



GARY



VanDeaver

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

House District 1 - Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River counties  
District & Capitol Report - 85th Legislature  
November 2017



**Wadley Regional Medical Center earns formal recognition.** The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) informed my office that Wadley Regional Medical Center recently received a *Neonatal Designation Award*. Neonatal designation is a formal recognition of a hospital’s neonatal care capabilities and commitment to excellence that exceed minimum hospital licensure requirements. Wadley Regional Medical Center earned a Level II Designation – Special Care Nursery. This designation, which is valid for three years, shows the facility’s dedication to improving, expediting, and standardizing the care of neonatal patients. Thank you Wadley for your commitment to and special care of newborns!

**Around the District. Eagle Scout Court of Honor.**

Earlier this month, I was pleased to attend the Eagle Scout Court for Aaron Michael Mahlstedt from Clarksville.



Aaron joins two million other young men who

have earned this designation since 1912. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts eventually earn the prestigious honor of Eagle Scout. Congratulations Aaron!

**Texas PTA Award.** The Texas PTA recently named me as a member of their *Legislative Honor Roll* for work done in the 85th legislative session on behalf of our public schools. I appreciate the recognition and look forward to working on behalf of our public schools and their students in the future.

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Helen Warwick, member of TX PTA's State Advocacy Committee, presents Rep. VanDeaver the TX PTA Honor Roll Award.

**Scholarship opportunity.** The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Engineering Scholarship's Conditional Grant Program is available to eligible students pursuing a degree in civil engineering or in a TxDOT-approved operational business discipline. The Conditional Grant Program considers students at public and private four-year institutions in Texas. Students accepted into the program receive up to \$3,000 per semester or \$6,000 per academic year for tuition, based on financial need. The application and program rules are available at [www.TxDOT.gov](http://www.TxDOT.gov) or 1-866-554-4330. Please note the application deadline is March 1, 2018.

**Luminant Lamar County tour.** I recently toured the Luminant facility in Paris and spoke to a group of their employees at lunch. The tour guides included plant manager, Patrick Cade Hay, and plant employee, Charles Koudelka. It was a great chance to recognize partnerships between business and government.



Rep. VanDeaver tours the Luminant Power Plant in Paris, TX

**Around the Capitol. Voters approve all proposed constitutional amendments.** Only about six percent of Texas voters statewide went to the polls on Election Day earlier this month that was a five-point drop in voter turnout from 2015, which was the last time Texans voted on proposed constitutional amendments. There were seven proposed amendments on the November 7, ballot and all were easily approved with at least 60 percent of Texans agreeing with the amendments. With these seven amendments, the Texas Constitution has been amended 498 times since its initial adoption in 1876; here is a link:

<http://www.tlc.texas.gov/docs/amendments/Constamend1876.pdf> to all amendments through 2015. Here is a link to this year's amendments: [http://www.tlc.texas.gov/const\\_amends](http://www.tlc.texas.gov/const_amends); and, here is a link to the state's constitution: <https://tarltonapps.law.utexas.edu/constitutions/texas1876>.

**Higher Education in Texas.** The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) recently adopted a new strategic plan, *60 x 30TX*, to increase the number of Texans with higher levels of post-secondary education achievement. Its specific goal is that by 2030, 60 percent of Texans aged 25-34 will have a certificate or degree. One of the tools developed by the THECB to support the *60 x 30 TX* initiative is an interactive map to show education levels of Texas residents, aged 25-34, are distributed across the state. This tool can help Texas employers know where there are talent pools and potential market opportunities. Here is a link: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/map/attainment/>.

**Texas Historical Commission.** Texas has a vast network of individuals and organizations dedicated to protecting and preserving its historic places. The Real Places 2018 conference brings these

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communities together to focus on preserving, revitalizing, and experiencing the Texas mystique. The Real Places is presented by the Texas Historical Commission(THC) partnership with the Friends of the THC, Texas Heritage Trails Regions, and Texas Land Title Association. Registration is now open for the THC January 10-12 conference in Austin. Featured speakers include noted Texas writer Joe Nick Patoski, preservation economist Donovan Rypkema, social preservationist Dr. Andrea Roberts, and preservation anarchist Franklin Vagnone. Entertainment will be provided by the legendary Ray Benson (of Asleep at the Wheel) and the Peterson Brothers. If you would like more information or would like to register online you may follow the below link:  
<http://www.thcfriends.org/real-places-2018>.

**Managing Someone Else's Money.** AARP and the Texas Appleseed Project have joined forces to develop a financial user guide to help family members responsible for caring for others no longer able to care for themselves. This recently updated guide book includes statutory changes in elder law made earlier this year. If you or a loved one are responsible for managing someone else's financial assets, this guide can offer useful information to ensure those assets are protected. Here is a link: <http://protecttheirmoneytx.org/>.

**Deadly Texas roads.** The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) issued a statement on November 7, saying that "at least one person has died on Texas roadways every day since November 7, 2000." In an effort to stop this deadly record, TxDOT unveiled its "End The Streak Texas Campaign" to remind drivers to stay alert, obey traffic laws and take personal responsibility behind the wheel. Over the last 17 years, 59,388 have died on Texas roads. Please don't add to this deadly statistic by making sure to stay alert and remember

that there is now a statewide texting and driving ban that took effect in September, so keep your hands on the steering wheel and eyes on the road!

**Thanksgiving wishes.** As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving later this week, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for my family, friends and constituents who I work hard to serve every day. I am blessed to live and work in our part of Texas where we care about and help one another to be the best that we can possibly be. I wish you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving and hope that you can spend this joyful time with family, friends and neighbors. And, as you travel this holiday, please remember safe driving tips to end the deadly streak of highway deaths in Texas.



**My office is here to help.** I thank each of you for letting me serve you as your state representative. Please contact either the District office (903-628-0361) or Capitol office (512-463-0692) if there is anything you think we can do to help you.

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