Diamonds in the rough
make Kirksville their home

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Staff Reporter

Kirksville has a secret. Actually, it has a few.

“Don’t try to describe Kirksville in one sentence,” freshman Emily Tobias said. “You just don’t know what a lot of things are.”

However, Tobias said she has been to a store in Kirksville that most students are not aware of: the Evergreen Manufacturing Company, located at the south end of Kirksville on Highway 63.

“It was a little over the top — it was a very crowded and crafty store with home décor,” she said. “The store made me want to decorate my room.”

The Evergreen Manufacturing Company is decorated from top to bottom. It has items such as silk flower bouquets, wreaths, wall hangings, antiques, small furniture, and so on. The store also has many handcrafted and homemade masterpieces and numerous other knickknacks.

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The store itself is always fully decorated, often in themes for the holiday seasons. It is closed until the first week in April for the off season.

Other places of interest are closer to campus. In smaller towns, most of the action in stories and movies revolves around the town square. The musty windows with unknown insides appear interesting, but actually going inside the stores is something students sometimes might not take advantage of. The Square is a smaller shopping center that has many different items for someone willing to take advantage of all its four corners.

Kirksville’s Square has all the elements of a mall — food and drink, clothing apparel and accessories, reading materials and music, jewelry, home items and appliances and specialty items.

Tucked away among the stores on the Square is Washington Street Java Company. Senior Sarah Hobbs, whose personal favorite Java Co. beverage there is the hazelnut latte, said she enjoys going to the coffee shop and has been going there for the past four years.

“It used to be just a little shop called Java Co., but over the years they opened up more and it became like a small coffee shop,” Tobias said. “I used to go in every Friday with a group of friends.”

“My usual order is drinks and real food, like a bagel, and I usually divide the bill,” Tobias said.

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Senior Meghan Callahan said she remembers going there her freshman year.

“It had nice lighting with a nice intimate atmosphere,” Callahan said. “I didn’t really expect to find something like this in Kirksville, but I was glad and surprised.”

She said Minn’s should advertise more because most students don’t know about it or know where it is.

“Many other places in Kirksville have yet to be discovered, but instead of just walking past that unknown store or place, students might consider going inside. After all, any college student can talk about late-night runs to Wal-Mart, but it takes special circumstances to be able to say the same about late-night runs to Pancake City.”

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