

*“Nothing is politically right
which is morally wrong.”*
– Daniel O’Connell



*“Free and fair discussion will ever be
found the firmest friend of truth.”*
– George Campbell

MISSOURI SENATE

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Summer Vacations in the 21st Senatorial District

Are gas prices so high that you feel like you can't take that summer vacation? Consider taking the family for a day trip in the local area. Senate District 21 has many sites and attractions that will keep the family entertained for hours, but without breaking the bank.

Head to the Norborne's Soybean Festival in Carroll County, where locals celebrate the Soybean Capitol of the World, to see a local farmer emerge from a large pod at the end of a parade after being dubbed "King Bean." The county is a great place for children to learn the unique Missouri history about the Carroll County Massacre and the Walk of Heroes.

They say things are bigger in Texas, but when it comes to hardwood nuts and certain fowl, Chariton County has the Lone Star State beat. Maxi, the world's largest goose, stands in a park during the summer months. Meanwhile, tourists driving down Highway 24 can also see the world's largest pecan near Brunswick.

If you feel like traveling back to the time when notorious outlaws terrorized towns in Missouri, visit Jesse James' birthplace in Kearney and the home where the outlaw was shot and killed in St. Joseph. While you're in the area, stop by the world's longest water bar at the Hall of Waters in Excelsior Springs.

Boonville offers entertainment with its casino and tours of historic homes in the city, as well as in Pilot Grove. You can also walk along the Katy Trail and see the historic MKT Bridge. If it is too hot outside, attend a youth play at Thespian Hall. This historical structure is the oldest continuously operated theater west of the Alleghenies. I recently went myself to see *Cheaper by the Dozen* and was highly entertained.

Across the historic MKT Bridge, you can visit Rivercene. See a replica of the governor's mansion built by a riverboat captain. Howard County is one of the 114 counties in Missouri to have the first land office and newspaper. The county is also the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail.

Stop by the orchards of Lafayette County and taste nature's sweets. There you can find homemade candies, apples, peaches and other locally grown produce. Lafayette County also has historic Civil War battlegrounds and memorials. In the courthouse, there is an actual cannonball used during the Civil War as well as bullets used during the war in the Anderson House, which served as a hospital during the war.

Macon County's Welsh and Italian settlements will get you in touch with your heritage. This includes one of the state's most popular restaurants, Bevier's Pear Tree. In the northern part of the county, you can visit La Plata's Amish stores for produce and other items. Macon County also has a restored train depot that will take you to Chicago for the day.

Hardin Cemetery in Ray County is still missing buried caskets that were washed away during the flood of 1993. Many homes were lost due to the massive flooding as well. Ray County also has the mushroom capitol of Missouri in Richmond and Watkins Mill in Lawson.

Arrow Rock's Lyceum Theater in Saline County is a great place to sit and watch a show. Each year resident actors from all over the United States come to this town, with the population of 79, to perform for patrons from all over. My wife and I have season tickets, and the show is always impressive. If you are looking for a show for the kids, "Jim the Wonder Dog" is always great.

For more information on these counties and Missouri travel, visit www.visitmo.com.

If you have questions or comments about this issue or any other, please feel free to call toll free 866-768-3987 or email my office at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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