

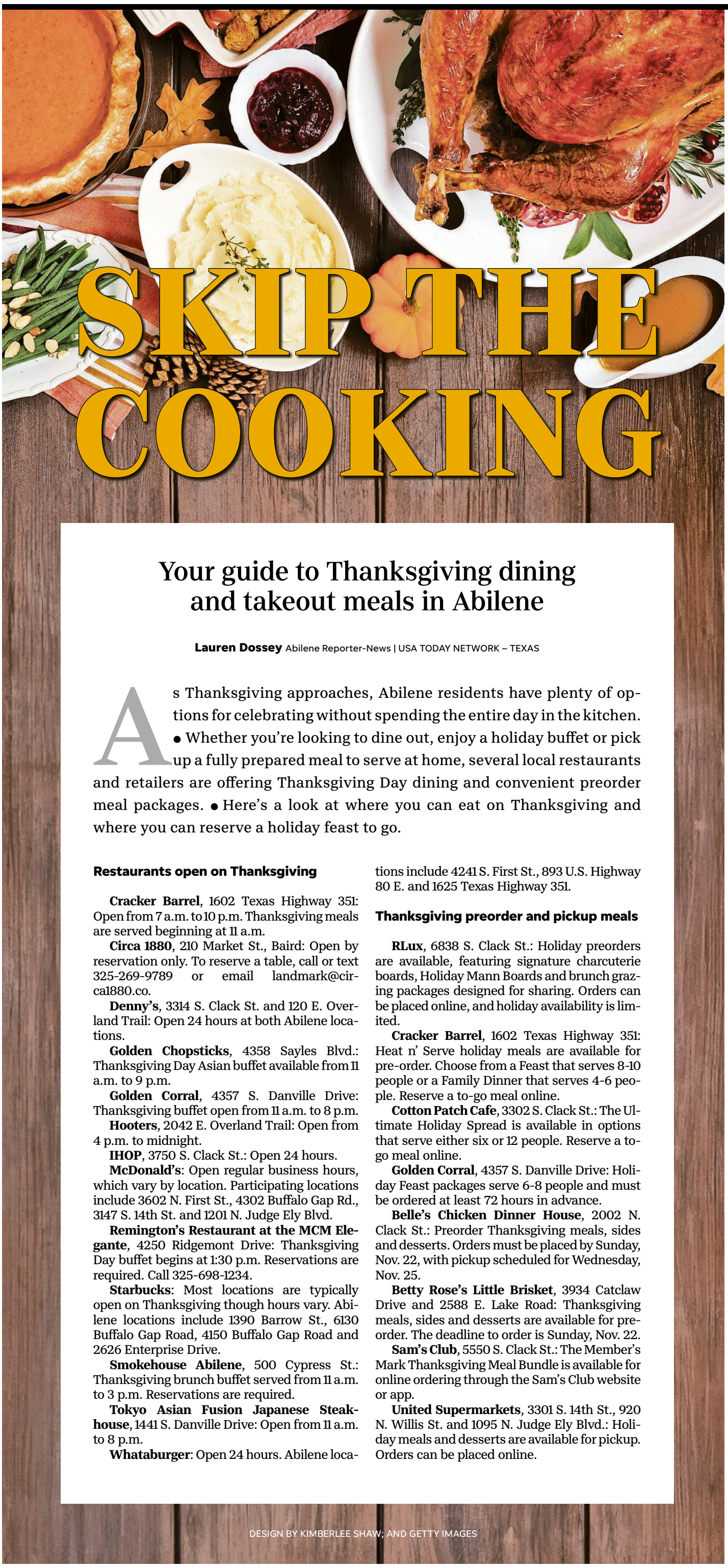
## Avoid overspending on holiday gifts

INSIDE, 4A

Abilene Reporter-News WEEKEND

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026 | REPORTERNEWS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



# SKIP THE COOKING

## Your guide to Thanksgiving dining and takeout meals in Abilene

**Lauren Dossey** Abilene Reporter-News | USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

As Thanksgiving approaches, Abilene residents have plenty of options for celebrating without spending the entire day in the kitchen. • Whether you're looking to dine out, enjoy a holiday buffet or pick up a fully prepared meal to serve at home, several local restaurants and retailers are offering Thanksgiving Day dining and convenient preorder meal packages. • Here's a look at where you can eat on Thanksgiving and where you can reserve a holiday feast to go.

### Restaurants open on Thanksgiving

**Cracker Barrel**, 1602 Texas Highway 351: Open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thanksgiving meals are served beginning at 11 a.m.

**Circa 1880**, 210 Market St., Baird: Open by reservation only. To reserve a table, call or text 325-269-9789 or email landmark@circa1880.co.

**Denny's**, 3314 S. Clack St. and 120 E. Overland Trail: Open 24 hours at both Abilene locations.

**Golden Chopsticks**, 4358 Sayles Blvd.: Thanksgiving Day Asian buffet available from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Golden Corral**, 4357 S. Danville Drive: Thanksgiving buffet open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Hooters**, 2042 E. Overland Trail: Open from 4 p.m. to midnight.

**IHOP**, 3750 S. Clack St.: Open 24 hours.

**McDonald's**: Open regular business hours, which vary by location. Participating locations include 3602 N. First St., 4302 Buffalo Gap Rd., 3147 S. 14th St. and 1201 N. Judge Ely Blvd.

**Remington's Restaurant at the MCM Elegante**, 4250 Ridgemont Drive: Thanksgiving Day buffet begins at 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Call 325-698-1234.

**Starbucks**: Most locations are typically open on Thanksgiving though hours vary. Abilene locations include 1390 Barrow St., 6130 Buffalo Gap Road, 4150 Buffalo Gap Road and 2626 Enterprise Drive.

**Smokehouse Abilene**, 500 Cypress St.: Thanksgiving brunch buffet served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reservations are required.

**Tokyo Asian Fusion Japanese Steakhouse**, 1441 S. Danville Drive: Open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Whataburger**: Open 24 hours. Abilene locations include 4241 S. First St., 893 U.S. Highway 80 E. and 1625 Texas Highway 351.

### Thanksgiving preorder and pickup meals

**RLux**, 6838 S. Clack St.: Holiday preorders are available, featuring signature charcuterie boards, Holiday Mann Boards and brunch grazing packages designed for sharing. Orders can be placed online, and holiday availability is limited.

**Cracker Barrel**, 1602 Texas Highway 351: Heat n' Serve holiday meals are available for pre-order. Choose from a Feast that serves 8-10 people or a Family Dinner that serves 4-6 people. Reserve a to-go meal online.

**Cotton Patch Cafe**, 3302 S. Clack St.: The Ultimate Holiday Spread is available in options that serve either six or 12 people. Reserve a to-go meal online.

**Golden Corral**, 4357 S. Danville Drive: Holiday Feast packages serve 6-8 people and must be ordered at least 72 hours in advance.

**Belle's Chicken Dinner House**, 2002 N. Clack St.: Preorder Thanksgiving meals, sides and desserts. Orders must be placed by Sunday, Nov. 22, with pickup scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 25.

**Betty Rose's Little Brisket**, 3934 Catclaw Drive and 2588 E. Lake Road: Thanksgiving meals, sides and desserts are available for preorder. The deadline to order is Sunday, Nov. 22.

**Sam's Club**, 5550 S. Clack St.: The Member's Mark Thanksgiving Meal Bundle is available for online ordering through the Sam's Club website or app.

**United Supermarkets**, 3301 S. 14th St., 920 N. Willis St. and 1095 N. Judge Ely Blvd.: Holiday meals and desserts are available for pickup. Orders can be placed online.

DESIGN BY KIMBERLEE SHAW; AND GETTY IMAGES

## Texas Tech looks to add 40 weather stations

**Mateo Rosiles**
USA TODAY NETWORK

After the deadly July 2025 floods — including the one at Camp Mystic — in the Hill Country, Texas Tech is developing a weather monitoring and forecasting system to prevent such a tragedy in the future.

On Nov. 17, Texas Tech President Lawrence Schovanec announced plans to expand the West Texas Mesonet and advanced radar capabilities into the Texas Hill Country for real-time weather observations.

"We are grateful to our state leaders for recognizing the importance of this investment and for their confidence in Texas Tech. Our researchers have decades of experience studying severe weather and developing technologies that serve communities across our state," Schovanec said.

The expansion is funded by a $24 million investment from the State of Texas following the devastating July 2025 Central Texas floods that killed over 130 people, according to the university.

Texas Tech is also working in collaboration with Dell Technologies, which gifted the university a high-performance computing cluster with servers, networking, and storage capabilities, allowing the university to run a suite of Texas-focused advanced weather forecast models.

It will also allow Texas Tech to process and analyze the growing volume of weather information generated by the expanded system, creating an integrated weather intelligence system aimed at providing the state with one of the nation's most comprehensive systems for observing and predicting

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Volume 147 | Issue 106
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