since the store opened, he said, he has been pleasantly surprised with fewer calls than he expected. Pitcher said he is preparing for 500 calls a year when the Wal-Mart opens this spring, but he said that estimate is likely high.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.