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7 Market Catalysts Traders Should Watch Before The Next Big Move

Published: 07/13/2026

On the following page you will find an article that is a summary of the Crowd Forecast News Episode #536 panel discussion.
The article is an attempt to distill the most important points from the episode down to a single, brief article.



Recorded: 07/13/2026 at 4PM ET
Duration (video & podcast): 57 minutes

Highlights:
• Key S&P levels shaping the next major move
• VIX thresholds signaling potential volatility danger
• Breadth clues revealing whether the rally can broaden
• CPI, Fed, and earnings catalysts in focus
• Rising yields and oil pressures threatening valuations
• Bank earnings setups with dividend and loan clues
• Semiconductor pullbacks testing critical support zones
• Enterprise software names showing fresh rotation potential
• Energy stocks tied to renewed crude strength
• Limited-risk option ideas around technical turning points

Lineup for this Episode:
• The Option Professor of OptionProfessor.com

Click here to watch the full episode.

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The article below is a summary of the recent CFN panel discussion. The quotes are statements directly from the panelists on the show; click the link above to watch the full episode!

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[AD] **eBook: Profit From Earnings Announcements**

Title: 7 Market Catalysts Traders Should Watch Before The Next Big Move

Markets rarely move in isolation. Major advances and sharp reversals often begin when several catalysts line up at once. Traders who know what to watch can prepare before the crowd reacts. The goal is not to predict every tick, but to identify the pressure points that can turn a quiet market into a fast-moving opportunity.

1. Key Support Levels

Every trader should know where the market is likely to defend itself. When multiple moving averages converge near the same price zone, that area can become a major decision point. If support holds, buyers may regain control. If it breaks, selling can accelerate quickly. Define these levels before the move happens so you are not making emotional decisions after volatility expands.

“And if that support does break, we could accelerate to the downside.”

2. Volatility Breakouts

The VIX can act like an early warning system. A calm market can stay calm for a while, but when volatility starts pushing through important thresholds, traders should pay attention. Rising volatility often signals that institutions are hedging, uncertainty is increasing, and price swings may become more aggressive.

“if it starts breaking above 18 and then 20, we're going to have some problems in the stock market”

3. Market Breadth

A rally is stronger when more stocks participate. Watching the percentage of stocks above their 200-day average helps traders judge whether strength is broadening or narrowing. A market led by only a few names can be fragile, while expanding participation can support a more durable move.

“when you hear broadening of the market, that's what they're kind of talking about.”

4. Interest Rates

Rising yields can become a serious headwind for stocks. Higher rates affect valuations, borrowing costs, housing, credit, and investor appetite for risk. Traders should monitor Treasury yields closely, especially when they begin breaking out, because a rate move can reshape leadership across sectors.

“a higher interest rate environment, you must be able to figure your valuations a little differently.”

5. Inflation Pressures

Oil and energy prices can quickly shift the inflation story. If crude rebounds from support and begins moving higher, it can complicate expectations for lower inflation and lower rates. Traders should watch whether energy strength is merely a bounce or the start of a larger trend.

“if we start closing above $80 for whatever reason, that might indicate we're going either back to 80-five”

6. Earnings Season

Earnings can confirm a trend or expose a crowded trade. Bank earnings, loan reserves, net interest income, and dividend changes can all influence market sentiment. Traders should watch not only the headline number, but also whether price action supports or rejects the news.

“So if it wants to have a correction, that's what it could do.”

7. Sector Rotation

Money rarely disappears; it usually rotates. When leadership comes out of one group, another sector may begin attracting attention. Traders should watch where capital is flowing next, especially into areas showing turning points, improving momentum, or discounted setups near support.

“So you can see there's a reversion going on in semiconductors and in storage”

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