

## STUDENT SPEAK

## How do you feel about the short Thanksgiving break?



**Blakely Brandt**  
*General Studies*

"I think it's good, but I wish we had a little longer to relax and be with family. maybe catch friends that come back in town, without having to worry about getting school caught up. Enough time to not think about school for a few days."



**Jacob Sullens**  
*Business Administration*

"The two day break for me is just fine. It's just a little over a month until the Christmas Break. Two days is plenty of time to get the holiday weekend accomplished. I'm just Thankful my family is happy and healthy this Thanksgiving Holiday, and look forward to spending time."



**Kyle McCall**  
*Chemistry*

"We're supposed to be a community college, yet were segregated from the community with our breaks. We were informed that our breaks would align with AISD and CISD, yet our fall break did not, so for Thanksgiving I'm not surprised how little of time I have to spend with family and friends."

## It's more than a meal

## OPINION

**ERIN BRINDLE**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Thanksgiving is a celebration of everything we should hold near and dear as a society. While not an officially observed by the U.S. until 1777, the original Thanksgiving of 1621 consisted of a three day celebration between the Wampanoag Tribe and European settlers after the Wampanoag helped the pilgrims to survive in the harsh new world.

While relations between Native Peoples and colonists would greatly deteriorate in the future, that does not negate the spirit of camaraderie and gratitude established in that original celebration.

With inflation on the rise and and uncertainty in the future, it is vital to keep a holiday reminding us of all we have to be grateful for. Any hardship can be weathered with help of people around you and it is important to be there for those facing their own hardships.

Thanksgiving is more than eating turkey and screaming at a football game on television. Don't get me wrong, turkey is great, especially with all the fixings, but it is not the end-all-be-all of the holiday. With it

becoming more expensive to simply exist, some people can't afford to enjoy a tryptophan coma, but that does not mean they should sit the holiday out. If anything, Thanksgiving is a celebration of hardship and overcoming difficulties.

For those stuck in a rut, giving thanks and holding the good things life close to heart is one of the best things to do. We get so caught up in our own lives and feelings, we take the good, solid aspects for granted. We should not abandon our annual reminder that our lives, all things considered, are pretty good. Life may have suckerpunched us a few too many times, but we've made it another year.

In the hurried hypercapitalist world we inhabit, a holiday emphasizing gratitude in overcoming hardship as a community bears more relevance now than ever before.

Thanksgiving's beauty lies in its simplicity; Families gathering to have a nice meal. It is simply a time to enjoy the company of others and express contentment with the blessings in one's life, particularly the people who make life special.



Illustration by WILLIAM NIES | *The Ranger*

## Black Friday farce falls flat

## EDITORIAL

On Nov. 8, in the year of our Lord 2023, Walmart inundated the masses with their supposed deals under the guise of Black Friday. What used to be a celebrated brick and mortar blood sport for the tenacious bargain warriors has become nothing more than a premature, milquetoast Cyber Monday.

Gladiators braving the cold waits and hot tempers of their brethren have been replaced by casual couch potatoes leisurely perusing the innerwebs and happening across a middling markdown.

There is no longer a point to having named delineated days when the whole affair has become an annual autumnal abomination of hokey holiday hooliganism beginning as soon as temperatures drop below 80 degrees.

Black Friday is no different from Cyber Monday, and both have been rendered misnomers as they have melded into a corporate conglomeration celebrating consumerism that lasts for months.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of limited time offers and flash deals, Thanksgiving is on the verge of being eradicated by corporate terminators whose mission is to seek out and destroy any holiday that stands between Christmas and world domination.

With Thanksgiving being reduced to a fraction of its former power, nothing stands between the onslaught of advertising screaming at the populace to do their holiday shopping now or they'll ruin Christmas for everyone and make baby Jesus cry.

This farcical facade of concern for the consumer is a pernicious pandering ploy playing on the pressure to have holiday plans signed, sealed and delivered in preceding July. In reality, the weeks that lie between Halloween and Thanksgiving were meant to be the calm before the storm of all the humbugging winter holidays.

A cessation of the borderline biblical flood of festive foolishness is necessary to protect the miniscule minutia of sincerity scarcely remaining in the traditional celebrations of the season.

For the love of all that is good and holy, keep true to the spirit of the season. Remain strong against the unceasing pressure to torpedo your savings account in the pursuit of happy holidays.

## Turkey, with a side of smallpox

## OPINION

**LANCE HOOPER**  
*Columnist*

Thanksgiving - I'm just not a big fan. What are we really celebrating? It's that one Holiday that has a lot of hype, big build up, hours in the kitchen, to end with everyone in a food coma by 2 p.m., and then everyone acts surprised when the Cowboys lose by 6 p.m. Of course, it's fun to gather with friends and family, but I can do that anytime throughout the year without drunk Uncle Pete.

Is the one time we landed on Plymouth Rock, invited the friendly Indigenous neighbors over for dinner and gifted them with blankets laced with smallpox cause for celebration? The original dinner conversation must have been like: "Hey, we have big plans for the neighborhood that don't include you, but we will eventually name a football team after you and celebrate giving you smallpox with a holiday called Thanksgiving."

Fun, food, friends and family, what could possibly go wrong? Give me a quick dine and dash at Cracker Barrel with some choice family members, minus the dry turkey, no giblets, add the chicken fried steak and cream gravy and I'm golden.

Some of my reasons for my take it or leave it, mostly leave it, unless pie is involved attitude with Thanksgiving include; stress and pressure, family issues, dietary restrictions, pressure to be grateful and finally traumatic association.

The stress and pressure of cooking a large meal, it's like if Thanksgiving were a video game it would be rated E for "Extreme Kitchen Chaos."

Then, there is the magic of family issues, drunk Uncle Pete that can make family dynamics interesting.

Like a Vegan at a barbecue, there are going to be some dietary restrictions and challenges arise via peanut or gluten allergies and the ever-popular diabetes.

There is also a more serious reason some may not like the holiday because it's associated with a negative or traumatic event. Not the time drunk Uncle Pete asked his girlfriend, Cheryl, to marry him and she said "no," but maybe the loss of a loved one. Yes, I have jokes, but it's important to recognize that people's feelings toward Thanksgiving can vary widely, and it's okay to have different perspectives on the holiday.

I think it's important to recognize what I don't enjoy about the holiday and make better decisions for the Holiday, like a reservation at Cracker Barrel with family conversations in the gift shop, games at the table while you wait for your food, dessert and coffee and you're done. Another Thanksgiving on the books, ladies and gentlemen, all while drunk Uncle Pete was at home confused at why the Cowboys lost again. We still love you, Pete.