

The Valley Weekly

"Real success is not on the stage, but off the stage as a human being, and how you get along with your fellow man."
- Sammy Davis, Jr.

FREE

Volume 4, No. 13

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Friday, December 8, 2017



Rickey Smiley to Perform in Rocket City

Comedian and syndicated radio personality Rickey Smiley will perform at Huntsville's Stand Up Live comedy club from December 8-9.

Hailing from Birmingham, Ala., Smiley has become a household name. In addition to his longevous stand-up career, Smiley boasts an equally impressive film resume, whose credits include "Friday After the Next," "Baggage Claim," "First Sunday" and "All About the Benjamins."

Recently, the comedian was recognized as the ambassador of the 77th annual Magic City Classic. The comedian is also the author of "Stand by Your

Truth: And Run for Your Life!", which hit shelves last October.

Smiley can be seen on his TVONE reality show

"Rickey Smiley for Real", which just finished its fourth season.

by Reggie D. Allen

Vietnam Vet Gets Medal of Honor

Capt. (Ret) Mike Rose was honored on Wednesday, November 29, at the Madison County Courthouse by the City of Huntsville and the Madison County Military Heritage Commission.

Capt. Rose was awarded the military's highest award for his work as a special operations medic who served with bravery during the Vietnam War.

This medal was awarded to Rose because he risked his life in a particular combat operation in 1970.



NAAACC to Host Christmas Party

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce will hold a Christmas Party (presented by Google Fiber) on Thursday, December 14, at 6 p.m.

The event will be held at the offices of Speakin' Out News, 101 Oakwood Avenue, Huntsville, Ala., and will include food, fun, fellowship and entertainment.

Members, \$10; non-members/guests, \$15; \$20 at the door. RSVP by December 12.

St. Bartley Holding Christmas Production



St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church, located at 3020 Belafonte Avenue in Huntsville, Ala., will present its Christmas production, "Journey to the Manger: Emmanuel God with Us!"

Sponsored by the church's Drama Ministry, the production will be held on Wednesday, December 13, and Friday, December

15, at 7 p.m.

Special guests include: Elder Lloyd Morrow, pastor, Temple Tabernacle PB Church; The Redeemed Christian Church of God Priase Dancers; and Minister Racquame Jones, Love International Ministries.

Elder Jaymes Mooney serves as pastor of St. Bartley. For more information, call (256) 536-6266.

The Valley Weekly
INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Washington in a Minute, Page 2

Life's Game Plan, Page 2

From the Editor, Page 3

Ballet Guild Sponsors Nutcracker, Page 4

Senatorial Candidate Gives Details, Page 6

Get Out the Vote Rally, Page 7

Washington in a Minute



Here are the top issues in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. Last Saturday morning at 1:51 a.m., the Senate approved its version of the \$1.447 trillion comprehensive tax reform bill, known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act by a vote of 51-49 (all Democrats and GOP Sen. Bob Corker, R-TN, voted *no*). Also, this week, the House and Senate are expected to approve an extension through Dec. 22 of the current continuing resolution (CR) that is keeping the federal government operating in the absence of any enacted FY2018 appropriations bills. The current CR expires on Friday, Dec. 8. Among other bills, the House has scheduled debate

this week on the National Rifle Association's No. 1 legislative priority – the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act - to allow the concealed transport of handguns across state lines, so long as both states allow it, which will prohibit states from imposing individual requirements for a concealed carry license on armed travelers from other states.

2. On Monday, President Trump traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to announce a significant shrinking of the boundaries for the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. The Washington Post reported last week that the White House is trying to schedule a meeting of Congress' "Big 4" (Ryan, Pelosi,

McConnell, and Schumer) for some time this week to discuss the wrap-up of the FY2018 appropriations bills. On Friday, the President will travel to Pensacola, Fla., for a campaign rally (which CNN has noted is only 15 miles from the Alabama border where on Dec. 12 voters will choose a new Senator in the Roy Moore – Doug Jones contest). Over the weekend, The Times of London reported that the President will visit Great Britain on Feb. 26 and 27, 2018, and reported further that the visit will not include dinner at Buckingham Palace.

3. On Tuesday, the Senate Banking Committee approved the nomination of Jerome Powell to be the next Federal Reserve Chair, when

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown



Matthew 26:7 says: *A woman came to him (Jesus) with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on His head as He was reclining at the table.* In verse 12, Jesus goes on to say, when she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. You know, after reading this scripture, an idea came to my mind; this was a "silent sermon" because you

can preach a sermon without saying a word. When you have God in your life, He will speak the words for you by the way that you live. We all have heard sermons that were very eloquently spoken, or very inspiring and motivating, but it doesn't mean a thing unless you are living your life that way.

When we show people love and kindness, that's a "silent

sermon." When we are patient with one another and forgive one another, that's a "silent sermon." Just like this woman with the alabaster box, she never spoke a word. She just let her actions, her love, her obedience and her dedication to Jesus speak for her. It's time for all of us to preach a "silent sermon" by the way that we live ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

current Chair Janet Yellen's term expires in Feb. 2018.

4. On Thursday, key Trump Administration officials visited Capitol Hill, FBI Director Christopher Wray to testify before the House Judiciary Committee and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to testify before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. On Tuesday, the Senate Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Subcommittee had a hearing on the nation's opioid crisis and, on Wednesday, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee had a hearing on the nomination of R.D. James to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

5. Last Thursday, House Republicans have kicked off their reauthorization of the federal law governing higher education with a massive 542-page bill that

most significantly overhauls the government's student aid programs. The proposal has already drawn strong criticism and pushback. The GOP plan would streamline existing programs to create "one loan, one work-study and one grant," as well as a single income-based repayment plan. It would also ease some federal requirements on colleges, particularly for-profit schools, while revamping how the Education Department holds all colleges accountable for their use of federal aid dollars. As expected, much of the proposal is intended to eliminate Obama-era regulations, including gainful employment and borrower's defense to repayment rules, which cut off federal funding to career college programs that produce graduates with large debt loads and provide debt relief to defrauded

student loan borrowers, respectively.

6. Last Saturday, The Washington Post reported that as Chair of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC), used \$150,000 in taxpayer dollars to settle with former aide Bradley Podliska.

7. On Sunday night, CBS News released a poll of 1,067 registered Alabama voters that showed Republican Roy Moore leading Democrat Doug Jones by 49% to 43%, among voters who are most likely to vote in the special Senate election on Dec. 12. The poll also showed that 71% of GOP voters in Alabama believe the sexual assault allegations against Moore are false.

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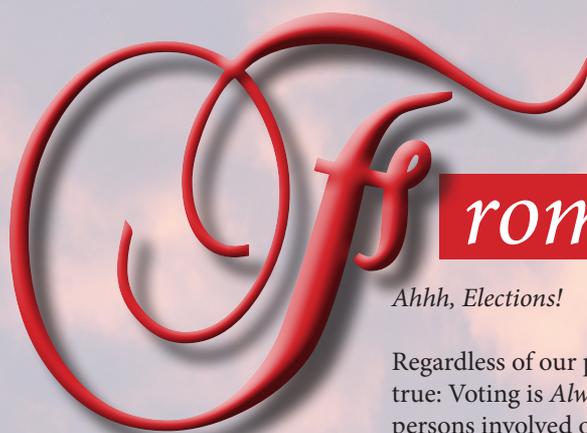
Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Ahhh, Elections!

Regardless of our political choices, one thing remains tried and true: Voting is *Always* in Order. Moreover, regardless of the persons involved or the messages they are delivering, voting is *always* in order. There are places in the world today where people do not have this right. It is not a privilege in America, it is our right. People died so we could vote. We should not be flippant about Election Day. Regardless of the weather, circumstances or ancillary conditions, we should take time to vote. By now, if we know we are going to be out of town or committed on December 12 to the extent that we cannot go to the polls, we should have cast our absentee ballots. There are legal provisions for individuals who are on travel, disabled and other options to absentee vote.

I nearly passed out in Selma in March 8, 2015, when we surged toward the Edmund Pettus Bridge and saw all of the people who had gathered there from around the globe to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March of 1965. There was so much positive energy and excitement, some people required emergency care. Frankly, I cannot imagine, for as long as there is breath in my body, that I will not take time to vote in all elections where eligible. Regardless of the outcome, we can rest with the knowledge that we did not take the right for granted.

When we reminisce and think about our history, voting is about respecting the sacrifices and grit of our forefathers, understanding the current state of affairs, and a whole heap of faith that should remind responsible citizens daily that truth and goodness are virtues to pursue and behold.

December 12 creates another opportunity for each of us. Make a choice between the candidates presented by the parties. And, after you do that, stand and defend that choice. Otherwise, you have no right to express an opinion. Let's not straddle the horse. A state level politician told me several years ago, 'It's time to shake things up.' I was stunned because the topic of conversation wasn't about anything that needed shaking. It sounded cliché and likely something he had heard someone else say. My observations are that many of the things that we should be shaking, we ignore them based on the persons involved. I have been around the block a few times, seen a few things, heard more than I should or want to know, and observed the actions of "good" men and women to the extent that I can attest to the fact that people will look at you and basically infer that humanity and decency don't matter.

TVW had the opportunity to interview candidate Doug Jones. He was gracious with his time and open to the questions we asked. We are not endorsing him; however, we want to know you *as candidates* and *after* you are elected. Be aware of those who evade you, throw you out, call you names and who have amnesia about the past. To ignore people's past is equivalent to casting them out as though they never existed. We just want to know who you are because we are stronger together. With that in mind, It's time of unite.

Until next week ...



Dorothy

Ballet Guild Sponsors 'Nutcracker'

The Huntsville Ballet Guild held its ninth annual Nutcracker Ball at the North Hall of the Von Braun Center on Dec. 1.

The black-tie optional event featured a special preview of the Nutcracker Ballet, which runs from Dec 8-10, and a silent auction. Auction items included everything from "Hamilton" tickets to jewelry from Loring and Co. Fine Jewelers.

All proceeds from the evening helped benefit



Discover Dance, Huntsville Ballet Company, and the Huntsville Ballet School.

by Reggie D. Allen

City Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



City Accepting Proposals to Develop JOJHS Property

The City of Huntsville is seeking proposals to redevelop the former J.O. Johnson High School site (Visit huntsville.gov).

A Request for Proposal has been issued by the City's Urban Development team to attract a developer or development team committed to creating a distinctive and sustainable mixed-use development on the Johnson site.

"We believe the former Johnson High site has enormous potential," said Mayor Tommy Battle.

The 47-acre site includes the vacant school building, which is temporarily being used as the City of Huntsville's Public Safety Training Center, and various athletic fields not planned for re-use by the City. The gymnasium is scheduled for renovation and use as a

public amenity operated by Parks & Recreation.

This property is located within an established residential neighborhood, and the City Council representative for District One, Devyn Keith, says the City is committed to finding a project that respects the environment and provides value to the community.

The deadline for submission is April 2, 2018.

Alabama A&M University and NAACP Get Out the Vote Rally

Saturday, December 2, 2017 - North Police Precinct/AAMU SW Lawn



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December 8 - SAMMY DAVIS, JR. - Noted entertainer was born in Harlem, Manhattan, New York City. He was a dancer, singer, multi-instrumentalist (playing vibraphone, trumpet, and drums), impressionist, comedian, and actor.
- *BlackinTime.info*

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U.S. Senatorial Candidate Gives TVW 'Details'

The Valley Weekly was granted an interview with U.S. Senate candidate and prosecutor Doug Jones in just days counting down to the December 12, 2017, election that has a nation waiting in suspense.

If the election is important to Atty. Jones and to Democrats, it is also important to those thousands who have become increasingly disillusioned by leaders whose interests are their own, along with African Americans who seem to lose, regardless of party.

JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS

On the Doug Jones website is the phrase, "bringing justice and fairness" to Alabama. While many can perhaps picture what that means in the context of the 1960s and 1970s, TVW asked Jones what that means for 2018?

"In the past, many citizens did not really have a good picture of justice and fairness," said the Fairfield, Ala., native, adding that his fixation with the prosecution of those responsible for the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham that killed four little girls was tied to his desire to bring about justice and fairness.

In 1977, when Robert "Dynamite Bob" Chambliss, was finally brought to trial via the reins of then

Attorney General William J. Baxley II, Jones was a second-year law student who skipped classes just to

all issues that have gotten lost. We are trying to redefine ourselves, linking with the issues that really

group. The role of a good leader is try to find that common ground to move forward."

Many of the candidate's ads have appealed to an African American community tied to Civil Rights era issues and struggles for justice. Urban blacks in decades past formed an important base of Democratic support. However, with gentrification and the continued rise of black millennials not as tied to Democratic idealism, Jones was pressed on his message to a demographic that might feel taken for granted.

Jones countered that health care, jobs, education are still very much *millennial* issues. "Millennials should be interested in all of these issues," said Jones. "And, they should be concerned about them *now* because all of these issues will impact them when they are older--especially

"And," he went on, "it's not just roads and bridges. It's also things like schools and broadband. We have to deal with *home* first and make sure that Alabamians are on the front lines of such jobs.

HIGHER EDUCATION

While Jones is a proponent of the benefits of higher education, he has talked with some educational administrators and holds that the institutions have a definite role in helping to maintain costs.

"I believe that universities must be cost-effective and that there should be as much access to higher education as possible," said Jones.

He quickly notes, however, that four-year college isn't the only game in town. He believes prospective students would find much to be gained via apprenticeship programs and fierce promotion of the two-year college system, which has a track record of leaving its graduates with good jobs in health care and the trades.

DIVERSITY

When asked whether African Americans, in particular, would help make up his central office staff, Jones replied: "I am committed to having a staff that is reflective of Alabama."

... IN THE DETAILS

"In Washington, things change daily and there is always a crisis of the day. I hope to deliberate (during first month, if elected) on the issues of tax and health care."

"We need to toughen our borders. While there have been efforts, most of those efforts have gotten caught



sit in on the trial.

"We need leaders who will bring that same kind of commitment to justice," continued Jones. "We need someone who has demonstrated how to treat people with dignity and respect. You can't just talk the talk, but you have to walk the walk."

REDEFINING DEMOCRAT

Whether in 1968 or 2018, Jones believes that Democrats have not properly carried the torch for what they stand for.

"Democrats have too often let others define us," stated Jones. "I have tried to get to the roots ... equality and fairness; good paying jobs, building the middle class ... These are

mean something to people (i.e., taxes, health care,



etc.), as well as those things we all have in common with one another.

PARTY RELEVANCE

But has the Democratic Party lost its relevance?

"I'm running because I want to make sure that everybody understands that we have a diverse body in the state," Jones replied. "We cannot cater to one

jobs and education."

INFRASTRUCTURE

If America's infrastructure improvements are key to her future, how would Jones help ensure that Alabama blacks are an integral part any job opportunities?

The Senatorial candidate stated that infrastructure is "a huge issue," especially in Alabama.



up in politics. People stake out positions without looking at the best interest of their constituencies."

"Let people vote who are eligible to vote."

"I want the Environmental Protection Agency to have the tools necessary to keep our air and water clean. We have to figure out ways to reverse the negative impact humans have had on the planet."

"Examine the records. We can take a step forward or backward."

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Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

34th Annual Beautillion Ball Honors 35



Thirty-five young men were presented at the 34th annual Beautillion Ball on November 18 in the Von Braun Center North Hall.

The Fun-Set Social and Charity Club, headed by Betty Lanier, sponsors the Beautillion program to enrich the lives of young men through participation in seminars focusing on educational, spiritual, social, and economic growth.

Alabama State Representative Laura Hall provided greetings on behalf of District 19. Edna Sheridan introduced the narrators for the evening, Brenda Martin, talk show host of Inside Huntsville, and Janet Kincherlow-Martin, dean for institutional advancement at Calhoun Community College, who presented the beaux.

Kim Jones, Mayah Robinson, Charlie Lockhart IV (2009 Beau), DeKendra Jackson and Dependable Music Group provided musical entertainment.

Cynthia Quintela choreographed the first dance between the beaux and their belles. The second dance was reserved for the beaux and their mothers.

Vice President Haley Bone introduced guest speaker Dexter Strong, congressional campaign manager, motivational speaker and 2006 Beau.

Proceeds from the ball benefit charitable causes and organizations supported by the Club. Fun-Set Club members who chaired Beautillion committees were Haley Bone, program; Carla Lanier, educational seminars; Shellia Battles, scholarships; Glenda Fowler, invitations and seating; Edna Sheridan, parent-son brunch; Betty Lanier, souvenir booklets; Mary Ann Townsend, training; Wilhemina Burwell, Publicity/Media, and Cheryl Hickman, ushers and hostesses.

Following is a list of beaux, their schools and belle escorts: **Amarius Stephen Beasley,**

Sparkman High senior, belle Lauryn Hall; **Amari Develle-Deshawn Blake**, Buckhorn High senior, belle Jordyn Donnell; **Evan Crawford Brooks**, Madison Academy junior, belle Angelina Williams; **Justin LeRoy Caston**, Lee High junior, belle Akeia Fuqua; **Richard Spencer Davis**, Randolph High senior, belle Isabel Okinedo.

Trenton Edward Draper, Sparkman High senior, belle Autumn Byers; **Ted Edwards II**, Madison Academy junior, belle Aliencia Hyder; **Bryce E'Mari Ellis**, Sparkman High junior, belle Samantha Cross; **Jamaury Meion Evans**, Bob Jones senior, belle Jazzmon Evans; **Malachi Montrell Harris**, Hazel Green High junior, belle Melody Maneice.

Blake McKenzie Carroll Horne, Bob Jones High senior, belle Shemmai Kinniard; **Zavier Malique Jackson**, Buckhorn High junior, belle Nevaeh Eggleston; **Terrell Anthony Jennings**, Bob Jones

High senior, belle Sade Kinniard; **Dallas Austin Jimmar**, Sparkman High senior, belle Chandler Robinson; **Phillip Kenard Jones**, Columbia High junior, belle Andreanna Sterling.

Arrington Ahmon Langford, Bob Jones High senior, belle Tyra Bradley; **Clifford James March**, Sparkman High senior, belle Lyndsi Brown; **David Keith Alexander Matthews**, Madison Academy junior, belle Sydney Greene; **Avery Matthew Moore**, James Clemens High junior, belle Jaylin Martin; **Gerald Dwayne Moore II**, Saint John Paul II Catholic High junior, belle Alexa Hyder.

Javier James Morris, Buckhorn High senior, belle Dionna Robinson; **Cashan Lamar Oates**, Huntsville High senior, belle Tanique Donaldson; **Thomas James Otis**, Buckhorn High senior, belle Alyssa Monroe; **Leyton S. Owens**, Saint John Paul II Catholic High junior, belle

Madison Vital; **Jalen Rashaan Pettaway**, New Century High senior, belle Chara Richardson.

Austtin Foster Poindexter, Buckhorn High junior, belle Na'jah Moore; **Ernest Charles Rentz III**, Grissom High senior, belle Hailey Crawford-Gamble; **Denavion Markel Riley**, Buckhorn High junior, belle Tamaron Middleton; **Brandon Christopher Robinson**, Madison Academy junior, belle Lara Debroy; **Seth Alexander Sigmon**, Huntsville High junior, belle Kyler Evans.

Ashton Malik Smith, Bob Jones High senior, belle Asya Johnson; **Thornton Stanley III**, Randolph High junior, belle Sydney Goggans; **Myles Justin Terry**, Sparkman High junior, belle Kennedy Caselberry; **Jerry Cortez Turner**, Grissom High senior, belle Katlyn Smart; **Tristan Rena Williams**, James Clemens High senior, belle Kortney Hale.

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DOUG JONES

A VOICE FOR ALL OF US

As a U.S. Attorney, Doug Jones prosecuted the 16th Street Baptist Church bombers. He put Klansmen in jail, and brought justice to Alabama. He served us then. He'll serve us now.

Democrat Doug Jones stands for

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



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