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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025

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DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

Arp set for state quarterfinal game

SPORTS, 1B

Data: Many Tyler areas lack childcare

LEEZA MEYER

Standing in front of a crowd of 13 women in childchallenges East Texan child- tour embarked on a 12-city opment Board report. care facilities face.

ate director of education at and connect local stakehold- "There's families that can't by an area with 30 children to 7% of an individual's in-Children at Risk, a nonprofit ers in conversations about find care and some places under the age of six where come, but with rising costs,

tour to showcase the latest

dren, made their last stop on through a data presentation learn." the organization's "Fall 2025 and small workshop. The care careers, Kim Kofron Texas Tour" at the down-tour's observations will be answered questions and en- town Tyler Area Chamber used in Children at Risk's gaged in conversation about of Commerce on Nov. 20. The new Local Workforce Devel-

organization that researches triumphs and challenges aren't open so we use these the demand is three times working parents now spend and advocates for Texas chil- providers currently face different opportunities to greater than the supply. Lu- 15 to 50% of their income on

Horning Telegraph

OVERALL DATA

year there are 39 Tyler-area care deserts for low income about what's happening in zip codes classified as child-families. "There's been so much care deserts, areas with in-Kim Kofron, senior direc- data on childcare deserts, good work, but there's so sufficient childcare options mended spending on child- what is happening on paper tor, and Lyn Lucas, associ- early childcare education much left to do," Kofron said. to meet demand, measured care should be less or equal is actually what's happening

cas said one in 10 children childcare. live in Texas with 2.3 million

"Children at Risk's cataunder the age of six and 40% lyst of change is we look at The data revealed this of Texas zip codes are child- the data and the research the state and then we go out Lucas said the recom- in the community to see if

DATA >> PAGE 5A

Rotary donates \$100K to UTT

South Tyler club's gift will help medical, nursing students pursue career paths

LEEZA MEYER

Standing in front of a crowd of Rotarians in her white lab coat, Mariam Abeje said before she even applied to medical school, the fear of college debt loomed in front of her career dreams potentially changing the course of her decisions. But because of a scholarship to attend The University of Tyler School of Medicine, all of that changed.

"You hear a lot about the amount of debt that you graduate with and how it ionows you throughout your life, and the financial burden was a constant source of anxiety for me and for my family," said Abeje, a thirdyear medical student at UT Tyler School of Medicine. "I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship and this scholarship was more than just financial relief, it was a profound validation and signaled that my hard work and potential was recognized and that my dream was within reach now."

The South Tyler Rotary Club, through its foundation, presented a \$100,000 grant to UT Tyler School of Medicine and UT Tyler School of Nursing for student scholarships next school year during their weekly meeting Monday at

DONATES >> PAGE 5A



Community members drive through to view a live Nativity scene in Kilgore in 2020. (Tyler Morning Telegraph File)

Story Comes to Life

Churches across East Texas plan live Nativity events

JORDAN GREEN

hurches throughout East Texas will celebrate the birth of Christ by hosting live Nativity events in December.

From Tyler, Longview, Marshall, Carthage and everywhere in between, here's what you need to know about the churches reenacting the birth of Christ this Christmas.

Events are open to the public.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, **WHITEHOUSE**

First Baptist Church in Whitehouse will hold its "Drive through Bethlehem" from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 7 and 8 at 801 E. Main St.

The drive-thru event

will include eight narrated scenes, including a Bethlehem market; Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus in the stable with live animals; King Herod and the three wise men; and more. All who attend will receive a free cookie.

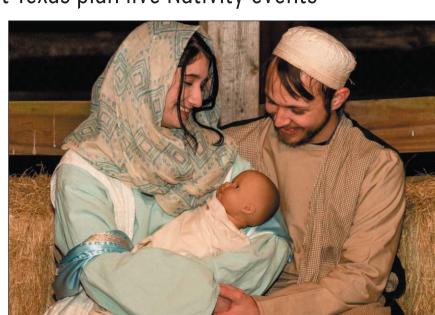
MT. SYLVAN BAPTIST CHURCH, TYLER/LINDALE

Mt. Sylvan Baptist Church will hold the "Journey to Bethlehem" live drive-thru nativity from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 18, 19 and 20.

The event will be at 13073 Texas Hwy 110 N., Tyler.

> **WEST LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHANDLER**

CHURCHES >> PAGE 3A



Emily Snider (left) and Codi Arndt, portraying Mary and Joseph, rock a baby doll, representing baby Jesus Christ, in their arms in a manger during rehearsal for a live Nativity reenactment at West Lake Baptist Church on Dec. 11, 2019, in Chandler. (Tyler Morning Telegraph File)

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"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." (Romans 1:16)

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