

MARKETS

The Associated Press

Indianapolis grain

Estimated grain prices Monday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: cash \$2.00, March \$2.01. Soybeans: cash \$5.69, March \$5.69. Wheat: \$3.40.

Eastern Cornbelt direct hogs

Eastern Cornbelt Lean Value Direct Hogs report for Monday: Trend: Barrows and gilts were 27 cents lower compared with previous day's close.

Base-market carcass basis plant-delivered: 0.9 to 1.1 square inches of back fat, \$48.00-\$61.00; weighted average \$56.35. Net prices, including premiums: 0.9-1.0, \$48.00-\$62.50; 1.0-1.1, \$48.00-\$61.00; 1.1-1.2, \$48.00-\$58.50.

Daily movement estimate: 5,288.

Wall Street

NEW YORK — Stocks ended a lethargic session moderately lower Monday as a lack of economic news returned investors' focus to interest rates and inflation ahead of comments from new Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke later this week.

Reports that Merrill Lynch & Co. is in talks to buy nearly half of BlackRock Inc. drew a positive reaction from the market, but an article warning of intensifying competition for Google Inc. saddled the tech sector and sent the Nasdaq composite index sliding about 1 percent.

Trading was quiet while investors anticipated Bernanke's first testimony before Congress on Wednesday, said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer for Harris Private Bank. Many thought January's interest rate hike would be the last for a while, but recent signs of economic growth have renewed debate over whether the Fed will go further to stifle inflation, he said.

"Right now, the transparency we had with (former Chairman Alan) Greenspan is gone. We're trying to get some semblance of which way the Fed is going to go," Ablin said, adding that a strong first-quarter gross domestic product figure would likely guarantee another rate increase at the Fed's May meeting.

At the close of trading, the Dow Jones industrial average declined 26.73, or 0.24 percent, to 10,892.32.

The broader stock indicators also moved lower, with the Nasdaq dropping 22.07, or 0.98 percent, to 2,239.81. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 4.13, or 0.33 percent, to 1,262.86.

Bonds were flat although the yield curve remained inverted, with the 10-year Treasury note yield unchanged at 4.58 percent and the two-year Treasury yield down slightly at 4.67 percent. The inversion signals a lack of short-term confidence and has preceded economic recessions six of seven times in the past, Ablin said.

Meanwhile, the dollar was mixed against most major currencies, and gold prices plunged.

Energy prices slumped despite a heavy weekend snowstorm that blanketed the northeastern states, a major consumer of heating oil. A barrel of light crude lost 60 cents to settle at \$61.24 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Investors will be closely monitoring Bernanke's testimony for his perspective on economic growth and inflation, which could exacerbate the response to wholesale price data, seen as a precursor to consumer-level inflation, when those numbers are released Friday, said Rick Pendergraft, equity trader for Schaeffer's Investment Research. Other data slated for this week include retail sales, manufacturing activity, housing orders and consumer confidence.

The stock report after the close of markets Monday:

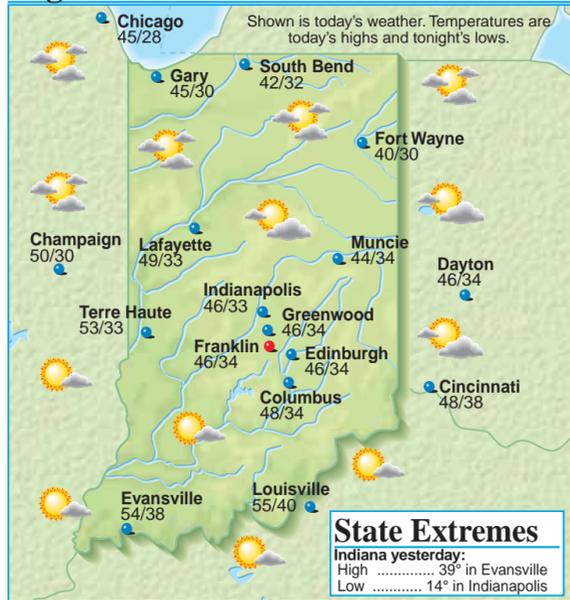
Table with columns: price, change -x. Lists various companies like AES Group, AT&T Corp, Alcoa, Allstate, ArvinMeritor, Best Buy, BP Amoco, Cineroy Corp, Comm Health Sys, Cummins, Diageo, Duff & Phelps, Exxon Mobil, Fifth Third Bank, First Indiana Bank, General Electric, General Motors, Guidant, Heartland Bancshrs, IBM, Irwin Bank, KeyCorp, Kimball Int'l CIB, Kroger, Lilly Co, Lincoln Bancorp, Marsh Class B, MainSource, National City Corp, Navistar, Owens-Illinois, Pepsico, Phelps Dodge, Sara Lee Corp, Schlumberger, Sprint Corp, Third Century Bncp, Vectren, Verizon, Wal-Mart, Walt Disney, WellPoint.

WEATHER

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County

Weather forecast grid for Johnson County showing Today, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with icons and temperature ranges.

Regional weather



Regional summary

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Partly sunny today with a breezy and noticeably milder afternoon. Partly cloudy tonight. Variable clouds tomorrow; a shower.

Today in weather history

On Valentine's Day 1940, a storm in New England brought snow that embraced the northeastern quarter of the nation.

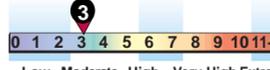
Regional cities

Table comparing weather for regional cities like Anderson, Bloomington, Chicago, Cincinnati, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Lafayette, Louisville, Muncie, South Bend, Terre Haute.

Sun and moon

Sunrise today 7:38 a.m. Sunset tonight 6:19 p.m. Moonrise today 7:53 p.m. Moonset today 8:29 a.m.

AccuWeather UV Index



Weather Trivia

What is the coldest month on record for the eastern half of the U.S.?

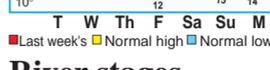
Wind Chill Today

How cold it feels based on temperature and wind speed. 8 a.m. 19°, Noon 33°, 4 p.m. 40°

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



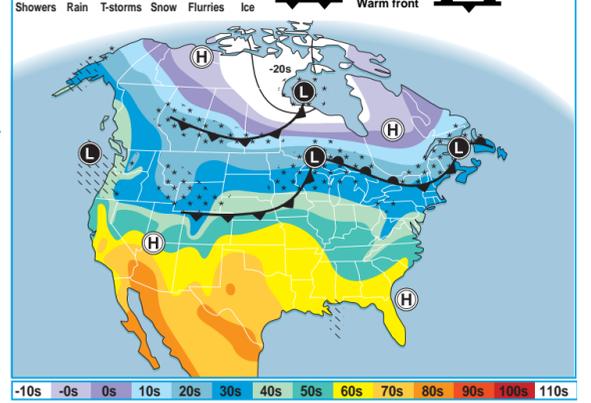
River stages

Table showing 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: High 34°, Low 14°, Normal high 39°, Normal low 22°, Record high 67° in 1938, Record low -17° in 1899.

National weather today



National cities

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

Advertisement for Service Experts featuring a \$50 OFF coupon for any duct cleaning.

Senate works on \$70B tax measure • Turf

By MARY DALRYMPLE THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Senators argued Monday over the Bush administration's tax cuts for investors while sending a \$70 billion tax bill into final negotiations.

Although the bill makes no mention of tax cuts for capital gains and dividends, Democrats lined up motions to attack the tax reductions and Republicans rushed to defend them.

The election year debate proved a mostly political display. The motions under debate don't bind lawmakers who will hammer out

the final version of the tax bill. They may only make suggestions to negotiators.

Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, a Republican member of the Senate Finance Committee, said he hoped to be chosen as one of those negotiators. "You think I'm going to pay attention to any motions to instruct me?" he asked. "Baloney."

The bill would cut taxes \$70 billion over five years, mostly extending tax breaks scheduled to expire before the end of the decade.

The centerpiece of the House bill would preserve tax cuts for capital gains and dividends for two years after their scheduled disappearance at the end of 2008. The biggest feature of the Senate bill would

prevent millions of families from owing the alternative minimum tax this year.

Democrats urged negotiators to make their priority the alternative minimum tax, intended to trap wealthy tax dodgers but now encroaching on the middle class. They also said money returned to taxpayers through the capital gain and dividend tax reductions would be better spent on veterans, military equipment, health care and other needs.

"If we are honest about reducing the deficit and strengthening the economy, we need to stop lavishing tax breaks on the rich and start investing in the health and well-being of all families," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

• Burned

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

prosecutor to file a battery charge, which will likely result in probation and intervention, he said.

Child Protective Services has also been notified of the incident.

Brown said the 8-year-old has a history of setting fires. Five years ago he set a fire

at the family's home in Hendricks County and later ignited a backyard shed.

"He was apparently playing with a lighter and caught the house on fire," Brown said.

The investigation is ongoing to determine the extent of the child's fire-starting history, he said.

Brown wants the boy and his parents to take the fire prevention class so the department can determine if education, mental health evaluations or more serious intervention is needed, he said.

About 35 children and their parents have

taken the class in its six years. Brown said. The program requires they talk with firefighters about the dangers of fire and watch a video showing children who have been burned, he said.

"Most kids are curious about fire, but rarely will they continue after something happens," Brown said. "Others are burning for a reason, and we need to find out what that is."

Brown expects to finish the investigation this week and ask the prosecutor's office to review filing charges against the boy, he said.

• Death

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

alternate theories about how Linda Smith died.

"This dark cloud of suspicion, and we believe that is all the state has, will soon be cleared up," Barr said.

At a news conference Monday, Brown County Prosecutor Jim Oliver said investigators had found evidence that the couple

were in financial difficulty and that Linda Smith was considering leaving her husband.

Oliver declined to elaborate on why they waited until Friday to file the charge.

"We have looked at this from every angle that we could think of and filed the (charge) that we feel (is) appropriate," Oliver said.

Oliver refused to elaborate on new evidence in the case, referring to information contained in a court document charging Smith.

Smith called 911 at 3 a.m. Nov. 9, 2003, to report that he had found

Smith's jewelry was not removed, according to the affidavit.

An autopsy performed by Indiana University pathologist Dr. Deana Hawley revealed that Smith had died by strangulation.

Analysts found Michael and Linda Smith's DNA on the clothes he said he was wearing when he found the body. No other DNA was found at the spa building or on Linda Smith, the affidavit said.

A social worker told police that Linda Smith was in counseling for possible abuse by her husband, according to the affidavit.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

the material, are still owed a total of \$280,000 by Quest Turf.

Center Grove installed an artificial turf football field in 2003. The project cost about \$500,000. The school hired Quest Turf for the work, and that company hired subcontractors.

School board members learned for the first time last week that two subcontractors are still owed money, board member Matt Shepherd said.

The delay doesn't mean the project will cost more than budgeted, Long said. "The companies' fight is with Quest Turf and not with us," Long said. "However we feel an obligation to help both of them out."

Field Turf is owed about \$199,000, and Adaco is owed about \$80,000. They have agreed to split the \$130,000 from the school district, but first Quest Turf must agree to never seek the final payment from the school district, Long said.

School officials have asked an attorney to get a release from Quest Turf, so the \$130,000 can be paid to the two companies owed money and not to Quest Turf.

Long said he is not sure when attorneys will work out the details and report back to school officials.

The couple was also having financial difficulties and had a pending civil settlement of about \$4,700 they needed to pay.

Linda Smith had a \$250,000 life insurance policy that is being reviewed in federal court.

Since Linda Smith's death, Michael Smith's home was foreclosed on and he filed bankruptcy, the affidavit said.

Barr pointed out that Michael Smith had cooperated with police at every point of the investigation.

Smith is being held at the Brown County jail without bond.

LOTTERY

Here are the winning numbers selected Monday in the Hoosier Lottery:

- Daily Three MIDDAY: 6-7-5. Daily Three Evening: 8-7-6. Daily Four MIDDAY: 9-4-8-4. Daily Four Evening: 7-4-8-2. Lucky Five MIDDAY: 7-8-17-29-34. Lucky Five Evening: 1-8-9-11-33. Hoosier Lotto jackpot: \$4 million. Powerball jackpot: \$300 million.

CORRECTION

If you are interested in forming a local chapter of the national Triad program, you can contact the Johnson County Sheriff's Office at 736-9155. This information was incorrect in Monday's edition of the Daily Journal.

TRICKS OF THE TOMATO TRADE

For gardeners interested in growing their own crop this spring, here are some tips:

Picking a plant: Look for good green plants that don't have bug damage. Check tags on tomato plants to see how resistant they are to soil disease, usually indicated with the letters V, N or F. Plants with more letters are more resistant.

Planting: Wait to transplant tomato plants until after the threat of a major frost. Usually any time after Mother's Day on May 14, is a good date. Plant tomatoes in an area where water won't pool up and they can get eight hours of strong sun.

Put plants 18 to 36 inches apart, and remove fruit or open flower buds to encourage root growth. Plant a couple of inches deeper than the length of the root system to stabilize the plant, and keep them 50 feet away from black walnut trees, a natural tomato enemy.

Caring: Water tomatoes with even amounts of water and

more frequently if they are potted. Soil should be wet 18 to 20 inches deep for plants in the ground. Take a wire coat hanger and mark the distance. If you can push the hanger down to the mark, the soil is wet enough.

Stake or cage tomatoes for stability. Mulch can keep soil moist and protect plant roots from the sun.

Protecting: Tomatoes are most susceptible to some bugs and fungal blights, which may appear as spots or rings on the plant. Basic insecticides and fungicides can stop these problems.

Harvesting: Most tomato varieties take six to eight weeks before they produce fruit. To get a tomato crop, plants should go in the ground by the end of May or beginning of June.

SOURCE: Kimberly Moore, Purdue extension educator for agriculture and natural resources.

they look for other ways to save money.

The Willard Restaurant in downtown Franklin has been

slicing fewer tomatoes ahead of time to make sure they're not wasting any, manager Stacy Burton said.

Kirkland said that sometimes suppliers can help owners by letting them know when prices may be rising, so they know not to run