

State Representative Gary VanDeaver

87th Legislature
Bowie | Franklin | Lamar | Red River



HD 1

87th Legislature Report - House District 1 Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River Counties December 2021

Regional Advisory Committee/TASA Study Group Meeting at Region 8 Education Service Center. On December 1st, we began the month at a meeting for superintendents across Northeast Texas. There we heard from TAMU- Texarkana about teacher career pathways from universities to school districts, and about the struggles rural schools face in the state system, along with various updates from nearly a dozen area superintendents.



Rep. VanDeaver handing out calendars at Paris Junior College.

New 2022 Calendars. Every year we order beautiful Capitol calendars full of detailed images from around the Texas Capitol complex and information about the history and government of Texas. This year we drove around passing these calendars out at school districts, courthouses, and other public offices.

If you would like a calendar, please drop by in person to the New Boston District Office at the Bowie County Courthouse! Available on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last, so please call before stopping by.

Superintendents Meet and Greet. In early December, I met up with some superintendents in the newly redrawn House District 1's new counties (Cass and Morris) at a local hot spot, Big Daddy's Rear of the Steer, in Omaha, TX. We talked about important issues such as teacher shortages, the accountability system, the reading academies, and the struggles faced by rural schools.



Jackie Smith of Avinger ISD; Sarah Dildine of Hughes Springs ISD; Melissa Reid of Pewitt CISD; Rep. VanDeaver; and David Fitts, Region 8 ESC Director.

Christmas Town Hall & Shoes and Socks Drive Recap. Thank you to those who attended our event and to those who donated shoes and socks for the Boys and Girls Club of the Red River Valley! We delivered several boxes full of items to Club President Montgomery Moore.

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President of the Boys and Girls Club of the Red River Valley, Mr. Montgomery Moore, and Rep. VanDeaver with donations.

Though few were able to attend the Sunday afternoon event, those who did asked great questions and participated in deep discussions. We look forward to hosting our **next town hall on January 11th, 2022, at the Texarkana College Patman Room from 5 - 6:30 pm.** We will be offering refreshments, a few small prizes, lots of take-home resources, a short presentation, and an open floor for questions. We hope to see you there!

Hanging the HD 1 Ornament. As we mentioned in our previous letter, our own Miller Hornsby of Texarkana, Texas, painted the House District 1 Christmas Ornament this year. We were happy to hang it up on the towering Christmas tree on display in the Texas Chamber.



Legislative Aide Miller Hornsby of Texarkana, and Rep. VanDeaver with HD 1 Ornament in the House Chamber.

Annual Texas Association of Mid-Sized Schools (TAMS)/Texas Association of Rural Schools (TARS)/ Moak-Casey & Associates (MCA) Legislative Conference. On December 9, 2021, I was honored to serve on a panel with other state representatives to discuss how legislators work together to help small and mid-sized schools in Texas at the TAMS/TARS Annual Legislative Conference. The panel was moderated by *Texas Tribune* CEO, Evan Smith.



Representatives VanDeaver, Mary Gonzalez, Dan Huberty, Donna Howard, and Texas Tribune Moderator Evan Smith, at the Annual Legislative Conference.

Second Meeting of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance. On December 13, 2021, the Commission held its second meeting to discuss declining enrollments and population; the disconnect between taxing districts and enrollment; and changing student demographics, among many other important issues. The Commission's next meeting will be January 18, 2022, in Austin.



Rep. VanDeaver in Austin for the Texas Commission on Community College Finance December meeting, listening to invited testimony.

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Rep. VanDeaver at Texarkana City Hall for the Leadership Texarkana Class of 2022.

Leadership Texarkana. On December 14, I had the privilege to speak at the Leadership Texarkana Class of 2022 at the Texarkana City Hall. We discussed the legislature and opened the floor to questions from participants. This is a wonderful program, and I was very happy to be able to participate.



Clarksville Main Square, Clarksville, Texas. December 1, 2021.

Northeast Texas Trail (NETT) Update. Local governments and coalitions of local citizens have been actively seeking grant funding to build up and improve the Northeast Texas Trail that runs through Lamar, Red River, and Bowie counties. We were recently informed that the Texas Transportation Commission approved of over \$7.4 million earmarked for this type of development to

be granted to Bowie and Red River counties and their trail projects. When the trail is complete, it will be the longest trail in the state of Texas and the fourth longest trail in the country. It will also be responsible for future positive economic impacts to the rural communities it includes. We congratulate these local governments for advocating for their citizens and their future generations - Bowie County, the City of Avery, Red River County, and the City of Clarksville.



Railroad Commission (RRC) Implements Major Rule for Energy Emergencies. On November 30, RRC commissioners adopted a final rule on critical designation of natural gas infrastructure. Rule 3.65 is a major step to help fortify the state's energy supply chain. The rule is part of the agency's ongoing work implementing Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 3648 passed by the legislature in response to Winter Storm Uri. Rule 3.65 defines facilities that will be designated critical gas suppliers and critical customers, as well as information operators need to file in order to ensure the supply of natural gas during weather emergencies. RRC staff reviewed comments to proposed rules from the public and energy and electricity industry stakeholders before final rules were adopted. Read more about the

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rule and comments from our commissioners.

<https://www.rrc.texas.gov/news/113021-critical-infrastructure/>



Know a student interested in cyber security?

Registration for @CyberStartUSA is open for high school students in TX! Students can

develop their cybersecurity skills by tackling unique security challenges, all while competing for scholarship opportunities. Register now www.cyberstartamerica.org.



Want to work from home? The Texas Workforce Commission has partnered with @Metrix Learning to give you work from home skills

with FREE online courses! Go here: www.tx.metrixlearning.com/info.



Trimming the tree? Be safe! The Texas Department of Emergency Management would like to remind you to place your tree at least three feet

away from a heat source. You should also water it daily to prevent it from drying out and causing a fire. Please also ensure your smoke detectors work, keep a fire extinguisher nearby, and inspect your lights

for exposed wires. Remember to turn your lights off!



December Sales

Tax. On December 8, 2021, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced that he will send cities, counties, transit systems and

special purpose taxing districts \$936 million in local sales tax allocations for December, which is 18.4 percent more than in December 2020. These allocations are based on sales made in October by businesses that report tax monthly.



A Christmas Message. Like many of you, I love the Christmas season for lots of reasons. For me, with the craziness of my schedule and state commitments, it is the one time a year that I get to see my extended family all together in one place. Looking back on Christmases past, it's been interesting to experience the changes that the season brings to family. As a child I would go to my grandparents' house for Christmas in Fulbright, Red River County, and then as a young adult I would go to my parents' house in Clarksville, and now as a grandfather myself, I host everyone in my home in New Boston, TX. This Christmas, one of my daughters is pregnant with our first grandson, and so we are praying for a

safe delivery and healthy mother and child. This is also a time to remember and celebrate another mother and child, and I hope that everyone can come to know that child and his love for them. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Social Media. Please follow me on both my Facebook and Twitter accounts! As a reminder, I never engage the public through Facebook comments. Please contact me through either of my offices with any questions or concerns.

My offices are here to help. Thank you for letting me serve you as your state representative. Please contact the District office at (903) 628-0361, the Capitol office at (512) 463-0692, or via email at district1.vandeaver@house.texas.gov, if there is anything you think we can do to assist you. As a reminder, we will be operating on a reduced schedule between December 20 - 31st.

New House District Map. As we explained in earlier e-newsletters, House District 1 has been changed to reflect its loss in population since the last census. We gained two counties, Cass and Morris, and we lost one, Franklin. The new district map is printed here. If you have questions about which district you are in, you can visit the *Who Represents Me?* page online. This site will take your home address and then inform you of your elected state and US officials, as well as link you to their contact

pages on various government websites.
Link: <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>.

