

# Thanksgiving Edition



SWARK.TODAY  
Southwest Arkansas Today

Activities • Staff Recipes • Shopping Guide



# FROM HARVEST TO HOLIDAY

Thanksgiving traditions may vary from family to family, but the reasons behind the family, fun and all the fixin's will always be the same. Let's take a gander back into the history of Thanksgiving to see just how it originated and evolved into our present-day celebration.

The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" originated as a harvest festival, celebrated by the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Natives after the Pilgrims' first harvest in the New World in October of 1621.

The Pilgrims had traveled from England to find a new land so they could live and worship freely. While making a life for themselves and their families away from English law, they soon fell upon hard times, wanting for food and wishing for comforts that were unavailable to them at that time.

A friendly native named Samoset introduced himself to the Pilgrims, teaching them the proper ways to farm and harvest in the New World and showing them how to get a better yield

from their crops. Saved from the point of starvation, the Pilgrims and Samoset's people shared in the bounty of a good harvest, thereby establishing the first Thanksgiving.

The holiday was celebrated off and on for several years until Congress proclaimed it a federal holiday in 1942. Every year since, Thanksgiving has been a time for families across America to gather together and celebrate with one another. Cooking, eating, playing games, watching football and enjoying one another are just a few of the ways people observe the holiday.

It is a time of thanks. A time to be thankful for family and friends, old and new. A time to share appreciation for all of the wonderful blessings received throughout the year and for being hopeful about the years to come.

This year, as you gather around the table on Thanksgiving Day to eat, laugh, and swap stories, share with your little ones the account of how two cultures came together in 1621 to make this day possible for all of us to enjoy.



  
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FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS HELPING EACH OTHER



FIND FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR A LIFETIME

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

# It's a SWARK Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving includes two components of holiday happiness in which the SWARK.Today clan holds most dear: family and food! While you are planning which delicious delights to be the centerpiece of your festive family feast, peruse this special edition to find a few beloved recipes from your favorite SWARKansans. From our table to yours, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!!!

## CORN CASSEROLE

- 2 cans whole kernel corn (drained)
- 1 can cream corn
- 1 box jiffy cornbread mix
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 1 stick butter
- Pepper
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- In large mixing bowl mix together corn, jiffy and sour cream.
- Place in casserole dish
- Slice butter over the top of mixture and sprinkle with pepper
- Bake for 30-45 minutes or until golden brown

### Sitzes Family Dental

Cosmetic & Family Dentistry



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Hope, AR

870-777-4466

Enjoy your stuffing & then  
some brushing!!

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



**212 S MAIN ST.  
HOPE AR 71801**

**GIVE THANKS FOR  
A LITTLE, AND YOU  
WILL FIND A LOT!**

### Rae Tays Boutique & Gypsy Laundry

"SHOP SMALL THIS SATURDAY"  
208 South Main St.  
Hope, AR 71801  
870-777-6699



# BOOST YOUR COMMUNITY: SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

During the past 12 years, Small Business Saturday has evolved from an organic idea to a fully developed movement. Your local business owners depend on this special Saturday to market their products and services, while also attracting new customers into their stores.

Sandwiched between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Small Business Saturday is the perfect event for local entrepreneurs and business owners to show the community why their offerings are needed. Statistics show that there are 28.8 million small businesses in the country and they account for 99.7% of all businesses in the United States. Small businesses employ roughly 8 million people and make up 40% of all American retail jobs. Your support definitely has a big impact within your community.

While many small businesses may not offer you the ease of jumping on their website and having your parcels delivered to your door, the simple act of leaving your home

and walking into a brick-and-mortar store offers immeasurable benefits to you and your community. Studies show that for every \$100 spent locally, about 70% of it stays in the community. Many of these dollars are donated to local charities and nonprofits, youth sports programs and other activities or events in your hometown. These dollars also allow business owners to keep their businesses afloat, hire more employees and keep your local business community strong.

How can you help? Don't wait until Small Business Saturday to open your wallet! Get out and shop or dine at one of our local small businesses and don't forget to invite your friends and family to go with you. If you haven't supported your local business owners on Small Business Saturday before, consider starting a new tradition this year and watch as your contributions help your local business community grow. Small Business Saturday will be held on November 26, so get ready to go out and explore all the different businesses that make your community unique.

*Heather*  
MANOR  
*Nursing & Rehab*

400 W 23RD ST.  
HOPE, AR 71801  
(870) 777-3448

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Wishing you a  
**HAPPY**   
**Thanksgiving**

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& SHIPPING



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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**SHOPPING AND STARVING?**  
**COME ON IN AND EAT WITH US!**

**Smith Starter & Alternator**  
**& Battery Service**

1208 W 3rd St.  
Hope, AR 71801 | 870- 777-2451

**It's turkey time!!**  
**Have a great Thanksgiving!!**

## BROCCOLI & CHEESE CASSEROLE

- 3 cups white rice
- 1 32 ounce bag frozen broccoli cuts
- ½ lb Velveeta cheese
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cans cream mushroom soup
- Salt and pepper to taste

- 
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
  - Cook rice and broccoli according to directions on package.
  - Put milk in medium mixing bowl and add cut up Velveeta cheese.
  - Melt in microwave until creamy. Mix with broccoli and rice.
  - Place in casserole dish and bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown

## RANCH POTATOES

- 4-5 baking potatoes
- 16 ounces sour cream
- 1 package of ranch seasoning mix
- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- Salt & pepper to taste

- 
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
  - Slice potatoes and layer in casserole dish.
  - Sprinkle with salt and pepper and slice butter over the top. Cover dish with foil and bake for 30-45 minutes until potatoes are soft.
  - In small mixing bowl, mix sour cream and ranch seasoning
  - When potatoes are done, spread ranch mixture over the top and cover with shredded cheese. Put back in oven 5-10 minutes until cheese is melted.



**2301 S MAIN ST  
HOPE, AR  
(870) 777-3330**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**STILL'S  
AUTO SERVICE**

300 S Washington St.  
Hope, AR - (870) 777-3281

*Happy Thanksgiving!*



**BIG MAC'S BBQ**

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HOPE, AR 71801  
870-722-8011**

**HIP HOORAY, ITS THANKSGIVING DAY!**

# HUNGRY AFTER SHOPPING? DON'T FORGET OUR LOCAL EATERIES

Holiday shopping can sure build up an appetite! During the hustle and bustle of finding gifts for everyone on your list, don't forget to check out a locally owned restaurant during your adventures. You may just discover your new favorite dish at an eatery you haven't considered trying out. While you can find a great meal at a chain restaurant, many people enjoy the fresh food and community friendly cooking from independent eateries.

One advantage featured in most locally owned restaurants is the fresher food that makes up their menu. Independent restaurant owners are more apt to support their local farmers and markets, which provide fresher ingredients.

Since most independent owners play a large role in their establishment's daily operation, they will be invested in quality service. It's likely that chefs and servers also have a stake in their business, so their best efforts are also shown. Supporting

a locally owned eatery also gives diners easy access to the people in charge of decision making. It's easy to address concerns or pat them on the back for providing an exceptional experience within your community.

Every town across the United States has something unique that sets it apart from other nearby areas. Get to know your local business owners and establishments by shopping and dining locally this holiday season.

You should also expect dishes to be based on your neighborhood's unique customs and flairs when you sit down at a local establishment. Take a break during your holiday shopping adventure to enjoy the delicious tastes your town is known for. Bring along your family members and friends and fill up your local restaurants. OR opt for gift cards as gifts so you can help to create year-round business at these local establishments.



**KIDD**  
TIRE & SERVICE

Let our lives  
be full of both  
thanks and  
giving!

309 W. 3rd St. Hope, AR | 870-777-5777

**MADLOCK'S**  
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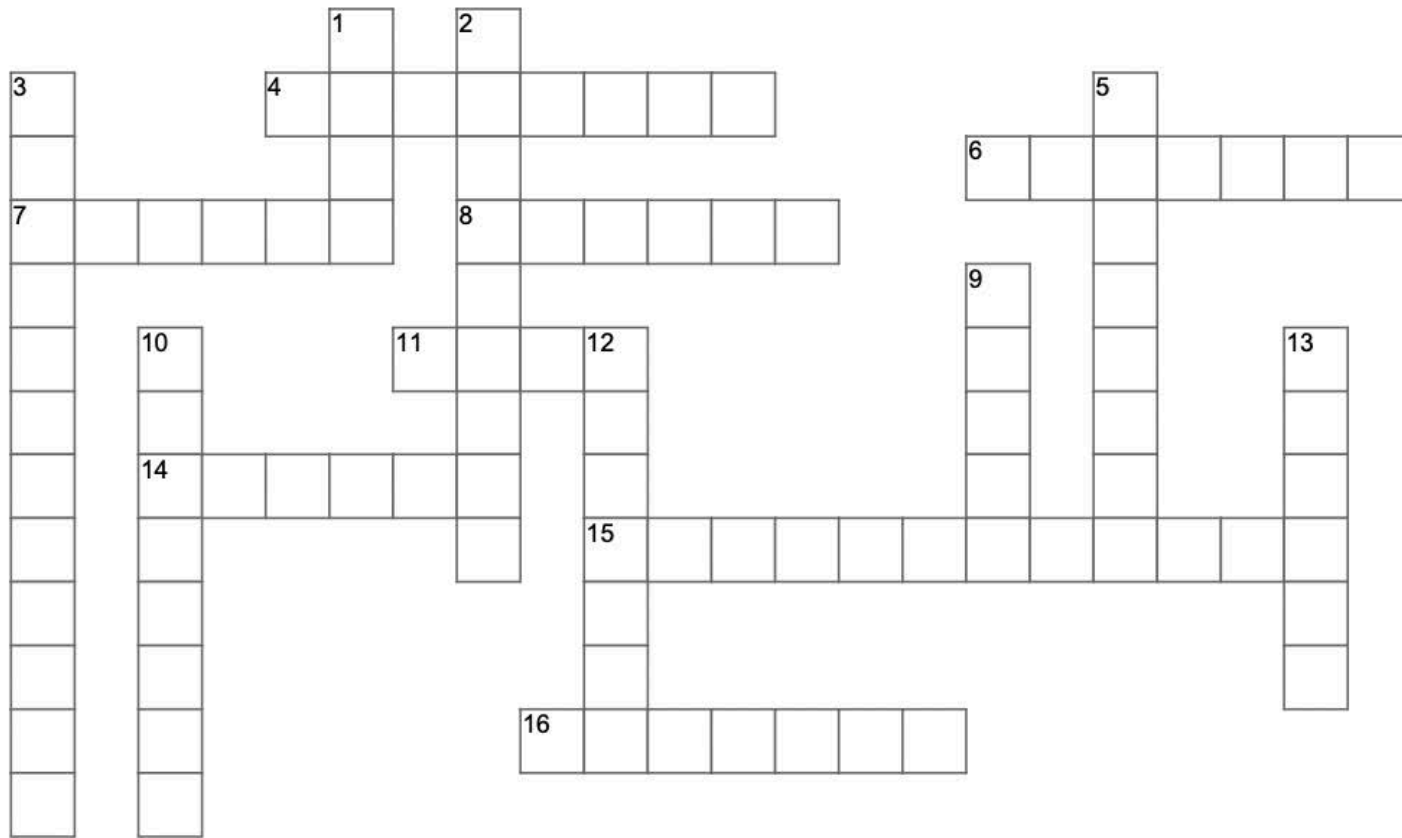
921 W 3RD ST. HOPE, AR 71801  
870-777-1145

**GIVE THANKS & EAT PIE!**

**ROTHWELL**  
MARINE

"WE'RE NOT #1, OUR CUSTOMERS ARE"  
Gregg Rothwell  
1021 W. 3rd St. Hope, AR. 870-777-6180  
Rothwellmarine.com

Thankful & blessed! Happy Thanksgiving!

**ACROSS**

4. Thanksgiving food that can be mashed or baked.
6. The pilgrim's made them from linen, wool and leather.
7. The season of Thanksgiving.
8. People you are related to.
11. Made with special recipe from butternut squash.
14. Long line of people marching down the street.
15. Where the Pilgrims got of their ship.
16. Country that Pilgrims came from.

**DOWN**

1. Yellow vegetable grown by Native Americans.
2. The ship that brought the Pilgrims to North America.
3. Holiday of this crossword.
5. Eleventh month of the year.
9. A big meal.
10. Thanksgiving dessert made from apples.
12. Large orange vegetable.
13. Bird eaten at Thanksgiving.

**YOCOM BODY SHOP**  
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**870-777-6611**  
**"SERVICE YOU CAN COUNT ON"**  
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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



**B&R** 2215 S Main St, Hope,  
 BUILDING SUPPLY AR 71801  
 870- 777-6633

**Thanks and cheer  
 all around the year!!  
 Happy Thanksgiving!!**



**MEDI MART** 1523 S Main St.  
 870-777-5555

**Gather Together,  
 Give Thanks!!**



# GETTING READY TO SHOP?

## HERE ARE OUR TIPS FOR BLACK FRIDAY

### Plan for a Successful Experience

Researching deals and making a game plan to shop at your favorite retailers is only a small part of the shopping experience. To score the best prices and have the most fun, consider creating a checklist to make sure all of your bases are covered.

### Use Technology

Stay up to date with the latest deals by downloading apps from your favorite retailers and look for ways to sign up for loyalty point programs. These can be built up throughout the year to take a big discount off purchases.

### Learn How to Avoid Crowds

If you don't like the idea of waiting in line at crowded stores, search to see which deals are honored online. Many retailers offer the same sales through ecommerce as well as traditional in-store shopping experiences. Cyber Monday has become popular in recent years, as well, so research your target items to discover if these online sales take place on Black Friday, Cyber Monday, or throughout the shopping weekend. Unless you just love the tradition of Black Friday, an online shopping visit can save you time and keep you from becoming stressed out.

### Wake up Early

If you plan to start your shopping trek early Friday morning, make sure to set an alarm early enough to get you in the shopping mindset. Give yourself a big enough window to make it to the store and find a spot

in line with other shoppers. Arriving ahead of the crowd will increase your chances when planning to purchase limited quantity goods.

### Recruit Friends

Make it a friends and family affair! Invite all of your loved ones and plot your strategy. If your local retailers feature sales in different areas of the store, it's a good idea to each patrol the other sales that are occurring within the same timeframe. This is also a good strategy to get around purchases that are limited to one-per-customer. Plus, sharing the experience of the Black Friday atmosphere with others can make it more enjoyable.

### Stick to your budget

The mounds of advertisements for Black Friday savings can easily entice someone to stray from their budget and take advantage of plastic payments. However, depending on the cost of an item, it's possible you may find yourself paying for the same purchases when the season rolls around next year. Credit cards are great companions for emergencies or when offering points towards travel, fuel or cash-back rewards, but when you begin relying on them, spending habits can quickly become harmful. When you're shopping this year, stick to buying items with cash instead of leaning on credit.

### Beware of the fine print

While most reputable retailers back up the items featured during the Black Friday season, fine print from manufacturers, or even a sale's details can cause you to miss out on a great deal. Before you jump in line to get the value of the century, you should know exactly what you're getting into.

Here are a few things to pay attention to when a deal

seems too good to be true:

**Door Busters** – These deals are front and center in most Black Friday advertisements, but what isn't so clear is the fine print. Stipulations listed underneath the highly discounted price sometimes reveal limited time windows or limits per customer. Make sure to perform a thorough review before showing up for the sale and leaving empty handed. If a deal is only in effect for a short time period, make sure to allow yourself plenty of time to arrive early and grab a good place in line.

**Price-Matching Exemptions** – Many stores boast a promotion to match a competitor's lower price. This can lead to big savings throughout the year, but there are often exemptions during Black Friday events. You can easily find out a retailer's policy by searching for their specific terms online. Stay ahead of the curve and know which retailer price matches when finding the best deal.

**Black Thursday?** – Many businesses have been opening their doors a day early for the largest savings. In recent years, the evening of Thanksgiving features many door busters while continuing smaller sales throughout the next day. Pay attention to the dates and get the most out of shopping on both Thursday and Friday.

**Free Shipping Threshold** – While Cyber Monday dominates the holiday season online, don't be surprised if brick-and-mortar stores honor their savings through their websites. One factor to look for is the amount you need to spend before free shipping will be honored. If you don't reach the threshold, consider how much you are actually saving. It could be more valuable to shop in the store.

**RANDY'S COLLISION CENTER**  
508 Compress Rd  
Hope, AR | 870-777-9138



*In all things, give thanks!*  
**Happy Thanksgiving!**

**GATHER TOGETHER & GIVE THANKS!**



**1221 S Main St.  
Hope, AR 71801  
870-777-5710**

[twright@shelterinsurance.com](mailto:twright@shelterinsurance.com)

**LaGrone Williams Hardware**

**GIVE THANKS**



120 South Elm,  
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**1714 N. Hazel Hope, AR 71801**

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

# DISCOVER UNIQUE GIFTS

Find unique shops in your area to fulfill everyone on your list. Discover what makes your community different from any other in the country and find a gift that your loved one will cherish.

Many local artisans work regular jobs right here in the community, practicing their trade in their spare time. Wood & metal craftsmen, clothing designers, photographers, painters, cleaners and custom decorators only name a few, so there are a lot of opportunities to find the perfect gift right around the corner.

Search for art galleries or reach out on a creator's professional networking site. By contacting them with enough notice, you may be able to commission a custom piece of art or clothing in your recipient's favorite style or purchase a gift certificate for a professional photo shoot or home cleaning service.

Hempstead and Nevada Counties are full of creativity, providing you options for anything you might need, so why not try something different this holiday season and buy your loved one something from a local crafter? A knitted scarf, a hand-carved cutting board or a selection of locally canned jams or jellies might be just what you need to check off all the names on your naughty and nice list.

## DIVINITY

- 3 cups sugar
- ¾ cups of water
- ¾ cups of white karo
- 3 egg whites
- Teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup nuts

- 
- Cook sugar, water and karo to a soft stage.
  - In separate bowl, beat eggs until stiff. Pour 1/3 cup of syrup and beat.
  - Cook remainder of syrup while stirring continuously until it almost burns.
  - Then pour in egg whites.
  - Continue to beat until it looks glossy.
  - Add vanilla and nuts.
  - Drop onto buttered surfaces and let cool

Happy Thanksgiving,  
from all of us at



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Southwest Arkansas Today

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*Brazzel Oakcrest*

THE FUNERAL HOME

1001 S Main St, Hope, AR  
870-722-6772

Eddie Brazzel, Funeral Director  
"We Care"

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Delight, Arkansas 870-379-2293

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From all of  
our hearts  
to yours,

Happy  
**Thanksgiving**

**Tyson**<sup>TM</sup>

**We wish you  
a very Happy  
Thanksgiving!**

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visit [www.tysonfoods.com/careers](http://www.tysonfoods.com/careers)**

Search all job openings and type Hope in the search bar.  
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MARTIN'S

BLACK  
FRIDAY &  
SATURDAY

SALE

HUGE DEALS & DOORBUSTERS  
STOREWIDE

Boots, decor, sweaters, jeans, outerwear, jewelry and more will be featured in this sale. Scan the code or go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/blackfriday71801> to see our Black Friday flyer.



SCAN THIS CODE  
TO SEE  
ALL THE DEALS!

## Welcome Home *Sarai Reed*

Sarai Reed is thrilled to return to Herndon-Fuqua Funeral Home as a Funeral Director and Embalmer and she looks forward to serving families in our area in their time of need. Sarai is a life-long resident of Hope. She is married to Austin and has two little girls, Paisley (7) and Ada (1). She is also a member of Bethany Baptist Church.

Sarai graduated from Spring Hill High School in 2014. She then pursued studies in Funeral Sciences and graduated from UAHT in 2020. She is licensed in both Arkansas and Texas as a Funeral Director and Embalmer.

Sarai gained a great deal of experience serving at Texarkana Funeral Home, but she welcomes the opportunity to come back home and service the Hope community.



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