



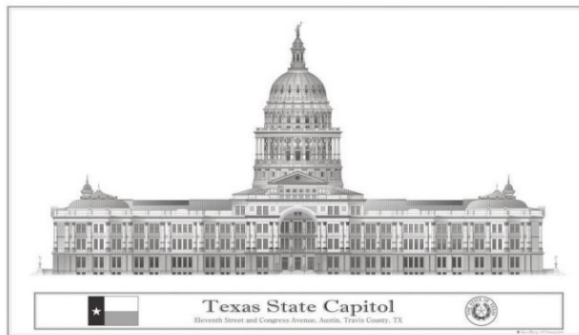
GARY

VanDeaver

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



House District 1 - Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River counties  
District & Capitol Report - 85th Legislature  
July 2018



seventh year and another session of the certificate program starts in October 2018. I was very impressed with their operation, and I wish the graduates the very best.

**Changing of the Guard.** Last week, I attended the changing of the guard ceremony at RRAD as they welcomed a new leader and said goodbye to outgoing commander Col. Jason Carrico. The new commander at RRAD is Col. Stephen York who previously served as director for the Training Management Directorate, Army Combined Arms Center in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



l-r: Maj. Gen. Daniel Mitchell, commanding general of the US Army Tank--Automotive and Armaments Command; Col. Carrico and Col. York.

**Around the District. RRAD Logistics Management**



Graduates and attendees at the RRAD logistics management graduation ceremony.

**Certificate Program graduation.** On July 12, I had the pleasure of speaking to the 13 graduates of the Red River Army Depot (RRAD) Logistics Management Certificate program.

Students earn 12-semester hours of college credit through this program offered in partnership with Texas A&M-Texarkana that allows students to gain a broad-based perspective of logistics to aid them in achieving optimal results in the competitive and demanding environment of Logistics Management. The cooperative logistics management certificate program is in its

**Congratulations to Hooks ISD!** Earlier this month, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) awarded Hooks ISD a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant to establish a center to operate before and after school, as well as during the summer for K-12 students to access academic enrichment tutorial services, and participate in additional programs and activities such as physical fitness, nutrition, science, the arts, internships and dual credit programs. The grant begins August 1, 2018 and

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runs through July 2021. Hooks ISD was one of only 51 entities to receive this grant.



**Fall "Listening Tour."** I am pleased to announce a series of meetings my office is planning around House District 1 the last week of September. Rather than like previous "Town Hall" meetings, my plans this year provide an

opportunity for "focus group" discussions on specific topics so that attendees will have more time to delve into and discuss issues. I would like to thank the organizations and people who have helped schedule the following dates and locations:

- September 24 - Texarkana - Texarkana College
- September 25 - Clarksville - McKenzie Memorial Methodist Church
- September 26 - Paris - Paris Junior College
- September 27 - Mount Vernon - Mt. Vernon ISD

To help prepare for these focus group discussions, I hope that you will complete my survey found at: <https://goo.gl/forms/IL6OhGk1o15RHYYv2>. Your responses will help my staff and me know more about what issues are important to you. If you have any questions about the survey, contact Becky Calahan on my Capitol office staff at 512-463-0692 or [rebekah.calahan@house.texas.gov](mailto:rebekah.calahan@house.texas.gov). More details will be in the August newsletter, as well as posted on my social media accounts.

**New Game Wardens.** The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) recently informed my office that two members of the 62nd Game Warden Cadet Class are from House District 1 and will graduate from the program on July 30, 2018. Congratulations to Mr. Nathan L. Lavender from Texarkana and Mr. David P. McMillen from Maud!

**Around the Capitol. State revenue picture improves.** The state comptroller, the Honorable Glenn Hegar,

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recently announced that he has increased projected state revenues available during the remainder of the 2018-19 biennium that ends on August 31, 2019, to \$2.67 billion. This amount is well above the previous estimate of less than \$100 million. Hegar attributed the better-than-expected surplus to increases in sales and use tax collections, an increase in oil and natural gas production and the positive effects of the federal tax cuts and increased federal spending.

**Heat advisory from DPS.** Extreme heat has settled over Texas this month, and the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds Texans to take necessary precautions to protect themselves, their children and pets. DPS said that heatstroke is one of the leading causes of non-crash-related fatalities among children. The agency advises drivers to never leave children and pets unattended in a vehicle. DPS also offers the following safety tips for dealing with the heat:

- Drink plenty of water; avoid alcohol and beverages high in caffeine or sugar while outside for extended periods of time.
- Check on others, especially the elderly, sick, very young and those without air conditioning.
- Limit exposure to the sun and avoid strenuous outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day.
- Wear sunscreen and light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a hat.
- Don't forget pet safety since pets are also susceptible to heat-related injury or death.
- Comply with county and local burn bans.

For more information on how to prepare for extreme heat, visit <https://www.ready.gov/heat>.

**Texas Tuition Promise Fund - deadline July 31, 2018.**

The comptroller's office, that oversees the Texas Tuition Promise Fund (TTPF), announced that you can still enroll newborns under one year of age through July 31, 2018, at this year's prices. Tuition unit prices are subject to change on September 1, 2018. The



TTPF is the state's prepaid college tuition plan that allows participants to lock in today's prices for tomorrow's undergraduate tuition and school-wide required fees at Texas's two-year and four-year public colleges and universities. For more information, call 800-445-GRAD (4723), option #5, or go online at <https://texastuitionpromisefund.com/>.

**Sales tax holiday coming up.** The state's next sales tax holiday or tax-free weekend will be the second weekend in August (08/10-12) where shoppers can save \$8 in state sales tax for every \$100 they spend. The comptroller's office estimates that shoppers will save an estimated \$90 million in state sales taxes this year. A list of items that may be purchased tax-free can be found at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-490/>.

**Social media.** Please follow me on both my Facebook and Twitter accounts!

**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.