MARSHALL, TEXAS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

# Slew of new state laws take effect today

### Changes affect ivermectin access, STAAR tests, bathrooms and more

BY ELEANOR DEARMAN Fort Worth Star-Telegram

islative session earlier this is under court review. year take effect on Dec. 4, The U.S. Supreme Court the midterms, especially to medications.

Here's what to know.

#### Texas congressional redistricting

ficially takes effect on Dec. new map to be used as the redistricting. Another new 4, though whether it was litigation continues. drawn in a way that's rapassed during a special leg- the 2026 midterm elections ing to see which boundaries

governing things such as is weighing whether the since candidate filing for the STAAR test and access new congressional bound- the March Democratic and used for the election after es Dec. 8. the state appealed a lower court ruling that blocked the 2025 map from taking Texas' new congressio- Justice Samuel Alito is quorum to try and block

are ultimately in place for

#### Stay tuned!

effect for 2026 elections. House Democrats broke nal map (House Bill 4) of-temporarily allowing the mid-decade congressional

law, House Bill 18, limits Texans, the rest of the the ability of lawmakers cially discriminatory and country and 2026 congres- who break quorum to ac-More than a dozen laws whether it can be used for sional prospects are watch- cept political contributions.

### **Abortion medication** access

House Bill 7 allows a peraries or old ones should be Republican primaries clos- son to sue someone who manufactures, prescribes or distributes "abortion-inducing" drugs in a state

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On a related note: Most where abortion access is al- Ivermectin, an anti-parasitic drug commonly used for livestock but gaining in popularity for human ailments, is now available from Texas pharmacies without a prescription under legislation passed earlier this year. (Dreamstime/TNS)

# THE CHRISTMAS STORY

### Churches across East Texas plan live Nativity events open to public



Actors are seen in December 2020 during Forest Home Baptist Church's drive-thru Nativity in Kilgore. This year's event is Dec. 11-13. (Michael Cavazos/ Longview News-Journal File Photo)

Marshall News Messenger Staff

hurches throughout East Texas will celebrate the birth of Christ by hosting live Nativity events in December. From Marshall, Longview, Tyler, Carthage and everywhere in between, here's what you need to know about the churches reenacting the birth of Christ this Christ-

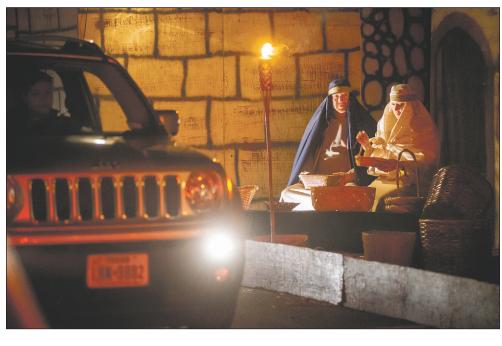
Events are open to the public.

### Marshall Cumberland Presbyterian, Marshall

Marshall Cumberland Presbyterian Church will hold the "Walk to Bethlehem" from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 13 and 14.

The "progressive, live Nativity" takes visitors on a tour by lantern light. Visitors will have a guided walk through five scenes

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## **Marshall** man faces federal drug, gun charges

News Messenger Staff

A Marshall man has been arrested on federal warrants related to drug and gun crimes, according to the Harrison County Sheriff's Office.

Lawrence Siford, 63, was arrested Tuesday after investigation by the Joint Harrison Violent Crimes and Narcotics



Lawrence Siford

Task Force and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

He was held Wednesday in the Harrison County Jail on a U.S. Marshals Service detainer.

Law enforcement executed a search warrant Tuesday at Siford's residence on FM 2625 in Marshall.

Siford was wanted on three federal warrants: conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine; felon in possession of a firearm; and use, carrying, and possession of a firearm during, in relation to and in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

"During the execution of the federal arrest warrants task force investigators developed probable cause for a search warrant for the residence, which yielded a large quantity of methamphetamine and multiple firearms," the sheriff's office said.

The arrest led to the seizure of 280 grams of methamphetamine and 29 firearms, many of which had been reported stolen.

"The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas," the sheriff's office said.

**VOL. 146** NO. 248



\$3.00

Showers.

A high of 45, and a low of 36.

For a seven-day forecast, see page 5A.

**TODAY'S WEATHER** 

### INSIDE

ETBU's Mosley wins Elite Scholar-Athlete award at NCAA Division III Volleyball Championship. Page 4A



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