



Philip Zahnd/Index

Cyclists near the finish line of a six-mile ride Saturday to benefit the FLATS trail.

## FLATS hosts ride/walk

BY PHILIP ZAHND  
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The Forest Lake Area Trail System hosted a noncompetitive moonlight ride/walk last Saturday that raised \$379 in additional funding for the 4-mile trail connecting downtown Kirksville to Thousand Hills State Park. The trail received a \$100,000 grant in March. Both routes began and ended at the Kirksville YMCA and used trails and roads.

Event Director Kevin Baiotto said that although it rained the morning of the event and the cold weather detracted some participants, he was pleased with the amount of people who showed up. When the event ended, the thermometer showed 44 degrees, he said.

"We had a pretty good turnout considering the weather I would say," Baiotto said. "A lot of the participants are interested in biking and walking and that kind of stuff, so it was something to give them a way to contribute [to the trail] and have a little fun at the same time."

The bike ride covered a distance of approximately 6 miles and cost between \$24 and \$27 said Amanda Powell, who coordinated registration for the event. The walk was 2 miles and cost between \$14 and \$16. The costs were lower for those who pre-registered.

Baiotto said the event was a success despite not raising a significant amount of money.

Royce Kallerud, FLATS Steering committee and English professor at Truman, said 75 participants signed up for the event. Baiotto said 31 participants biked and 26 walked.

Dan Martin, director of the student wellness center at A.T. Still University and a member of the FLATS Steering Committee, said he appreciated the volunteer work of approximately 20 Alpha Sigma Gamma members, who were recruited by service chair Caitlin McGraff, to direct riders and walkers on the course and provide childcare. A few employees from the Bike Co-op were present to install lights on the front and rear of bikes.

"[McGraff] was their point person. She came to multiple meetings and was out there chasing around trying to find [volunteers]. She said 'How many?'... and they all showed up."

Martin said he was prepared for more people at the event and that he hopes to attract more participants in a future event. Although fewer participants showed up than expected, Martin said the event helped raise awareness among Kirksville residents for the trail. He said the event's efforts to raise money for the trail reflect some of the attitudes of people in Kirksville who want to become

more active.

"I see people becoming more conscious of getting activity in their life and they're prioritizing their health a little bit more," Martin said.

Kallerud said FLATS has done other fundraisers in the past and plans to continue future fundraisers, including a similar moonlight ride/walk event next year, and a concert and a half-marathon in the fall. He said he is looking at an artist who has performed in Kirksville before but did not want to release the performer's name.

FLATS was granted \$100,000 through a Recreational Trail Program grant by the state of Missouri for a section of the trail in Thousand Hills State Park in March. FLATS has raised more than \$75,000 with local help, Kallerud said. Some additional RTP grants might be announced later in the month.

Kallerud said he expects a trail to be completed between downtown Kirksville and Thousand Hills State Park between three and five years from now.

"There are so many variables with funding, design and planning," Kallerud said. "I think we would be doing very well if a full trail were in place in three years. I tend to think more along the lines if things fall together, a slightly longer time frame. There are so many variables that those predictions are hard to make."

## Renters search for summer tenants

BY LISA KUCHARSKI  
Staff Reporter

It's almost summer and leasers are searching for people to fill their apartments and houses to avoid renting an empty space for the next three months.

Even with students staying in Kirksville for summer school and work, finding sublessees proves a difficult task for some.

Senior Caroline Forsythe said she is starting to regret her decision to procrastinate her sublessee search. She said she didn't post information until April 1, but by that time, there already were numerous other sublease fliers up.

"I'm probably way late on the game, but we kept just putting it off and putting it off," Forsythe said.

She said she is going to London for the summer for an internship and her roommate is not staying in Kirksville, so her apartment will be empty for the summer. Unfortunately, Forsythe said her lease, which like most leases, is a yearlong contract, meaning she will have to pay rent although she will not be at her apartment.

Forsythe said she has put up fliers in the Student Union Building, Pickler Memorial Library and at the Newman Center. She said that so far no one has contacted her.

Forsythe said if she finds a sublessee the next task would be figuring out the legal aspects. She said she most likely would have the sublessee sign a contract with the landlord to ensure responsibility for any damages. Forsythe said that because all her appliances, supplies and furniture will be available for a sublessee's use, another difficult part of the process is finding someone she can trust.

She said the most complicated parts of this process are figuring out when to pay the landlord and keeping her credit intact.

Forsythe said although the process can be difficult, finding a sublessee would be beneficial for everyone. She said it helps the sublessee because she thinks it provides a less expensive housing option during the summer and it helps her and her roommate to pay rent while they are not there.

For summer school 2011, on campus housing is available in West Campus Suites and Campbell Apartments. As an example of housing costs, if a student took a 10 week course and stayed in a single suite in West Campus, it would cost approximately \$1,560 plus \$560 for a meal plan, according to the Office of Residence Life website.

Forsythe said if she had two sublessees, they would pay \$220 each per month for rent plus a utilities cost for water.

Forsythe said she advises others who consider subleasing their apartments or houses in the future to start early because it's a long and uncertain process.

Dick Cole, part owner and manager of C & J Rentals, said he has helped many students through this process. Cole said of his 34 apartments, students occupy most of them and many decide to try subleasing throughout the year.

Cole said that subleasing is the tenants' responsibility.

"I always tell them, 'If you sublease, make sure you get something in writing.' It's just good business."

Cole said he has no problem with tenants subleasing and many of the students ask him for his input. He said he advises students to find someone they trust and have some sort of agreement. He said he recently dealt with a sublease situation in which a sublessee caused damage to an apartment during her stay and the tenant is trying to figure out repair responsibilities.

Amber Hampton, an employee with The Language Company in Kirksville, said for international students, the summer housing process can be a challenge because they are not used to the leasing procedures.

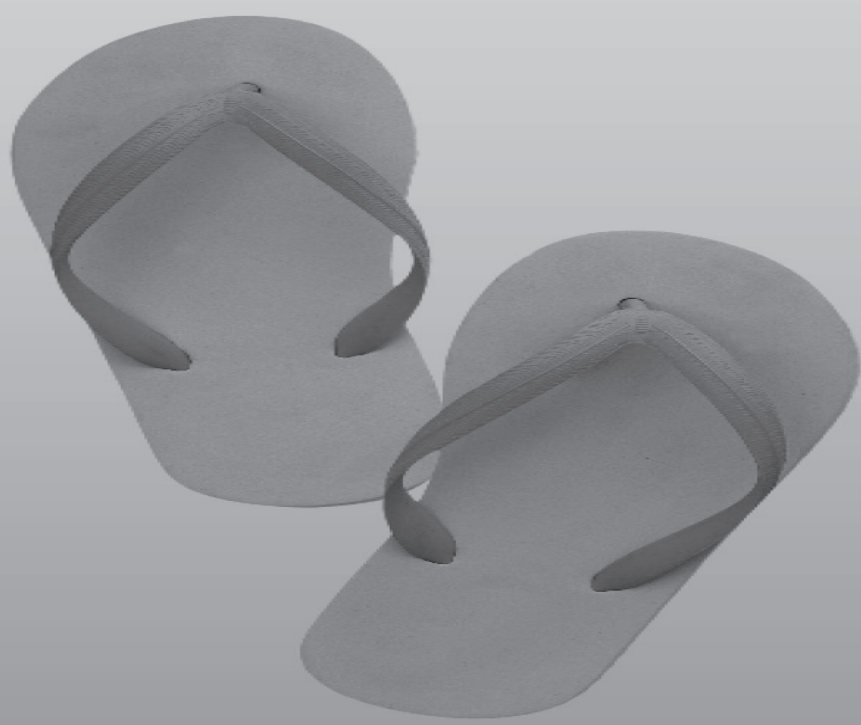
She said TLC-Kirksville features a program that teaches English to international students and introduces them to the culture and academic experience of the United States.

Hampton said the company recently began working with the sublease process because many students in the program wanted to live by themselves or off campus. She said students expressed an interest in living with an American roommate to learn more about the culture and practice English.

No international students have signed subleases with TLC for the summer yet, but Hampton said TLC-Kirksville put out fliers and received a few American contacts who were interested in housing international students. She said this is a great opportunity for American students to learn about other cultures as well.

"It's kind of an experiment to see how this works with international students and American students working together," Hampton said. "I think it will have a positive result — broadening students' options and getting a deeper sense of American culture and living."

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