



State Representative GARY VANDEAVER

June 2024 E-Newsletter



HD 1

88th Legislature Report - House District 1 Bowie | Cass | Lamar | Morris | Red River

District Update

Groundbreaking for TAMU-T's newest building. In late May, numerous officials participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for A&M – Texarkana’s newest building. Construction will soon be underway for the university’s new Business, Engineering and Technology Building (BETB). The 87th Legislature, in 2021, provided almost \$46 million to fund the new building, and the A&M System Board of Regents approved the project at its May 2024 meeting. These funds are in addition to the \$32 million appropriated by the legislature in 2015 for the university’s academic and student services building. The legislature, over the last 10 years, has shown its commitment to the mission and work of A&M – Texarkana by appropriating approximately \$78 million to provide the modern facilities the university needs to educate and prepare students for their lives and future careers.



Rendition of A&M - Texarkana's new Building, Engineering and Technology Building. Image provided by TAMU System.

Go Eagles!



L-R: Rep. VanDeaver; A&M Chancellor John Sharp; and A&M - Texarkana President Dr. Ross Alexander. Photo provided by TAMU System.

Stillhouse Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center – Paris. Earlier this month, I toured the Stillhouse Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Paris to see how their staff and services provide the skilled nursing care for patients and residents who need comprehensive, specialized care. The all-inclusive, hands-on approach to care not only involves the residents and patients but also their families to ensure the best outcomes for people who turn to Stillhouse for help.



L - r: Sam Major, ex dir., Stillhouse; Angie Bizell, RN - Director of Nursing; Rep. VanDeaver; and Kumar Yamsani, Keystone Strong. Photo provided by Stillhouse Paris.

since 76 million of them were born between 1946 and 1964. Facilities like Stillhouse are designed to work with

"The Texas House of Representatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. This newsletter is available in alternate forms upon request. Please call 1-800-241-1163."

patients, residents, families and staff to help meet and overcome healthcare challenges to continue living a full life. I appreciated the chance to talk with the nurses, management and other staff who work hard everyday providing the best care possible to Northeast Texans.

JET Program Grants awarded in NE Texas.



Awardees and participants at the JET Grant ceremony at PJC. Photo by TWC.

Almost 10 years ago, the 84th legislature adopted House Bill 3062 (84th; 2015) to expand the Jobs for Texas Grant Program (JET Grants) to include school districts as partners with community colleges and technical schools to broaden educational opportunities and technical program offerings for Texans looking for a promising career field or educational pathway. The bill allowed for program participants to receive funds to defray the start-up costs associated with the development of new career and technical education programs so that students are prepared for the workforce to fill these high demand fields. Program administration was moved from the comptroller's office to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) that last week awarded almost \$1.4 million to six schools in Northeast Texas including Hooks ISD; Maud ISD; Paris Junior College; Prairiland ISD; Simms ISD; and Chapel Hill ISD.



Rep. VanDeaver speaking at PJC. Photo by TWC.

STATE UPDATE

REMINDER – TASSP Scholarship Deadline. As noted in the May newsletter, July 15 is the deadline to be considered for nomination for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP). Legislators can only nominate one student for the TASSP, and I like to give preference for consideration to students who live in House District 1. Students must meet specific requirements to be eligible for nomination to receive a scholarship. To apply, send an email to district1.vandeaver@house.texas.gov with the following materials and information no later than **July 15, 2024**:

- Contact information, including full name, address, date of birth, email and phone number;
- Resume;
- Cover letter;

"The Texas House of Representatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. This newsletter is available in alternate forms upon request. Please call 1-800-241-1163."

- High school and/or college transcript(s);
- Three references with contact information;
- Letter of recommendation.

Legislators must submit their nominees to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board no later than August 30, 2024. Need more information? Here is a link: [Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program](#).

Texas Transportation Commission - 2025 Draft Unified Transportation Program. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently informed my office that it recently presented its next 10-year transportation plan for Texas to the Transportation Commission (TC). Texas is witnessing significant population and economic growth, a development that presents both opportunities and challenges. This growth has a tremendous impact on the state's transportation system, which must accommodate the increasing demand to move people and goods. TxDOT's UTP plays a prominent role in this effort. Updated annually for approval by the TC, the UTP serves as an intermediate programming and development "roadmap" that is used to define, prioritize and assign available funding to thousands of Texas transportation projects over a continuous 10-year period. Here is a link to the UTP: [Unified Transportation Program \(UTP\)](#). A recording of the live-streamed meeting will be available on TxDOT's website at <https://www.txdot.gov/about/leadership/texas-transportation-commission/meeting-dates-agendas.html>.



DWIs took a deadly toll on Texans in 2023. Also from TxDOT is information about the impact of impaired driving (driving while intoxicated) has on Texans. In a recent news release, TxDOT said that on average 89 Texans were killed every month in 2023 with 65 alcohol-related crashes everyday last year. Here is a link to this information: <https://www.txdot.gov/about/newsroom/statewide/txdot-spotlights-impact-loss-from-drunk-driving.html>. As Texans take to the road for summer

vacations and fun celebrating the upcoming Fourth of July holiday, please remember to take the necessary precautions to drive sober and save lives.



Rep. VanDeaver speaking to the FFA Foundation LEAD group at the Capitol.

FFA Foundation LEAD in Austin. Earlier this month, FFA teachers and leaders were at the Capitol deepening their understanding and involvement about how our state legislature and government work – or should work. About 35 ag teachers from across the state participated in small group discussions and meetings to gain insight about policymaking to share with their students. I enjoyed sharing my experiences with them as both a former ag teacher and school superintendent turned state representative.

God Bless America!

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Wishing everyone a Happy Independence Day!



Contact Information

Social Media. Please follow me on my Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts for more updates!

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 or the Capitol office if there is anything we can do to help you.

District Office
Bowie County Courthouse
710 James Bowie Drive
New Boston, Texas 75570
(903) 628 - 0361

Capitol Office
Room E1.304
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
(512) 463 – 0692

State Representative
Gary VanDeaver
[Email Gary](#)

Useful State Government Websites

Governor of Texas www.gov.texas.gov
Texas Senate www.senate.texas.gov
Texas House of Representatives www.house.texas.gov
State of Texas www.texas.gov
Texas Legislature Online www.capitol.texas.gov
Office of the Attorney General . . . www.texasattorneygeneral.gov
Health & Human Services Commission . . www.hhs.texas.gov
Medicaid, Food Stamps, & TANF . . www.yourtexasbenefits.com
Child/Elder Abuse Reporting www.txabusehotline.org

Texas 2-1-1 (United Way) www.211.org
Texas Education Agency www.tea.texas.gov
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles www.txdmv.gov
Texas Department of Transportation www.txdot.gov
Texas Department of Public Safety www.dps.texas.gov
Texas Department of Insurance www.tdi.texas.gov
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department www.tpwd.texas.gov
Texas Workforce Commission www.twc.texas.gov
Texas Veterans Commission www.tvc.texas.gov