

PAINTING MOUNTAINS

Market peaks and valleys keeping uncertainty at forefront

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For as long as I can remember I have always been captivated by mountains: The view, the mystique, the peaks reaching up toward the heavens all have been reasons why I yearned to climb one.

And so, for a turning 40 (I'm not really old) adventure, I recruited one of my hunting and camping buddies, Nick, to hike in the Swiss Alps with me. The destination, Interlaken, Switzerland: Home of world-famous Mounts Eiger, Moench and Jungfrau. These three peaks are 13,000 feet-plus in altitude and they stand side-by-side for a breathtaking view.

Nick and I definitely came home sore from hiking the rugged trails through the Alps, but it is a memory I will

never forget.

In fact, the markets' behavior the last 18 months has reminded me of this memory I have of the view of those mountains in Switzerland. In the illustration you can see how the market has painted three peaks as well.

stroke will follow the path of uncertainty.

Think about it. I'm sure there is not one of us that really enjoys uncertainty. When we are uncertain about big circumstances in our own lives we tend to behave anxiously.

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"Where will the paintbrush go from here?" you may wonder. I say the



We're so proud of our graduates!

The team at Jade Investments & Retirement Solutions was blessed with a month of caps, gowns, ceremony and celebrations in May, when every single staffer either walked across that stage, or cheered for a graduate.

Sabrina Phillips, daughter of Tim Phillips and herself a member of the Jade team, earned an associate degree in nursing from Frontier Community College. She has accepted a position at Deaconess-Gateway in Newburgh, Ind., and she continues to coordinate social media for us.

Shea Simpson, daughter of Susan Hughes, graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders and



Sabrina



Shea



Quinten

Sciences. During the ceremony Shea carried with her the photo of her best friend, who died in a car accident. Shea had administered CPR at the scene; after his death, she vowed to keep that photo with her through all of her accomplishments.

Quinten Easter, son of Laura Easter, donned his cap and gown and graduated

ed from preschool at Wee Kare Preschool and Day Care in Mount Carmel. Quin says he can't wait to start Kindergarten because "they don't take naps there." Laura is glad she made it through the year-end program without crying.

To everyone who graduated or celebrated a loved one this spring, a heartfelt congratulations to you as well!

Peaks and valleys

From front page

We react with every little thought or words spoken, either positively or negatively more profoundly.

This same principal is true with the markets. U.S.-China Trade Wars, Federal Reserve, Iran, Brexit...These are just a few of the headlines we see today. We at Jade feel that the markets will struggle to break through past these three peaks altitude until some kind of agreement between the United States and China can be reached.

How long will that take? That's the \$64,000 question.

Two facts are this:

- 1.) Xi Jinping, China's paramount leader, went into office in 2013. If the proposal lifting term limits is passed, it means he could stay in power for more than 10 years; and
- 2) We have a 2020 Presidential election. Clearly time favors the Chinese in the tariff fight: Act like you're opened minded to negotiations, and if their economy can sustain, outlast Trump.

It remains to be seen whether President Trump's squeezing of the Chinese economy hard enough to counter attack their luxury of time is a strat-

egy that will ultimately work. If it does, it could be Trump's ticket to another term. No incumbent president has ever lost re-election in a growing economy.

It is still some time before those primary elections begin in the first few months of 2020. While we remain hopeful that an agreement is reached sooner than later — and glad Trump and Xi will have a meeting at the G20 Summit in Japan next week — we feel the issue may take some time to play out before the market begins painting higher mountains.

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