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The Bottom Line

A look at the week ahead

Posted: July 30, 2006

Noteworthy

If you work in downtown Milwaukee, this is your week to feel special. Today is the beginning of Downtown Employee Appreciation Week. Events include a daily volleyball competition, the world's largest coffee break and a battle of the bands. Who will have time to work? For more information, go to www.milwaukeedowntown.com/iworkdowntown/.

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Progress

The Milwaukee area gets more workers prepared for skilled construction trades Wednesday, as 12 students graduate from the **Building Industry Group Skilled Trades Employment Program**. Graduates have mastered 160 hours of training to qualify to become carpentry apprentices. A ceremony is set for 3:30 p.m. at the Southeast Wisconsin Carpentry Training Center in Pewaukee. The program is affiliated with the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, a workforce development collaboration among labor, management and education groups.

Earnings

Companies of local interest scheduled to report earnings: **Gehl Co.** (Monday); **Wisconsin Energy Corp.** and **Oshkosh Truck Corp.** (Tuesday); and **Great Wolf Resorts Inc.** (Wednesday).

Measuring

More signs of a slowing economy in the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index and the Labor Department's monthly employment report this week might mean the Fed won't raise interest rates at its Aug. 8 meeting.

Where we left off: Wall Street managed a solid advance last week as investors grew cautiously optimistic that the Federal Reserve might take a break from raising interest rates.

Looking ahead: The market should continue fluctuating, as a heightened distaste for risky investments keeps traders on the sidelines, particularly during the summer vacation months.

The report Friday on the change in manufacturing payrolls is expected to show an increase in factory jobs for the second successive month. The last time that happened was in January, which ended a run of four months of increases.

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