

# For this we give THANKS ...

To help us celebrate Thanksgiving this year, we visited with four local business leaders and asked them to share what the holiday means to them personally and what will be special about this particular Nov. 28th. Here's what they said ...

**Mary Davis**, Owner, Anything Goes

Thanksgiving to me is a special day set aside to think about the awesome things in my life. It's a day to spend time with family and enjoy each other's company. It's a great time to enjoy a wonderful meal with family and friends. The traditions of making the perfect turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce and mashed potatoes can be stressful, but it all seems to be worth the craziness!

We have picked up dinner from a restaurant prior, and, yes, it's good, but not quite the same. (TRUE confessions: I was supposed to pick up the dinner at 5 p.m. on the day before Thanksgiving one year, and at 7 p.m., I remembered. That restaurant had closed for the day, so, as you can imagine, I will never hear the end of that!)

It feels like we have the same routine every year, crazy cooking, eating too much, napping, walking and chilling with family! I can't wait to get the board games out to play with grandkids and watch the parade. It's the calm before the storm of Christmas at Anything Goes!

**Jim Ross**, Attorney, Jim Ross Law Group, P.C.

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays of the year. It's the season of food, football, family and friends. As is the case for many, Thanksgiving provides an opportunity for me to reflect on the blessings I've been fortunate to receive.

I always thought I had found my greatest joy in my children – until I met my grandchildren. I'm sure every grandparent can relate. Enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with my children and grandchildren, seeing their smiles and experiencing their love as

they call you Papaw, makes life's troubles disappear.

As each year passes, Thanksgiving has also become a bit more introspective. As I watch my children raise their own children, I can't help but gain a greater perspective for all there is to be thankful for. My career and accomplishments pale in comparison to watching my son teach his daughter something new or the way my grandson's eyes light up for his Mama, my daughter.

The older I get, the more I realize that the legacy we leave behind is what really matters. My relationship with God, family, friends, co-workers and community is what I'm thankful for this Thanksgiving. It's that legacy that I think about on Thanksgiving, and that's what makes it a special day for me.

**Daryle Perez**, Director of Business Development, Alamo Title Co.

**Melisa Perez**, Owner, MaryLou's Coffee and Sandwich Shoppe

For us, Thanksgiving is the time of year where we put aside the busyness of life and take a moment to focus on the importance of family and friends. Being a blended family with four children, we've made adjustments for our children to visit their other parents and make the





rounds on Thanksgiving Day. Rather than having us be a stop on a busy day, we've moved our Thanksgiving to Friday instead. Moving our gathering to Friday gives us the opportunity to enjoy Thursday alone, take in the Cowboy game without having to fight off the sleepiness from the turkey and look forward to Friday when our home is full again with family and laughter.

As empty nesters, we are thankful for having everyone together, back in our home, as we prepare for our afternoon

lunch. Although the meal is important, it's the small family traditions that we've carried on and have created with our children that create the memories we reflect on each year. Our daughters prepare the pies, each one having their specialty, and pridefully bring them over to display for us to admire before they top off our meal. Melisa is putting the final touches on our meal as our family arrives just in time to watch the turkey come out of the oven. We enjoy the chatter and the simultaneous conversations of catching up on our lives, the shared memories of our loved ones who have passed and the laughter to our children's confessions about mischief from when they were young.

What we are most thankful for is the opportunity for us to place God in the middle of our family as we share what precious time we have together. To thank Him for the health and well-being of our children, our family, and our friends. We're thankful for our businesses and being blessed to provide for ourselves and the ability to give to others.

As strange as it may sound, we're especially thankful for the struggles we've endured and overcome and the lessons those struggles have taught us so that we remain grounded in each other. **A**



**"THANKSGIVING** to me is a special day set aside to think about all the awesome things in my life. It's a day to spend time with family and enjoy each other's company."

**– Mary Davis**

**"ENJOYING** Thanksgiving with my children and grandchildren, seeing their smiles and experiencing their love as they call you Papaw, makes life's troubles disappear."

**– Jim Ross**



**"WHAT WE** are most thankful for is the opportunity for us to place God in the middle of our family as we share precious time we have together."

**– Daryle Perez and Melisa Perez**