

MARK ON THE MARKETS

Laboring markets

By MARK PATTERSON

Last week the U.S. equity markets rallied in anticipation of the Jobs report on Friday showing a creation of jobs somewhere in the 700,000-plus area. About 400,000 of the jobs were known to be temporary census related jobs that would go away shortly. The hope was that real job creation of roughly 300,000 jobs would be added to the private sector. When the number of jobs was reported at just a bit over 400,000, with practically no real growth reported, the equity markets sold off. The idea and theory of real recovery now is a much less salable idea than what the media, mutual fund companies and government were attempting to lead us to believe. Yes I can remember not long ago, in fact in April, a well known TV stock picker and clown declaring "no chance of a double dip recession" and "The S+P 500 will go to at least 1200, but maybe 1350". But just like 2007 when there was so much bullishness around, that was the time to sell. I know if you are a casual observer and investor it is very difficult to resist the lure of the market bull's optimism. I also know that if you are positioned for the market to retrace and the bulls keep pushing it up with smoke and mirrors, you can start to doubt yourself. But just like 2007, the chickens always come home to roost.

While I anticipated a correction in

May, I am starting to think that this may continue sideways to down through the summer with more dramatic downward action in the fall through the early winter. I am not saying we will not have sharp rallies up, I am saying that the Bull Run has petered out and we will be in a bearish trend. However there could be a catalyst that change the dynamics, but I do not anticipate that. Much of the movement that you see is based on technical trading by the institutions. As I have said many times before, buy and hold will disappoint you. You must be active with your investing, and ready to change positions at will. You must be a tactician, not a strategist.

You must look to non-traditional investments and break from mutual funds that offer nothing but high fees and low performance. Stocks and ETF's offer many more options and lower cost. As I have stated in the past, don't be afraid to take a profit and look for the next opportunity, and find a way through inverse ETF's, options or futures to make money when the market goes down. We may see a lot of that.

Mark Patterson is a money manager with MHP Investment Management, and can be reached at 447-1978 or Mark@MHP-Asset.com.



Sun operations manager recognized in Applaud Women online magazine

CONWAY — Joyce Brothers, operations manager for The Conway Daily Sun, appears in the spring issue of the online magazine, Applaud Women.

The issue is devoted to "Inspirational Women in the Media."

Brothers has been with the Sun for 20 years. She took a job doing classifieds for the then-fledgling paper. As operations manager, she now oversees payroll, advertising, graphics and classified departments.

"Joyce is a consummate pro and a backbone of the advertising and business side," publisher Mark Guerringue said in the Applaud Women issue. "No one in our organization gets it, and gets it done, like Joyce."

"Since its inception in 2002, Applaud Women has celebrated the achievements of local women," said Susan Caldwell, owner and publisher of Applaud Women Magazine. "The heart of the magazine has always featured stories about women who faced their fears and realized their own dreams. My passion for Applaud is to share these stories with women and encourage them to find their courage and follow their inspiration."

The Applaud Women Website is www.applaudwomen.com. In addition to feature articles and topics, the site provides listings of local restaurants, doctors, wedding and



Joyce Brothers

beauty service professionals.

"The premise is to create one Website where local women can find all the information they need in one place, from planning their wedding to checking up on their favorite celebrity in an easily-accessible location," Caldwell said.

E-mail address for Applaud Women is applaud@comcast.net, and the phone number is (603) 895-4699.



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