

MARKETS

The Associated Press

Indianapolis grain
Estimated grain prices Wednesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: cash \$2.00, March \$2.02. Soybeans: cash \$5.67, March \$5.69. Wheat: \$3.32.

Eastern Cornbelt direct hogs
Eastern Cornbelt Lean Value Direct Hogs report for Wednesday: Trend: Barrows and gilts were 10 cents lower compared with previous day's close. Base-market carcass basis plant-delivered: 0.9 to 1.1 square inches of back fat, \$44.50-\$55.41; weighted average \$53.80. Net prices, including premiums: 0.9-1.0, \$44.50-\$56.91; 1.0-1.1, \$44.50-\$55.41; 1.1-1.2, \$44.50-\$54.43. Daily movement estimate: 6,977.

Wall Street
NEW YORK — Stocks fell Wednesday as declining oil prices sent the energy sector lower and investors continued their jittery reactions to corporate earnings.

Energy stocks such as Halliburton Co. and Valero Energy Corp. fell along with crude oil futures, pulling the Standard & Poor's 500 index lower on a day when most other sectors were nearly flat.

Trading remained erratic after last Friday's big drop, which sent the Dow down 213 points. The selloff followed a strong start to 2006, which sent the major indexes to multi-year highs.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 2.48, or 0.02 percent, to 10,709.74.

Broader stock indicators were lower. The S&P 500 index fell 2.18, or 0.17 percent, to 1,264.68 and the Nasdaq composite index fell 4.60, or 0.2 percent, to 2,260.65.

Crude oil futures fell, dropping \$1.21 a barrel to settle at \$65.85 in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The stock report after the close of markets Wednesday:

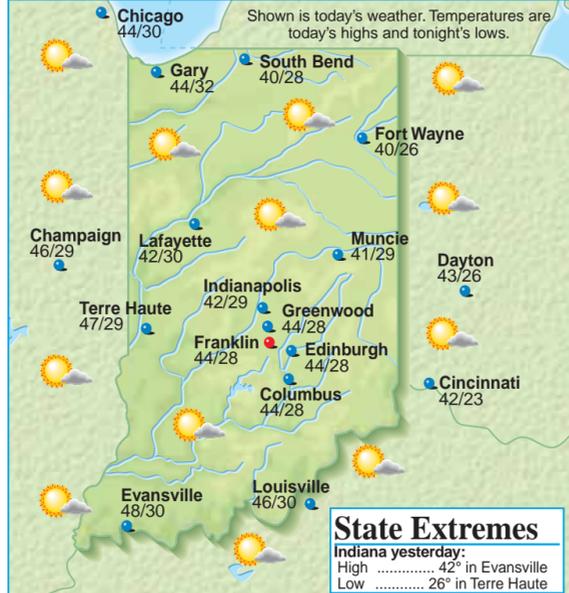
Table with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes AES Group, AT&T Corp., Alcoa, Allstate, ArvinMeritor, Best Buy, BP Amoco, Cinergy Corp., Comm Health Sys, Cummins, Diageo, Duff & Phelps, Exxon Mobil, Fifth Third Bank, First Indiana Bank, General Electric, General Motors, Guidant, Heartland Bancshrs, 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

Five-day weather forecast grid for Johnson County. Columns: TODAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY. Includes icons and temperature ranges.

Regional weather



Regional summary

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Mostly sunny and milder today. Clear to partly cloudy tonight. Breezy and mild with a mixture of clouds and sunshine tomorrow.

Today in weather history

Record warmth spread along the East Coast on Jan. 26, 1950, with highs of 72 at New York City, 74 at Philadelphia and 80 at Richmond, Va.

Regional cities

Table of regional cities with columns: City, Yest. Hi/Lo/W, Fri. Hi/Lo/W. Lists cities like Anderson, Bloomington, Chicago, Cincinnati, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Lafayette, Louisville, Muncie, South Bend, Terre Haute.

Sun and moon

Sun and moon information including sunrise/sunset times, moon phases (New, First, Full, Last) for Jan 29, Feb 5, Feb 12, Feb 21.

AccuWeather UV Index

UV Index information: Highest Today in Johnson County is 3. Scale from 0 to 11+.

Weather Trivia

What is the longest below-freezing period in the lower 48 states? Answer: 176 Days, London, N.D., through 10/17/35.

Wind Chill Today

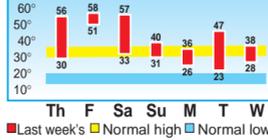
Wind chill table for 8 a.m., Noon, and 4 p.m. Values range from 24° to 43°.

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.

Heating Degree Days table for Yesterday, Month to date, and Normal month to date.

Weekly temperatures



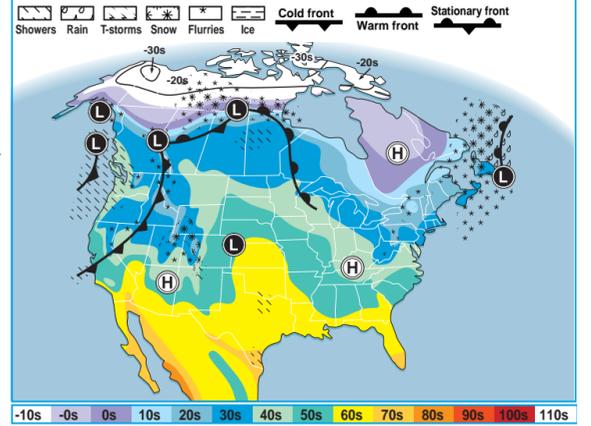
River stages

River stages table with columns: Station, Fld, Stage, Chg. Lists White River and White River (East Fork) at various stations.

AccuWeather.com Almanac

Almanac section with forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. Includes Temperature, Wind, Humidity, and Precipitation data.

National weather today



Shows are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National cities

Table of national cities with columns: City, Yest. Hi/Lo/W, Fri. Hi/Lo/W. Lists cities like Albany, NY, Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Burlington, VT, etc.

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

Hospital

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Greg Anderson, finance director for St. Francis.

The hospital changed the statement process Jan. 18 as part of an effort to make statements easier to read and include more contact with patients, Anderson said.

As part of the conversion, the system automatically sent notices to patients who had received services within the prior 45 days, he said.

The hospital included a letter with the statements noting patients could receive duplicate copies of a notice, he said. About 70,000 statements are in the system at any point, Anderson said.

"This is a small hurdle in accomplishing our goal of making statements more patient-friendly," Anderson said.

Now, patients could get two letters after having hospital care: one thanking and letting them know the billing process has started. If the insurance company has not compensated the hospital, patients will receive a second notice after 45 days telling them that insurance has not yet been paid.

Customer service representatives have been flooded with calls since the letters went out, Anderson said. They are telling callers to disregard the letters.

Anyone with questions about the letters is encouraged to contact customer service at 783-8737 or (866) 252-2455.

Protest

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

on Walnut Street, taped to the Daily Journal window and nailed to a tree in front of the county courthouse.

Signs proclaimed, "Support a man of honesty/integrity, Leighton Turner"; "2, 4, 6, 8 Who do we appreciate? Turner, Turner"; "(Franklin Community High School) is a better place with Turner"; and "Can you hear us now? Can you hear us now? We want Mr. Turner to continue as FCHS principal."

Peterson said his group is responsible for the signs and is planning other action as well.

The group is planning a protest for before and during the Franklin school board meeting on Feb. 13.

The group has also started the process to be on the school board's agenda next month,

said Superintendent William Patterson.

The group must fill out a form asking to be placed on the agenda. The request has to be approved by Patterson.

Two letters have also been dropped off at the Daily Journal in the past week.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

For more than a week, signs have been popping up around Franklin supporting Franklin's high school principal, Leighton Turner. The group planting the signs calls itself BLT (for Back Leighton Turner) and sometimes the Whodunit Staff. It doesn't

want to identify its members, and has designated an Indiana University education student as its spokesperson. A reporter contacted Nicholas John Kelly Peterson by phone this week. Here is what he had to say.

- Q: Can you tell me who is in your group? A: No. There are people that could be hurt.
Q: Are you a graduate of Franklin Community High School? A: No.
Q: Do you know Mr. Turner personally? A: No. I'm just the face of this so other people don't get burned.
Q: Has your group raised any money? A: I'm not sure about that.
Q: Are there parents in your group? A: Yes.

Questions and Answers

Q: Are there students in your group? A: Yes.

Q: Are there teachers in your group? A: I can't say. It's a conflict of interest for a teacher to speak out against the administration. They could lose their job over it.

Q: Won't these people become public at the protest you're planning? A: There are ways they could show up and hide their identity.

Q: Are you saying people will be in costumes or masks? A: We'll see...

Protest

said about the signs and protest.

"If I didn't support the superintendent, that would be micro-managing. It's his job to run the corporation."

Neither Bullington nor Poe had heard about any protest and said they were not bothered by the signs in the community.

LOTTERIES

Here are the winning numbers selected Wednesday:

Indiana Daily Four Midday: 4-2-7. Daily Three Midday: 5-0-6-3. Lucky Five Midday: 9-20-21-23-36. Hoosier Lotto jackpot: \$1 million. Due to technical problems at the Hoosier Lottery office, Wednesday's evening drawings were unavailable. Check Thursday's paper for the numbers.

Powerball 10-37-43-50-52. Powerball: 14. Power Play: 5. Jackpot: \$103 million.

Taxes

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

towns a chance to reduce their reliance on property taxes.

Henderson is one of 13 mayors who worked with the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns for eight months to draw up new ways for municipalities to collect money.

Episch assured mayors that state lawmakers want to lower the property tax burden.

He said he pushed his own property-tax relief bill through

the committee a week earlier without complete information about its financial impact to property taxpayers.

The bill included a one-time tax credit and a 3 percent cap on increases in property taxes a municipality is allowed to collect, which he said probably won't affect many property tax bills but sounds good politically.

But West Lafayette Mayor Jan Mills said the state needs to find a way to help communities reduce property tax rates and keep those rates down, not a one-time tax credit relief and cap on property tax growth.

"Cookie-cutter solutions to property taxes will not work," she said.

Episch said the association's proposal requires municipalities to use only part of their new revenue for property tax relief and that some communities would not have to use any of the new revenue for property tax relief. He said his concern is that if every city and town were to collect every new tax allowed, they would raise roughly \$2 billion. He wants to know how much of that would go to property tax relief and how much would go to new spending.

Mayors in support of the associ-

ation proposal do not think that question is fair because a community would not adopt every new tax allowed under the proposal.

Each municipality is different, which is why the association proposed different funding options.

For example, Greenwood would collect more money from a 1 percent food-and-beverage tax than Bargersville, since the town has far fewer restaurants.

Under the proposal, part of the revenue from new taxes would go toward property tax relief. Any yearly growth in a county, city or town's budget would be funded by new tax revenue completely instead

of property tax increases. This would keep the rate from going up.

Henderson said special taxes are fairer than property taxes because people pay directly for what they use. This gives people more control over how much tax they pay. For example, those who do not want to pay a food-and-beverage tax do not have to eat out as much.

Property taxes are unfair, he said, because they don't reflect an individual's income or ability to pay. Also, special taxes such as a sales tax would attract revenue from outside a city or town's borders, he said.

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