

“Thankfulness”

I generally try to have this column written so that it can run in *'The Abbeville Herald'* on the first Thursday of every month but we were in Senoia, Georgia most of Thanksgiving week, awaiting the arrival of a new granddaughter. This was sandwiched around a two-day legislative conference in Auburn, a quick trip to Birmingham to watch another granddaughter in *'The Nutcracker'* and a three-day *'Mental Health Summit'* at Point Clear. While I was away, I overheard a gentleman talking about some of the things for which he was thankful. As we like to say around here... 'it got me to thinking'. What are some of the things for which I'm thankful? Salvation and family will always be the top two on the list. Here are a few others - in no certain order: Henry County and those who work for it, some really good teachers through the years, first responders, stray dogs finding good homes, children who say 'yes, sir' and 'no, sir', families returning thanks before meals, black coffee, the smell of freshly cut grass, salted peanuts in a diet coke, good books, second chances, Alabama football and New York Yankees baseball, good health (that has enabled me to not miss a day of walking at least 10,000 steps every day for the past six years), the kindness of others, friendships that have stood the test of time, the fun of listening each weekday morning to Lance Griffin (who has the best sports talk show in the state), encouragement from others, most music – especially from the '50's & '60's, fried okra, early morning and late afternoon walks on the beach, *'The Walk to Emmaus'*, Wi-Fi, belly laughs, voice activated remote controls, fried oysters, raw oysters (with a cold beer), oyster 'po-boys' and oyster stew, the good hearing I once had, quality health care, blind dates (especially the one that changed my life), Abbeville Methodist Church, grandchildren (11 in our case), our National Anthem sung in the traditional way, , Carrie Underwood singing *'O Holy Night'* and hearing Lucy Thomas sing *'Hallelujah'* during the Christmas season...Lauren Daigle singing *'You Say'* and Matt Redman's version of *'10,000 Reasons'* in any season. The list could easily be ten times this long and as our good friend, John Riley, is fond of saying, "you could add a hundred things to my three or four." As we continue in this season of Advent, a time of anticipation of the celebration of the birth of Christ, I encourage you to pause for a few minutes to consider all the things for which you are thankful. Your list will be longer than you think.

Merry Christmas!

Thirty Day Review:

- Probate cases for October: seven wills probated, seven administrations, four final settlements, eleven miscellaneous hearings, one guardianship, three involuntary mental commitments, three name changes and five marriage certificates recorded.
- Nov. 2 – Abbeville Chamber luncheon
- Nov. 7 – visit from the Auburn University Urban Studies class
- Nov. 8 – ACCA board meeting – Montgomery (did not attend)
- Nov. 8 – HCYLP board meeting – Headland

- Nov. 9 - Grow Southeast Alabama board meeting – Troy
- Nov. 9 – Jimmy Rane induction to Alabama Business Hall of Fame – Birmingham
- Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Holiday
- Nov. 10 – final day for candidates to qualify
- Nov. 14 – Farm-City Banquet – Headland First Baptist Church
- Nov. 16 – performed maintenance checks on all voting machines
- Nov. 16 – November commission meetings
- Nov. 17 – dedication of Greater Shiloh Baptist Church community building - Headland
- Nov. 17 – HCEDA board meeting – Headland
- Nov. 23/24 – Thanksgiving holidays
- Nov. 29/30 – ACCA Legislative Conference – Auburn
- Dec. 4 – Abbeville Christmas Parade
- Dec. 6/8 – Judicial Mental Health Summit – Point Clear
- Dec. 7 – Headland Christmas Parade
- Dec. 9 – Newville Christmas Parade
- Dec. 11 – Wiregrass Forum Christmas gathering – Ft. Novosel – (John Riley, Speaker)
- Dec. 12 – Wallace College Foundation Board meeting – Wallace College
- Dec. 13/15 – meet with of Senators Tuberville & and Britt; Congressmen Moore & Carl
- Dec. 14 – SEARP&DC board meetings - Dothan

Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 19 – Henry County Youth Leadership ‘Law & Government Day’ – Courthouse
- Dec. 21 – December Administrative meeting – 9:00 – Herndon Building
- Dec. 21 – December Commission meeting – 11:00 – Annex Building
- Dec. 25/26 – Christmas holidays – Merry Christmas!
- Jan. 1 – New Years Day holiday
- Jan. 1 – National College Football semi-final games)