

K-State develops tool to help understand ‘All Things Kansas’

By PAT MELGARES
KSRE News Service

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Members of a Kansas State University team that has built a one-stop source for data related to Kansas communities say the free, interactive tool will help to boost economic development across the state.

The online tool, called All Things Kansas, pulls from more than 30,000 layers of data and 120 state and federal sources to answer questions related to child care, workforce, health care, broadband access, housing and many more topics that involve community and economic development.

“One thing we know is that informed communities make stronger decisions, and that is the reason why we created All Things Kansas,” said Jessica Gnad, K-State director of economic development. “We want to give local leaders across all 105 counties in Kansas access to clear, actionable data that supports real economic development.”

Gnad and her team members were featured during the June 6 First Friday e-Call, a monthly online series hosted by K-State Research and Extension that helps to nurture small businesses and inspire entrepreneurship in Kansas. The online discussions, which routinely host dozens of Kansas citizens from the public and private sectors, are

available free each month.

Team members said All Things Kansas allows users to easily compare data across 105 Kansas counties, to better understand local strengths, challenges and opportunities. The data can be used for grant applications, strategic planning, business development and more.

“We consider All Things Kansas a one-stop shop for Kansas data,” said Jennifer Tidball, K-State communications director for economic development. “We hope that people in Kansas – business leaders, community leaders, extension agents and many more – will use this as a way to access multiple sources of data in one place.”

The information is open to anyone interested in topics that concern their community, business, lifestyles and more. “The site allows you to search for topics that interest you,” Tidball said.

Having reliable access to information, she added, “is really helpful for grant applications, and it can be a good research tool when trying to understand your community, or how it compares to other communities.”

Tidball and Greg Erickson, K-State data analyst, gave several demonstrations of building maps, each taking less than a minute to pull volumes of data into condensed, easy-to-read visuals. Maps and reports can be personalized by geographic

region.

“We’re also hoping this can help with understanding market demand, or defining business opportunities across the state,” Tidball said. “If you’re a business leader wanting to relocate your business or open another location, you can use this tool to understand workforce strength, industry gaps, analyze trends and other things like that.”

Erickson said the team has developed a gallery of pre-made maps to view statewide data on such topics as broadband access, net migration of young adults, business churn, housing costs, employment and health insurance, and many more.

Currently, there are nearly 50 pre-made maps on topics relating to Kansas communities. The site also allows users to build their own custom maps on topics and geographic regions of their choice.

There is no cost to access the data online, and a subscription is not required. The site is maintained by Kansas State University, with support from the Center for Applied Research and Engagements Systems (CARES) at the University of Missouri.

Editor’s note: For more information about All Things Kansas or to schedule a group demonstration, contact Gnad at jgnad@k-state.edu or Tidball at jtiddball@k-state.edu.

KSRE: Your town, your treasure: ‘A Local Summer Adventure’

By AMANDA CLASEN
Community Vitality Agent
Southwind District

As the days grow longer and the sun warms our sidewalks, there’s a familiar buzz in the air: summer is here, and with it comes opportunity. It’s more than just a season—it’s a moment when our community shines its brightest. The farmers’ market hums with local produce.

Sidewalk cafes fill with neighbors and newcomers alike. Downtown shops welcome foot traffic that brings stories, laughter, and support.

Summer tourism may feel like a visitor’s game, but it’s actually a community team effort. Every family that stops at the splash pad, every couple who books a B&B or grabs ice cream on Main Street—they’re more than tourists. They’re economic partners. When we support and promote local attractions, events, and businesses, we strengthen the very heartbeat of our town.

Whether you’ve lived here for decades or just moved in, you’re part of the hospitality that makes this place unforgettable. It starts with simple things:

- Sharing upcoming events on social media.
- Encouraging friends to attend the weekend music series or art walk.
- Choosing local vendors when planning a summer barbecue or birthday party.

Behind every storefront is a family, a dream, and often a neighbor. And in many cases, summer makes the difference between making it and closing up shop.

It’s easy to overlook the hidden gems in our own backyard. When someone asks for local events or places to visit, we often draw a blank—not because they aren’t there, but because we’ve grown so used to them. Need a reminder? Here are 5 simple ways to support locals this summer:

1. Shop the Farmers’ Market
- Buy fresh produce, handmade

goods, and baked treats from local growers and artisans. Every dollar stays in the community!

2. Dine Local (and Post It!) Eat at family-owned restaurants, food trucks, or cafes—and tag them on social media to help spread the word.

3. Bring Guests Downtown Hosting out-of-town friends? Take them on a tour of Main Street, local parks, or community festivals.

4. Attend Local Events Music in the park, library programs, art walks, and small-town parades all thrive with your presence and participation.

5. Leave Reviews & Say Thanks A kind word goes a long way—online or in person. Leave a 5-star review for a local shop or just tell them you appreciate what they do.

This summer, let’s not just welcome visitors—let’s also rediscover the charm of our own backyard. Your support matters. Your presence matters. And together, we can ensure this season brings prosperity not just for a few weekends—but for the

year ahead.

Editor’s note: For more information, please contact Community Vitality Agent Amanda Clasen at any Southwind District office or am-clasen@ksu.edu.

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SHERIFF’S REPORT

Weekly Deputy Activity Report

06/02 Vehicle fire report; Ness Rd. .5 mile north from 40th Rd., Parsons.

06/02 Trailer theft report; 7305 U59 Hwy., Erie. A theft involving a 2016 Carry-On utility trailer, stolen between May 19 and May 26, 2025. The trailer is as a 5-foot by 8-foot model, featuring a steel mesh floor and rear gate, single axle, and white rims. The case is still under investigation. If anyone has any information regarding this report, contact Deputy Joe Manyo at the Neosho County Sheriff’s Office, 620-244-3888.

06/03 Incident report; Elk Rd. north of 225th, Chanute.

06/03 Traffic stop; K47 Hwy. and 3rd, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Jose Portillo, 23, Katy TX, for speeding and no proof of insurance.

06/03 Traffic stop; U169 Hwy. and Montgomery, Thayer. Cited the driver, Ricky Moore, 38, West Des Moines IA, for illegal passing and expired vehicle registration.

06/03 Theft by deception report; 7850 E. Timber Dr., Thayer.

06/04 Car/deer accident report; U59 Hwy. .5 mile south from 180th, Erie.

06/04 Incident report; 411 Jefferson, Thayer.

06/04 Traffic stop; K39 Hwy. and Lyon, Chanute. Cited the driver, Donal, Escobar Balan, 46, Pittsburg, for illegal

passing and driving without a valid license.

06/05 Car/deer accident report; K39 Hwy. .2 mile east from Xavier, Stark.

06/06 Traffic stop; 250th Rd. and Gray, Chanute. Cited the driver, Andrew Whitaker, 34, Chanute, for expired vehicle registration.

06/06 Traffic stop; K47 Hwy. and 1st, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Isaac Sprouls, 23, Lamar MO, for speeding and illegal passing.

06/06 Violation of registered offender act report; 402 E. State, Erie.

06/06 Traffic stop; Main St. and Malcolm, Chanute. Cited the driver, Klee Cummings, 19, Chanute, for expired vehicle registration.

06/06 Incident report; 5243 170th Rd., Chanute.

06/07 Car/deer accident report; U169 Hwy. .1 mile south from 170th Rd., Chanute.

06/07 Incident report; 2650 W. Main, Chanute.

06/08 Car/deer accident report; Elk Rd. 100 ft. north from 170th, Chanute.

06/08 Possession of stolen property report; 402 E. State, Erie.

06/08 Traffic stop; K47 Hwy. and 1st, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Laura Snell, 46, Cherryvale, for speeding and no proof of insurance.

06/08 Car/deer accident report; U169 Hwy. .3 mile north from 140th, Chanute.

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erierecord@hotmail.com

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ERIE MARKET

The weekly lunch special at Erie Market for the week of June 16-20

MONDAY
Lasagna with garlic toast or
Brisket with mashed potatoes and gravy and green beans

TUESDAY
Tacos

WEDNESDAY
Sloppy Joes

THURSDAY
Chicken sandwiches

FRIDAY
Fish and shrimp

We're nuts about the community!
The ERIE RECORD
Reach Eddie at 244-6030

ERIE MUSEUM FUNDRAISER

The Erie museum was given burnt, wooden ornaments to sell as a fundraiser. The ornaments were made by Rob and Tari (Riebe) Emery of Frontenac. Quantities are limited. Asking for a donation of \$5 each. One is 2-sided, above, and one is in shape of a bean pot.

The ornaments can be found at the museum Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. They are great mementos, gifts and stocking stuffers.

ERIE HIGH SCHOOL ALL-SCHOOL REUNION
Students, Teacher and Friends
Please forward to classmates!

When: July 19, 2025
Where: Neosho Valley Event Center
Time: Happy Hour 5:30; Meal 6:30
Food: Dr. Johns BBQ:
Brisket, pulled pork, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, tea/water and homemade desserts

Contact:
erieallschoolreunion@gmail.com

Tina Martin South '86
(620) 433-7813

Cheryl VanLeeuwen Trepagnier '86
(210) 663-6037

RSVP by July 1, 2025

Cost: \$18 per person (meal, setups, etc)
\$10 if arriving after 8:00 p.m. (No meal)
Please send checks to:
Erie All School Reunion
14494 Trego Road
Erie, KS 66733
Paypal: erieallschoolreunion@gmail.com
Zelle: 2106636037
Venmo: @Tina-South-2
Please include year of graduation with RSVP!