



Happy Friday from Anchorage, Alaska

Julie and I are visiting Holly and her family this weekend, taking advantage of the long weekend because July 4th is on a Tuesday this year. We are loving on Brecken and Griffin and we are trying to adjust to having daylight for about 20 hours a day. We stand out as tourists though. We went to the boy's t-ball game last night. Not only were Julie & I the tannest two people there, we were also the only two people wearing jeans, and jackets while most of the parents had shorts and t-shirts. The high so far this week has been in the low 60's. A huge shoutout to Cari, Sandra, Roxie, and Mercy, for without you we are not able to do this.

The headlines this week have been dominated by the Supreme court decisions. I believe some of these will have a long-term positive impact on our economy and the markets, but what I think has been moving the markets the past couple of days are the reports indicating that inflation and consumer spending are slowing. Although Powell has adamantly stated that there will be two more rate hikes this year, some are questioning if that will be necessary. There was an article that I read this week which stated a rate cut could be in play later this year. The markets are currently pricing in a .25% rate hike when the Fed meets in July.

One of the rulings the Supreme court handed down this week could have an impact on the future economy, the "Student Loan forgiveness plan". The Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional so everyone with an outstanding student loan balance will have to resume making payments this fall. This will most likely remove a lot of their discretionary spending which should impact consumer spending. This could have a negative impact on the retail sector just as we head into the Christmas season, but the Christmas season may limit the negative impact because people always seem to find a way to buy presents. This scenario is capitalism 101, and if left alone should work itself out naturally. I also believe that this may be a key trigger for a future rate decrease.

As for the markets; the DOW is up 140 points for the past two weeks, and the S&P 41 points. I believe that the past few days have been fueled by the positive reports mentioned above, and I also believe that we should expect to see this rally continue. We are slowly inching toward the all-time highs of 2021 and we are beginning to see portfolios increase again, even for those who are receiving income. Though we are not out of the woods yet, I believe that we were able to make adjustments as needed over the past 2 years which has allowed most portfolios values remain constant.

I hope that you and your family have a wonderful July 4th weekend. I will be back in Dixon on Monday, but I am always available via email or phone if you need me before.

Take care,

Brett