



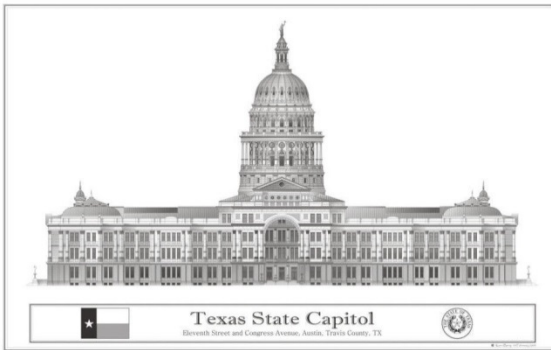
GARY



VanDeaver

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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



for the beautiful design that represents House District 1!

Franklin County Airport awarded funding. The Texas Transportation Commission met on December 14, and awarded \$139,000 of federal funding to Franklin County so it can make lighting improvements at the Franklin County Airport. The county is responsible for contributing \$15,500 in local matching funds.

Travels this month. This month I have had the privilege of attending several events in HD 1 including the Paris Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon with state Senator Bryan Hughes (SD 1 - Mineola); Leadership Texarkana; and a visit with the Texarkana Teenage Republicans of Texas High School.

Around the District. Creator of Christmas ornament comes to Austin. As I announced in October, the artwork of Natalie Robinson, a fifth grader from Redwater Elementary School, was chosen to be replicated on a Christmas ornament to hang on the tree in the Chamber of the Texas House of Representatives.



Natalie, her mom and grandmother visited the Texas Capitol on December 15, to see her ornament hang on this year's tree. Again, thanks Natalie



Pictured l-r, Senator Hughes, Mihir Pankaj with the Paris Hampton Inn and Rep. VanDeaver.

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New Boston High School UIL Congress in Austin. On December 1, students from New Boston High School were in Austin to participate in the 7th Annual Capitol Congressional Debate Contest to prepare for their state competition. I appreciated the students and their teacher for stopping by my office. Good luck to you all in your upcoming debate contests!



The students pictured above with Rep. VanDeaver include: Bailey Rhodes, Joshua Foster, Mason Reid, Benjamin Willis and McKenzie Mitchell.

Around the Capitol. Gone to Texas: Migration. Texas history buffs are familiar with Davy Crockett's "Gone to Texas" quote in 1836 after his last Congressional election that said:

"In my last canvass, I told the people of my district, that, if they saw fit to re-elect me, I would serve them faithfully as I had done; but, if not, they might all go to h---, and I would go to Texas. I was beaten, gentlemen, and here I am."ⁱⁱ

The October 2017 *Fiscal Notes*, a monthly publication of the comptroller's office, examines population growth and migration patterns within Texas and from other states to Texas. Crockett would feel right at home in Texas today along with the millions of other people who have "gone to Texas." Texas's population growth has outpaced the United States' growth for the last 120 years. Texas's population grew by 2.7 million between 2010 and 2016, and it is expected to be close to 60

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million people by 2050, up from the estimated 27 million people today. As the *Fiscal Notes* article says, this growth "brings with it skyrocketing demand for water, housing, transportation, schools and jobs." Unfortunately, the growth seems to be bypassing rural counties that are also "losing residents to the metropolitan areas" and are experiencing "their own challenges, such as access to health care, teacher shortages and inadequate local government revenues." Here is a link to the full article:

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2017/october/migration.php#article>.

Tax deduction for tree loss. The Texas A&M Forest Service recently publicized that property owners may be able to deduct eligible tree losses on their federal income taxes. It said that "timber or landscape trees destroyed by hurricane, fire, earthquake, ice, hail, tornadoes or other storms are casualty losses" and may qualify for the tax deduction. In qualifying for the deduction, you will have to determine your "basis" in the timber property, and different rules apply if the property was purchased, gifted or inherited. Please consult with a tax advisor for more information.

SATOP: Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program.

This state program uses expertise and technology developed in the United States' aerospace program to help private sector Texas businesses solve technical problems inhibiting the development of a new or improved product. SATOP has helped more than 800 businesses across the state. Their areas of expertise include materials, electronics, mechanical systems and various other engineering disciplines. For more information, visit www.spacetechnolutions.com.

2018 Adopt-A-Beach art contest. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) has opened its annual art contest for students in K-6 grades that encourage students to learn about the Texas coast and submit artwork for the agency's 2019 calendar. There will be 40 winners chosen who will receive a ticket to the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi, a ticket to the Houston Zoo, two all-day passes to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels, a certificate of recognition and a calendar displaying the

winning artwork. For more information and contest guidelines on the "Treasures of the Texas Coast" 2018 Children's Art Contest, please contact the General Land Office at 1-877-TXCOAST or visit our website at TexasAdoptABeach.org.

Sales tax revenue rebounding; budgetary cautions issued. After the slump in state sales tax revenue that began in 2015, due to falling prices for oil and gas products and related services, the comptroller's office reported earlier this month a healthy rebound in collection of sales taxes. Comptroller Glenn Hegar released a report stating that this year's November sales tax collection was 11.1 percent more than in November 2016, with \$2.8 billion collected last month. Despite this bit of good economic news, officials with the comptroller's office have cautioned that the budget picture faced by legislators in 2019, will be very tight due to unknown and ongoing costs associated with Hurricane Harvey and some of the budgetary measures used to balance the current state budget for 2018-19, that shifted some costs to fiscal year 2020. Lawmakers will face passing a multi-billion dollar supplemental appropriations bill early in the 86th legislative session that convenes in January 2019.

Good for Texas tour. Comptroller Hegar and his office recently completed an in-depth study of manufacturing in the state, which is a very important sector of our economy. As the comptroller said, "it's a common belief that manufacturing is on the decline in our state and our nation. That's just not true; the real story is more complex. Manufacturing *employment* has declined, as new methods and new technologies make the processes involved ever more efficient. But manufacturing is more important to the Texas economy than ever. Its contributions to the gross state product rose by 98 percent between 1997 and 2016, and totaled \$226 billion in 2016 — an amount larger than the entire economy of Portugal."

The report highlights how important current educational trends focusing on STEM (science - technology - engineering - math) education are in manufacturing because it "is largely a high-tech affair." In 2016,

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average pay for Texas manufacturers was nearly \$74,000, much higher than the average statewide wage of \$54,000. There are 858,000 jobs in the Texas manufacturing industry, and it supports another 2.2 million Texas jobs. For more information about this important part of the Texas economy, check out this report at the [Good for Texas Tour: Manufacturing Edition website](#).

DPS: Give the Gift of Safe Travel. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding drivers that by staying sober and following basic traffic laws, they can give their fellow motorists the gift of safe travels this season. In an effort to increase safety on Texas roadways, DPS Troopers will conduct traffic



patrols throughout the holiday weekends of Dec. 24 – 27 and Dec. 31 – Jan. 1, looking for drunk drivers, speeders, seat belt violators and other dangerous drivers. Many local law enforcement agencies will also increase enforcement efforts over the holidays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! My family and I want to wish you and your family a blessed Merry

Christmas this year and hope all the best for you and your family in 2018!

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.

ⁱ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gone_to_Texas