



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2004

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SOUTHWEST MISSOURI RESIDENTS VISIT STATE CAPITOL FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS

I thought I'd take this column in a slightly different direction and rather than write about legislation, I'd talk about the visitors from throughout the 32nd Senatorial District who stopped in my office this week.

Monday

Thousands of educators, parents, students and others interested in education held a rally on the grounds of the Capitol to urge lawmakers to fully fund the education foundation formula.

Jim Simpson, superintendent of the Joplin School District, and Chuck Adams, superintendent of the Everton School District, were among the educators from our area who stopped by my office after the rally.

By holding this rally, concerned citizens were sending lawmakers a message – children's education comes first.

Another student from Eugene Field Elementary in Webb City visited Jefferson City on Monday, my granddaughter Rachel Nodler. I had the pleasure of introducing her on the floor of the Senate and making her a page of the day.

Tuesday

Blake Hunter, from Jasper, and Brian Worthington, Dadeville, took part in the Future Farmers of America Legislative Day. The FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

I truly enjoyed meeting both of these young men.

Blake, who is the son of Junior and Clara Harper, is a graduate of Jasper High School where he belonged to the Jasper FFA. He is currently a student at Southwest Missouri State

University in Springfield and is a member of Collegiate FFA. After college, Blake plans to teach high school agriculture and hopes to be a FFA advisor.

Brian is also a student at SMSU where he is majoring in agriculture education. He is a member of a Collegiate Farm Bureau, Block and Bridle Club and is president of Collegiate FFA. A graduate of Dadeville High School, where he was a member of the Dadeville FFA Chapter, he is the son of Randy and Debbie Worthington.

Members of the Missouri Southern State University Student Senate had the chance to watch the Senate and House of Representatives in action on Tuesday. Karena Wells, State News Editor from The Chart, MSSU's student newspaper, was also present that day.

Local representatives from the Home Builders of Missouri were in Jefferson City to advocate on issues of importance to the building industry.

At the 56th Annual Safety Awards Banquet on Tuesday evening, the Missouri Motor Carriers Association honored Larry Massey, of Seneca, a driver for Transland, as the driver of the month for November 2003; and Melvin F. Winstone, Joplin, a driver for Transport Distribution Company, as driver of the month for March 2003. In addition, D & D Sexton, Carthage, and Transport Distribution Company, Joplin, were recipients of awards in the Fleet Safety Contest.

Wednesday

Wednesday was the annual Missouri Chamber Day at the Capitol, and representatives from the Joplin, Neosho and Webb City chambers were on hand. U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, a Southwest Missouri native, was the keynote speaker for the luncheon.

The Missouri State Medical Association Alliance Day at the Legislature brought several Joplin members of the Joplin organization were in Jefferson City, including Cindi Dugger, Tracy Wade, Becky Moore, Kathy Riscoe and Lori Jones, who serves as president.

First grade students from the Joplin School Gifted Center participated in the TechKnowledge Day in the Capitol Rotunda. The students hosted a booth "Technology Rocks in Joplin," which focused on the chert glades at Wildcat Park and the proposed Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon. It was an impressive display with the students using a variety of technological resources to develop the project.

Missouri Area Health Education Centers Network hosted an educational display in the Capitol Rotunda. The Missouri AHEC is a collaborative system of community-based

organizations and educational institutions which are striving to prepare young people for professions in the healthcare field.

I want to thank everyone who stopped by my office this week. I enjoy meeting constituents and learning their concerns. It is an honor to serve the people of the 32nd District.

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