

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

“Thankfulness is an attitude of possibilities, not an attitude of liabilities.”
- Craig D. Lounsborough

Editorial

Thankful for the opportunity to give thanks

“When asked if my cup is half-full or half-empty my only response is that I am thankful I have a cup.”
- Sam Lefkowitz

On Thursday millions of Americans will sit down for a Thanksgiving meal. It is a day to “give thanks” for all that we have. So on this uniquely American holiday, rooted in the founding of our nation, let us celebrate with grateful hearts. Work or play, there’s a variety of things Americans will be doing this Thanksgiving holiday.

More than 49 million turkeys will be consumed. Children will wake up early to watch the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade or to help mom in the kitchen - help being a relative term, of course. Families will take a stroll around the neighborhood after their feast to walk off their overindulgence. Naps will abound.



Impressions
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The unfortunate ones who must work today can find solace in the fact that they have work. On Thursday, when the meal is done and the dishes are piled in the sink, give thanks for the food that contributed to that mess. When stressed by the traffic en route to visit loved ones, be grateful for having the means to travel.

Above all, have an attitude of gratitude this holiday. And every day, for that matter. Sitting down with friends and family on Thanksgiving, there will be thanks for the steady currents, flowing out of the past, that have brought us to this table. There will be thanks for the present union and reunion of us all. And there will be prayerful thanks for the future. But it’s worth raising a glass (or suspending a forkful for those of you who have gotten ahead of the toast) to be thankful for the unexpected, for all the ways that life interrupts and renews itself without warning.

What would our lives look like if they held only what we’d planned? Where would our wisdom or patience — or our hope — come from? How could we account for these new faces at the Thanksgiving table or for the faces we’re missing this holiday?

It will never cease to surprise me how the condition of being human means we cannot foretell with any accuracy what next Thanksgiving will bring. We can hope and imagine, and we can fear. But when next Thanksgiving rolls around, we’ll have to take account again, as we do on Thanksgiving, of how the unexpected has shaped our lives. That will mean accounting for how it has enriched us and blessed us, with suffering as much as with joy.

That, perhaps, is what all this plenty is for, as you look down the table, to gather up the past and celebrate the present and open up to the future.

There is the short-term future, when there will be room for seconds. Then there is the longer term, a time for blossoming and ripening, for new friends, new family, new love and new hope. Most of what life contains comes to us unexpectedly, after all. It is our job to welcome it and give it meaning. Let us toast what we cannot know and could not have guessed, and to the unexpected ways our lives will merge this day and in Thanksgivings to come.

So as we gather around the table for Thanksgiving dinner, may we be inspired to remember that truly giving thanks is more than something we say. It’s something that we need to do - each and every day of the year.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Comments and impressions are requested and welcomed at david@donalsonvillemnews.com

Thanksgiving 2021

It is time for my yearly Thanksgiving column, where I try to briefly outline some of the things I am thankful for during the past year. Some years are easier than others, though there is never a shortage of blessings if we look hard enough.

2021 has not been a year without challenges. Covid-19 remained with us, and Mary Lou and I lost many friends and acquaintances. While we mourn their passing, we are thankful for each of them and the ways they touched our lives.

I am thankful for yet another year with my wife, Mary Lou. It is now 43 and counting. I cannot imagine what the past couple of years would have been like without her by my side. We have shared, (some might say survived) moving to a new home, selling a business, my retirement, the pandemic and two major construction projects. I have tentatively promised no new projects in 2022.

I am thankful for the health and happiness of our children and grandchildren. I am especially thankful that we will all be together over this Thanksgiving holiday. My heart is full, and we look forward to kids running through the house, football on TV, more food than we can eat, and the retelling of old stories.

I am thankful for my mother’s continued good health as she starts counting down to her 90th birthday. Mary Lou’s father is just ahead



Ponderings
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of my mother in age. We can only hope that we have inherited some of their good genes.

I am thankful for the many new friends we have made in our new home and the many friends we still cherish in Donalsonville and southwest Georgia. In this season of our lives, Mary Lou and I are embracing new things and enjoying life. We look forward to expanding our travels as the world continues to open up in 2022.

I am thankful for long walks and good books. I am thankful for restaurants that are now open for business and for the friends with whom we regularly share food and fellowship.

I am thankful for sporting events and the ability to cheer on my teams with thousands of other

equally passionate fans. Tailgates are back. Tiger Walk is energetic. The Jungle at Auburn Arena is full and feverish. Plainsman Park and baseball on a sunny afternoon. Volleyball and softball and equestrian meets, all shared with sporting fans cheering their teams on.

I am thankful for a physical return to church and the messages of word and music that touch my heart and soul. I am thankful for our firepit outside and our fireplace inside. Nothing like a crackling fire to make the mind wander and the conversation sparkle. I am thankful for Netflix and Zoom, but even more thankful that I do not use them as much these days.

Thanksgiving is a time to look back in time and remember the memories of a full life. I am thankful for my Dad, Mother and my grandparents and their role in helping me become a man. I am thankful for my sister and brother and their families, for our shared memories over time. I am thankful for my aunts and uncles, all gone now, and my cousins. My boyhood and college friends. So much to remember.

I once read that it is not where you are in life, it’s who you have by your side that matters. I am thankful to have so many of you by my side. My wife, family, and friends. Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

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Five holiday card grammar mistakes to avoid

Put that turkey leg down and listen up! Today we have to discuss your family’s upcoming holiday card. In addition to the fact that we do not need to see your pets in your cards, we also don’t need to see any glaring grammar mistakes. Stick to the following tips and you’ll turn a bah, humbug card into a very merry message.

To keep your headings holly and jolly, write “Season’s greetings.” “Seasons greetings” isn’t right because the “greetings” belong to the “season.” Therefore, we need the apostrophe. Also, please refrain from writing “Sneezin’ greetings.” You may think that’s funny, but it’s snot.

Continuing on the theme of that grinch of a punctuation mark called the apostrophe, let’s look at the phrase: ‘tis the season. Never write “tis” with no apostrophe before it. ‘Tis is a conjunction (I like to call it a mashup) of “it” and “is.” These days, we write and say “it’s” instead of “tis,” but the antiquated “tis” still enters into our collective holiday lexicon.

Okay, so it appears that all our holiday card woes stem from the pesky apostrophe. We see it again in the



The Grammar Guy
Curtis Honeycutt

phrase “Happy New Year.” Don’t write “Happy New Year’s” or “Happy New Years.” However, “New Year’s Day” and “New Year’s Eve” are correct. When in doubt, simply write “Have a swell 2022.”

You only need to capitalize the “m” in “Merry Christmas” if “Merry” begins a sentence or if “Merry Christmas” is the heading at the top of your card. For instance, you would correctly write, “We hope you have a merry Christmas

and a happy new year.” How do you write your family’s last name on a card? Suppose your greeting says “Merry Christmas from the (your last name here).” Should the last name read “Kringles” or “Kringles”? This is by far the most common holiday card faux pas. Never use an apostrophe here; instead, pluralize your last name by adding an “s.” Your family name isn’t possessing anything. If your family name ends in -s, -ch, -sh, -z or -x (as long as the -x is not silent), ad -es to make your last name plural: Happy Holidays from the Joneses. If you want to avoid this plural vs. apostrophe confusion, simply write “Merry Christmas from the Miller family.”

You and your family deserve great grammar and punctuation to go along with your coordinated family photo. No need to thank me when your friends and family decide to frame your card as the pinnacle of holiday merriment.

—Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life. Find more at curtishoneycutt.com.

Help Fire up the Dream!

Join the BetterWay Initiative's campaign to transform the historic fire station in downtown Donalsonville into a community cultural center, art gallery, museum and event venue. Tax deductible donations to the project are now being accepted. To join the campaign, or for additional information, contact David Maxwell at david@donalsonvillemnews.com