



# RAYMOND JAMES®



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## A Closer Look

### MARKET SUMMARY

The economy picked up the pace in November, as did the stock market. After getting off to a sluggish start during the early part of the month, equities soared following the results of the presidential election. The Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 each reached record highs during the month of November. The Russell 2000 posted the largest monthly gain. Energy stocks jumped at the end of the month following OPEC's agreement to cut production. Investors seemed willing to sell bonds and buy stocks as evidenced by the yield on 10-year treasuries, which jumped 56 basis points by the end of the month and now exceeds their 2015 closing yield. Gold lost value closing November at \$1,174.80.

### MARKET OUTLOOK

The stock market climbed following the presidential election. Interest rates remained unchanged in November. However, much could change in December as President-elect Trump rounds out his cabinet and offers more details on his economic and foreign policies moving forward. All indications are that the Fed will relax stimulus measures by increasing the federal funds interest rate when the Committee meets in mid December.

## THE FAMILY HOLIDAY HUDDLE



*Openly discussing important matters during the holiday season can bring your family closer.*

Keeping the lines of communication open and flowing are vital to the successful transfer of wealth between generations. Family members may have differing visions, ideas and values that can sometimes lead to breakdowns in trust and communication. Frank, open family discussions – family huddles – about financial planning can help prevent problems long before they start.

- When should you have a family discussion? As soon as possible. By having these meetings years before there's a critical need, you can control the conversation. The holidays are a good time to hold a discussion, since everyone is already gathered together and in a good frame of mind.
- Who should be at the table? It depends. For some, it's immediate family only; for others, it's extended family, too. At the very least, you and your spouse or partner should be on the same page. While you're gathered together, each family member should be allowed to share his or her thoughts, feelings, achievements and hopes. Having one-on-one conversations with certain members before the family gathering may also help you create a constructive agenda and avoid surprises.



- What should you discuss? Topics will vary. Go into as much detail as you are comfortable with on matters that impact the smooth transition of wealth, including wills, location of important documents, even funeral and burial preferences. Take particular note of life changes among family members (births, deaths, marriages, divorces, etc.) that can affect legacy planning.
- Where do you go from here? Review what was discussed and how new information may impact your financial and estate plans. Consider introducing your family to your professional advisors (accountants, lawyers, financial advisors, etc.). Most important, plan to meet again and keep the conversation going.

Whether you're preparing for a discussion with an aging parent or your adult children, the sooner you can do it the better. You owe yourself, and those you love, the greater understanding, compassion and comfort that comes from a well-thought-out family huddle

## DON'T LET THIEVES RUIN YOUR HOLIDAYS!

### Learn how to protect your identity when shopping online.

Another holiday season is here, bringing new ways for cyber-thieves to attempt to steal your money or your identity. The FBI and other experts offer ways you can guard yourself against identity theft by following safe practices when shopping online.



- Have up-to-date virus protection on your computer that also scans for malware.
- Before you enter credit card information at a retailer's website, check to make sure that the website is secure. A secure website normally has "https" in its URL and a lock icon next to the URL address.
- Consider designating a credit card account – or purchasing a reloadable prepaid card – exclusively for online or holiday shopping, and leave the rest of your credit cards at home. That way, if a thief does get your credit card or credit card number, the loss will be minimized. Avoid using your debit card, which may not offer the same kind of theft/loss protection.
- Ask your credit card issuer if it offers "virtual credit cards," or single-use card numbers, that can be used at an online store. Virtual credit cards generate a random account number in place of your actual credit card number. You can configure the expiration date and the maximum amount allowed for a virtual credit card. Once used, the card typically is tied to the merchant where it was used and cannot be used elsewhere.
- Create a good password. The National Privacy Rights Clearinghouse offers tips on creating a hacker-proof password.
- If you buy something at an auction site or via an online classified ad, keep your personal information secure by paying with a third-party service like Google checkout or PayPal.
- Purchase gift cards directly from retailers or merchants. Gift cards from auction sites or classified ads could be fraudulent or stolen.
- Never follow a link in an email unless you know and trust the sender. Instead of using the link, enter the web address of the retailer, bank or credit card issuer yourself.
- Only open email attachments if you know the sender, and scan them for viruses if you can. Attachments can contain viruses.
- Be wary of anyone soliciting donations by phone, especially if they claim there is an emergency or deadline for donations. If you are suspicious, ask them to mail you a donation form, or hang up and call the charity directly.
- Do not give personal information to anyone who calls you claiming to be your bank or financial institution. Hang up and call the bank directly.

There's always a lot to be done during the holidays. By exercising some care and common sense, you can ensure that you're not spending valuable time dealing with identity theft.

### WHY WORK WITH A CFP®

In life, it's important to find a financial planner you trust to provide sound, unbiased advice and professional services. Being CFP® certified means someone has voluntarily taken the extra steps needed to provide the highest possible standard of financial planning to those they serve.

How does working with a CFP® certified advisor benefit you? Certified Financial Planner™ professionals are held to the utmost standards of ethics and professional responsibility, which prepares them for a career-long commitment to provide truly personalized services to meet your needs; all while maintaining high levels of financial planning and professionalism. CFP® professionals maintain their professional edge through ongoing education and training in addition to the rigorous requirements to represent a high level of integrity, objectivity, competence, fairness, confidentiality, professionalism and diligence when working with you.



## SALVATION ARMY - "DOING THE MOST GOOD"



*"100% of the money stays right here in Jackson County."*

*- Kim Rice Bellomy*

### SALVATION ARMY

About The Salvation Army:

"Doing The Most Good." In these four words, our mission - to feed, to clothe, to comfort, to care.

The Salvation Army operates 7,546 centers in communities across the United States. These include food distribution, disaster relief, rehabilitation centers, anti-human trafficking efforts, and a wealth of children's programs. Our work is funded through kettle donations, corporate contributions, and the sale of goods donated to our Salvation Army Family Stores. Eighty-two cents of every dollar we spend supports our various missions across the country. We are a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) organization, and contributions are deductible for Federal Income Tax Purposes to the extent permitted under Section 170 (b)(2) for corporations.

### WORKING FOR OUR COUNTY...

Have you ever heard the SALVATION ARMY bell ringing, and wondered "where exactly does the money in that little red kettle go"? You will be glad to know that 100% of that money stays right here in Jackson County. It is used to buy Christmas gifts and food for Angel Tree children, helps supply assistance year round for people in need in case of fire or disaster, such as the tornado that brought such devastation in Rosalie on Nov. 30th. The SALVATION ARMY also keeps a Food Pantry that is maintained year round for local residents in need.

The SALVATION ARMY takes donations of clothing and household items to sell in the Thrift Store. These donations can be made anytime throughout the year. Families in need are allowed to shop in the store for free when they have a fire, or other disaster.

Remember, during this busy Christmas season when you are out and about, make your donations in the little red kettle, your help does much good, and it does it right here in your county.



To find out where to donate clothing and household items, or non-perishable food items, please contact Kim Rice Bellomy at: 256-599-3848. Your donations are tax deductible, and make such a difference!

### COFFEE CLUB!

Do you know about Thursday Morning Community Coffee Club? We meet every first Thursday of the month at Impact Learning Center from 9:30am to 10:30am. We always have a topic of discussion; usually related to the financial world, and current events. Coffee Club is an opportunity for us to gather with members of the community, whether they are current clients or not, to learn, discuss, to share ideas, and to fellowship. It's a very laid back atmosphere, we serve coffee and refreshments, and just enjoy being together. We welcome each of you to join us, and we would love for you to bring along a friend!



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