



Is There A Rainbow on the Horizon?

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The Market has been experiencing a lot of turbulence since President Trump announced a series of new tariffs last month. Announcements of what were referred to as “reciprocal” tariffs, directed specifically toward China, Canada, and the EU, led to a sharp decline in global markets and fears of a potential global recession. Mercifully, the market has rebounded and marched its way back up with all the indices on an upward trend. In fact, the Nasdaq Composite has recovered all of its losses since the April 2nd announcements. As of this writing, the market has closed higher than the previous day for nine consecutive

trading days. This period of positive movement has been driven by a combination of factors including: the easing trade tensions, a possible Fed rate cut, and strong earnings reports from major tech companies.

Indeed, when things are shaken up, there will be stormy, unsettling times. The question is, how much longer will the blustery times last? We’ll just need to hang on and enjoy upward movements as we are doing at the moment.

Speaking of turbulence ...

The Thunder Rolls

By Trace Dixon

Growing up in Savannah, Georgia meant severe weather was a rare reality. Hurricanes usually turned towards the Carolinas, severe storm fronts had a lot of land to cross to finally hit the east coast, and snow was usually found in a cone drenched in red-40 and eaten while on a walk through Forsyth Park. Moving to Alabama, however, was a wakeup call to just how rough weather can be.

March 1, 2007, barely half a year since rolling into town, a storm front spun up two EF4 tornados that cut across Alabama. One tore through Miller’s Ferry, only 30 miles away from where I lived. The other struck Enterprise High School in the middle of the school day. Just a few weeks later, my own school was hit by a severe hailstorm that decided to throw tennis ball-sized balls of ice at the parents waiting in the car line. That was the day I learned what comprehensive car insurance was, as well as that

shouting, “It’s hail heaven!” doesn’t lighten the mood when everyone is trying to figure out how much the Geico Gecko will help in removing dimples from their cars.

But the real wakeup call came just a few years later. Between April 25th to April 28th of 2011, 368 tornadoes touched down across 21 states and Canada, peaking on Wednesday the 27th. The twister that everyone remembers on that day gouged an 80-mile path over the course of an hour and a half across Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, wreaking havoc across a visible part of the state.

I remember that day well. I remember watching ABC 33/40 out of Birmingham Alabama during their ten straight hour broadcast through the storms. I remember Jason Simpson, John Oldshue, and James Spann, jacket off and suspenders showing. I remember the words that summarized that day: “This will go down in state history... and all

you can do is pray for those people.”

Since then, I’ve ridden out more severe weather outbreaks and hurricanes than I have fingers and toes. And with this passing winter, I can now definitively say that snow in the south does not just come from a cone to be eaten doused in artificial cherry flavoring but can fall out of the sky, pile up in your yard, and be rolled into snowmen just like they do in the Hallmark Christmas movies! With the weather never feeling itself in a cooperative mood, what can we do to stay ahead of the storms and be prepared for whatever comes our way?

For help with finding out how to best be weather prepared in these wild times, I spoke with a good friend of mine, Aaron Ayers. Aaron has worked as the Chief Meteorologist at KSNV in Las Vegas, Nevada and is currently at WHNT in Huntsville, his hometown. As a professional meteorologist and weather communicator, I wanted to see what the current best practices are right now as we sit in the middle of the spring tornado season and are preparing for the 2025 hurricane season.

An easy way to remember what you need to check and do to be ready for severe weather is **BRIDGES**.

BRIDGES

1. Have a **B**ag ready to go for when the worst happens. A backpack with a change of fresh clothes, toiletries and any medications you need, a first aid kit, a flashlight with new batteries, a whistle, some snacks, and a bottle of water, along with good shoes and a bike helmet to protect yourself from flying debris.
2. Invest in a weather **R**adio and have emergency alerts on your phone turned on. And with deciphering the weather services’ alerts, just think of tacos: A **W**atch means ‘we have all the ingredients to make tacos.’ A **W**arning means ‘the tacos have been made and are on their way to a table!’
3. Check your **I**nsurance, and with rising repair costs, it is important to make sure that what you have will cover a complete repair. Take plenty of photos before and after you’ve been hit by severe weather in case you need to show and prove what needs insurance to re-

pair.

4. Keep your important **D**ocuments in a portable, locked safe. Things such as titles and deeds, birth certificates, medical history, proof of insurance, and proof of residency such as a bill statement sent to your home are a priority to keep safe and have handy when the world turns upside down.
5. If you have an emergency **G**enerator, have it serviced, stock up on fuel, and if it is portable be sure to have a safe space outside of your garage and home set up to run it. Check the batteries in your home’s carbon monoxide detector too so that it will alert you if there is a problem inside your home.
6. Top off your **E**mergency fund and have some cash on hand if you need to evacuate. The world seems to slow down when disaster strikes, so having resources and the means to pay for them while bridging the gap between disaster striking and help rendering will make a world of difference.
7. Have a **S**afe **S**pace designated and know what it takes to get there. An interior room with no windows on the ground floor of your home is the safest place in a storm. If you live in a mobile/manufactured home, find a shelter nearby, whether it’s a neighbor’s residence, a church, an office, or a community shelter, and get there before the storms hit.

Also, be sure to find a local meteorologist you trust and listen to them. As the system is shifting from TV broadcasting to new and different forms, it is important to find someone in your area that you trust for information through severe weather. Check for things like an educational background, how long they have been covering the weather, and do they have any certifications from a national weather association. Find your trusted local source for information and follow them through the severe weather.

Last but not least, Be prepared and not scared. North America is home to some of the most severe weather found on the planet. Taking simple steps to be ready can save money, speed up recovery, and keep you safe when storms roll your way.

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