

MARKETS

The Associated Press

Indianapolis grain

Estimated grain prices Wednesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: cash \$3.83, March \$3.90. Soybeans: cash \$6.91, March \$7.13. Wheat: July \$4.03.

Eastern Cornbelt direct hogs

Eastern Cornbelt Lean Value Direct Hogs report for Wednesday: Trend: Barrows and gilts were \$1.03 higher compared with previous day's close. Base-market carcass basis plant-delivered: 0.9 to 1.1 square inches of back fat, \$50.50-\$61.00; weighted average \$57.75. Net prices, including premiums: 0.9-1.0, \$50.50-\$62.83; 1.0-1.1, \$50.50-\$62.22; 1.1-1.2, \$50.50-\$61.00. Daily movement estimate: 7,368.

Wall Street

NEW YORK — Wall Street bounded higher Wednesday, lifting the Nasdaq composite index well over 1 percent after profit reports from Yahoo Inc. and Sun Microsystems Inc. restored investors' confidence in the tech sector. The Dow Jones industrials logged fresh trading and closing highs. Tech stocks have borne most of Wall Street's concern about the health of corporate earnings in recent weeks. Restive investors, taking their cues from a flurry of profit reports, have been at turns pleased and concerned about the prospects that profit growth will help drive stocks higher following a sharp run-up in 2006.

There was little overall movement in the energy and health sectors in response to President Bush's State of the Union address, during which he called for expanded health insurance coverage and a 20 percent reduction of the country's consumption of gasoline over the next 10 years. Some alternative-energy companies pulled back after rising sharply before the speech.

In an essentially all-earnings day, investors were left without new economic data to help provide some clues about the direction of interest rates.

"I think investors were waiting with the techs for the earnings to come out," said Neil Massa, equity trader at John Hancock Funds. "Investors were in the show-me mode. They had to be shown good numbers because they didn't want to take anything for granted because they had been laggards for a while."

The tech-laden Nasdaq composite index jumped 34.87, or 1.43 percent, to 2,466.28. The gain marked the Nasdaq's biggest one-day increase since early December.

The Dow rose 87.97, or 0.70 percent, to 12,621.77 after rising 56.64 on Tuesday. The Dow surpassed a record close of 12,582.59 set Jan. 16; it was the Dow's 26th record close since the blue chip average began its surge higher at the start of October. The Dow also reached a record intraday high of 12,623.45, topping a trading high of 12,614.00 reached a week earlier.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index reached a six-year high, rising 12.14, or 0.85 percent, to 1,440.13.

Bond prices showed little change as there was no economic news to guide investors. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note was flat at 4.81 percent from late Tuesday. The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices rose.

Light, sweet crude settled up 33 cents at \$55.37 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange as investors grew more confident OPEC would make good on production cuts and cooler weather took hold in the Northeast. Prices rose even as U.S. government figures showed a build in crude, gasoline and distillate inventories last week. On Tuesday, oil rose more than \$2 per barrel on news that the United States plans to double the size of its Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

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, Boston Scientific, BP Amoco, Comm Health Sys, Cummins, DaimlerChrysler, Diageo, Duff & Phelps, Duke Energy, Exxon Mobil, Fifth Third Bank, First Indiana Bank, General Electric, General Motors, Heartland Bancshrs, IBM, Irwin Bank, KeyCorp, Kimball Int'l CIB, Kroger, Lilly Co., Lincoln Bancorp, 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.

LOTTERY

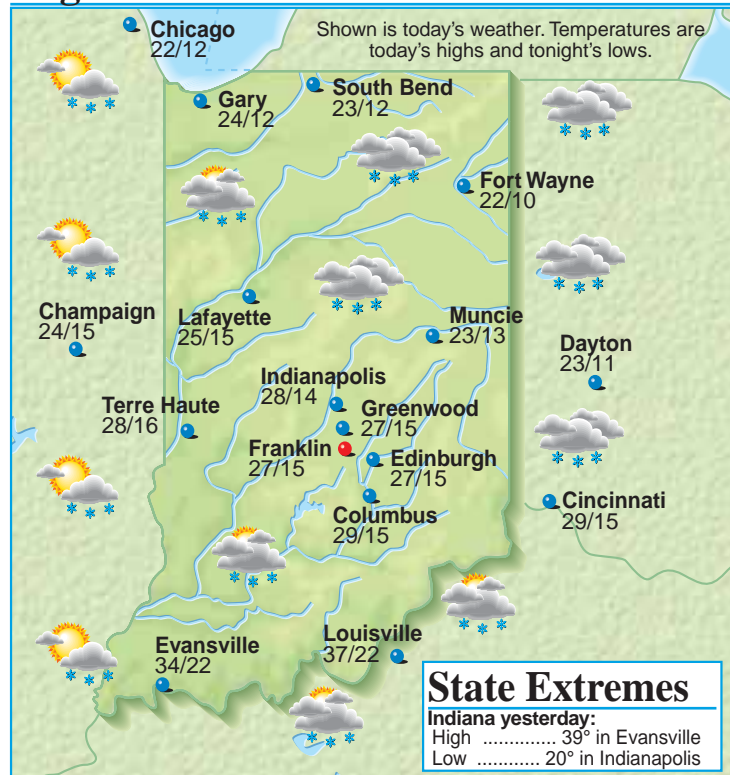
Here are the winning numbers selected Wednesday in the Hoosier Lottery: Daily Three Midday: 5-5-4. Daily Four Midday: 4-9-6-5. Lucky Five Midday: 3-5-23-25-29. Here are winning numbers selected Tuesday in the Hoosier Lottery: Daily Three Evening: 7-1-9. Daily Four Evening: 3-7-4-8. Lucky Five Evening: 4-8-12-20-36. Mix and Match: 6-17-28-49-50. Hoosier Lotto jackpot: \$13.5 million. Powerball jackpot: \$240 million. For Wednesday evening's lottery numbers, see Friday's Daily Journal.

WEATHER

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County

Weather forecast cards for Today, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Includes icons for clouds, sun, and snow, and temperature ranges.

Regional weather



Regional summary

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Variable clouds today; windy and colder with snow showers. Very cold tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow. Saturday: Chance for snow showers. Edinburg/Franklin: Variably cloudy, windy and colder today with snow showers. Clear to partly cloudy and cold tonight. Cold tomorrow with partial sunshine.

Today in weather history™

On Jan. 25, 1821, thousands crossed the Hudson River from New York City to Hoboken, N.J., on ice that formed when the temperature dropped to minus 14 degrees that morning.

Regional cities

Table 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

Sunrise today 7:58 a.m. Sunset tonight 5:56 p.m. Moonrise today 11:27 a.m. Moonset today 12:40 a.m.

AccuWeather UV Index™

Highest Today in Johnson County: 1. Values indicate the exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Weather Trivia™

Can you ice skate at 40 F below zero? No. At extremely low temperatures, ice is not slippery.

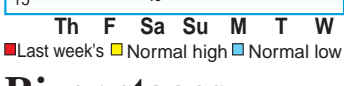
Wind Chill Today

How cold it feels based on temperature and wind speed. 8 a.m. 11°, Noon 14°, 4 p.m. 15°.

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



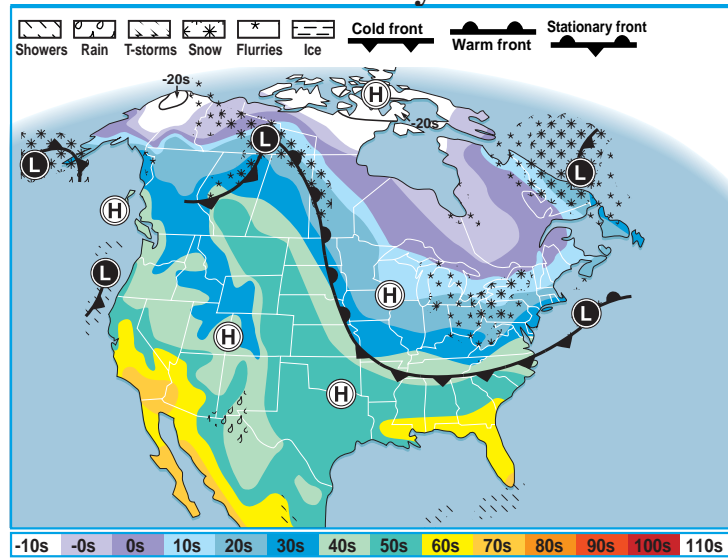
River stages

Table with columns: Station, White River, White River (East Fork). Includes stages and changes.

AccuWeather.com Almanac

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007 Statistics for Indianapolis through 5 p.m. yesterday. Temperature: High 31°, Low 20°, Normal high 35°, Normal low 18°, Record high 70° in 1967, Record low -16° in 1963. Precipitation: 24 hrs. ending 5 p.m. yest. 0.05".

National weather today



National cities

Table with columns: City, Yest. Hi/Lo/W, Fri. Hi/Lo/W. Lists cities like Albany, NY, Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Burlington, VT, Champaign, Charleston, SC, Cheyenne, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbia, SC, Columbus, GA, Dallas, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, El Paso, Fairbanks, Honolulu, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa, Washington, DC.

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Minimum wage hike slowed as lawmakers argue about tax breaks

BY JIM KUHKKHENN THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON The minimum wage increase that was supposed to zip through Congress veered onto a collision course Wednesday as lawmakers argued over business tax breaks that would be attached to ensure Republican support.

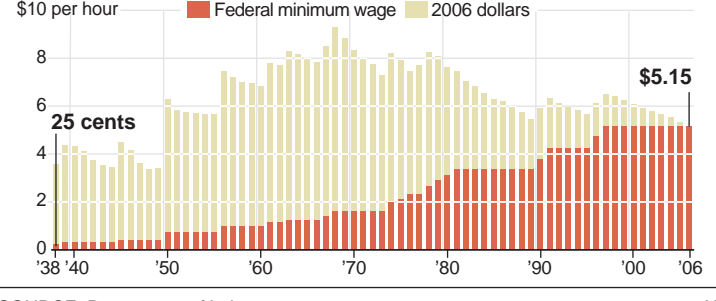
Democratic leaders in the House began laying groundwork to blame the Republicans for any impasse. Senate Democrats, however, cautioned their House colleagues not to jeopardize legislation they'd promised to approve if they gained control of Congress.

House Democrats demanded a clean bill from the Senate — no tax attachment — setting up a confrontation that could delay final congressional passage of the \$2.10 an hour increase. The Senate did vote 54-43 to advance a House-passed measure that would lift the pay floor without any accompanying tax cut. However, that was well short of the 60 votes needed to keep that version moving.

The vote was a signal to the House that without the tax breaks a minimum wage bill appeared doomed in the Senate. And the Senate promptly moved to a broader bill, backed by its Democratic leaders, that would raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour over 26 months and pro-

Minimum wage bill hits wall in Senate

Senators voted against the minimum wage bill, insisting that it include new tax breaks. Pay would increase from \$5.15 to \$7.25 over two years.



SOURCE: Department of Labor

vide \$8.3 billion in tax benefits to businesses over 10 years.

In the House, Democrats threatened to stifle that effort by enforcing constitutional precedents that require all tax bills to originate in the House. They blamed Republicans for the brewing impasse.

"Democrats are committed to helping small businesses, but we should not delay a minimum wage increase another day in order to negotiate a tax package," said Brendan Daly, a spokesman for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Senate Democrats seemed more willing to accept the tax portion if it meant fulfilling their campaign promise. "Both bodies want to keep their eye on the ball," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., a co-sponsor of

the Senate tax break provisions.

House Democrats could try to alter or even remove the tax package from the Senate version when the two houses try to reconcile their differing versions in a conference committee.

In the meantime, the confrontation exposed difficulties the Democratic majority may well encounter when sending other House legislation to the Senate, where the minority Republicans enjoy more power to shape legislation than in the House.

Still, in a separate vote Wednesday, the Senate effectively killed a modified line-item veto bill. The Republican-inspired measure would have permitted a president to pluck individual items out of spending bills and submit them to Congress for a vote.

Witness: Libby was eager to clear Cheney

BY MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON Former vice presidential aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby was eager to make public that the CIA, not Vice President Dick Cheney, sent an ex-ambassador to check on Iraq's efforts to obtain nuclear material, a former agency executive said Wednesday.



Former CIA Iraq Mission Manager Robert L. Grenier appeared as a government witness in the trial of Libby on charges of obstruction and lying. He testified he told Libby that the idea of sending ex-ambassador Joseph Wilson to Niger was the brainchild of

Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, who worked in the CIA office that sent him in 2002.

A year later, Wilson became a prominent critic of the war, based on what he found in Niger.

Ultimately, Grenier's testimony could help prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald establish a motive for Libby to confirm her identity and employer to reporters in 2003, which Libby denies doing.

But defense attorney William Jeffress quickly questioned how Grenier's memory managed to improve substantially since he talked to investigators in 2003-05. The defense has attacked government witnesses for inconsistencies in their statements during the investigation of the leak.

Such attacks on memory set the stage for the defense argument that Libby didn't lie to investigators about what he told

reporters about Plame but merely had his own memory lapse.

Plame's identity and her role in Wilson's trip were leaked to columnist Robert Novak in July 2003 shortly after Wilson publicly criticized Bush for portraying Iraq as trying to purchase uranium in Niger, months after Wilson told the government the story was untrue.

Libby is charged with obstructing the investigation of the Plame leak and lying to the FBI and a grand jury.

Grenier said Libby called him June 11, 2003, to ask about the Wilson mission and sounded upset that Cheney's office was being blamed for sending Wilson. One of Libby's lawyers, Theodore Wells, has said Cheney was angry that Wilson was suggesting Cheney had been behind the trip, should have gotten Wilson's report and may have suppressed it.



Gov. Mitch Daniels listens to a group of kindergartners at Tarkington Traditional School on Wednesday in South Bend. Caleb Brown, center, smiles as he talks to a classmate. Daniels is pushing for full-day kindergarten.

Panel

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

full-day kindergarten, while no one spoke against it.

Kindergarten teacher Marty Constantine with Indianapolis Public Schools said full-day programs give teachers extra time to work with students. She said kindergarten now covers addition, subtraction and even basic fractions — things that weren't part of the curriculum years ago.

"I don't know where the funding is going to come from," she said. "I just know this is so necessary."

John Ellis, with the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, said all children benefit from full-day kindergarten, although the programs can help disadvantaged pupils the most. He said lawmakers need to find some way to approve full-day kindergarten.

"However we get there, we need to get there," Ellis said.

Critics of full-day kindergarten question whether it is taxpayer-funded baby-sitting.

Others say schools might not have enough classroom space and staff to start full-day programs immediately. Rep. Cindy Noe, R-Indianapolis, questioned whether full-day kindergarten

"I don't know where the funding is going to come from. I just know it's so necessary."

Marty Constantine Kindergarten teacher with Indianapolis Public Schools on full-day kindergarten

has lasting benefits. Noe and two other Republicans on the committee voted against the bill, while two other Republicans joined all seven Democrats to support the legislation.

Although Porter's bill did not provide any immediate funding for full-day kindergarten, a separate proposal would allow lawmakers to use the Common School Fund to pay for early education programs in the future.

To access the fund, which schools now use to pay for construction and technology, lawmakers would need to amend the Indiana Constitution. That would require an amendment passing two consecutively elected legislatures and gaining approval in a statewide vote, a process that can take up to four years.

The House Committee approved a resolution to start that process on a 7-5 vote, with Democrats voting for it and Republicans against.

Woman

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

He saw the woman through a bedroom window in the back of the house, Cox said.

Hampton saw the body on the bed and could tell something wasn't right, he said.

He went into the home through the front door, which

was unlocked, and found the woman dead with a phone in her hand, he said.

Police got a search warrant Wednesday afternoon but could not disclose what was found in the home, Cox said. Detectives are interviewing neighbors and family members, he said.

Investigators know the last time the woman was seen or heard from but could not release that information, he said.