

# Snow and ice deplete University's salt stash

**Hard winter takes toll on city streets, salt supply, equipment**

BY HEATHER TURNER  
Staff Reporter

From filling pot holes to working around salt shortages, 2008's surplus of wintry weather is adding up.

Problems with relentless ice have increased the cost of maintaining Kirksville's streets. Street supervisor Ray Sandstrom said it takes more salt and treatment to clear ice off the roads than it does for snow alone.

Sandstrom said that including labor, equipment and material costs, the city has spent more than \$66,200 to clear Kirksville's 125 miles of streets during nine different snow events since the start of the year. He said the city has enough salt to handle three more storms, depending on the types of precipitation. Sandstrom said an average of 30 to 40 tons of salt can be used on just one storm.

Massive potholes have been a side effect of salting and treating the streets.

Some of the most heavily affected areas repeatedly have been patched by the city, such as routes along Normal, Baltimore and Jefferson streets.

"Winters are extremely hard on the streets, especially like this winter when we've had so much moisture," Sandstrom said. "It warms up, it cools off."

He said the city will be able to replace the temporary patches with a more permanent filling af-

ter spring cleanup in April. About 25 tons of coal mix have been applied so far, he said.

The city budgets about \$55,850 for materials alone, and additional costs for labor vary. Right now the city has a crew of 12 covering six routes throughout town, which is an increase in manpower from eight crewmembers after a merge with Parks and Recreation four years ago, Sandstrom said.

"Compared to last year, I bet we spent three times what we did last year," grounds supervisor Stewart McMillan said.

Grounds crews at the University also have felt the rising costs. McMillan said applying extra salt to deal with ice causes damage in parking lots as well as turf and flower beds.

The University has encountered more difficulty this year getting salt supplies in comparison to past years, McMillan said. Because of a shortage, Truman ordered salt from Louisiana in January, which doubled the cost. He said even a two-inch snow can cost as much as \$3,000.

McMillan said that recently, the University of Iowa in Iowa City also faced obstacles obtaining materials and looked to Truman for solutions.

"All I could do was give them our salt supplier's number because we couldn't afford to loan them any or sell them any," McMillan said.

He said it still is hard to put a cost estimate on dealing with Mother Nature.

"[We] just have to end up going over budget because safety

comes first," McMillan said.

A 12-man crew always is on-call to take care of University grounds. However, McMillan said another unexpected expenditure arose while salting the parking lots Tuesday. The motor in the large salt-spreader broke down. The smaller salt-spreaders are taking over the job while it is out of commission.

"That's just another added scenario to Old Man Winter, I guess," McMillan said.

Freshman Christine Buneta said she has been affected by recent ice as well, but generally the sidewalks are cleared up.

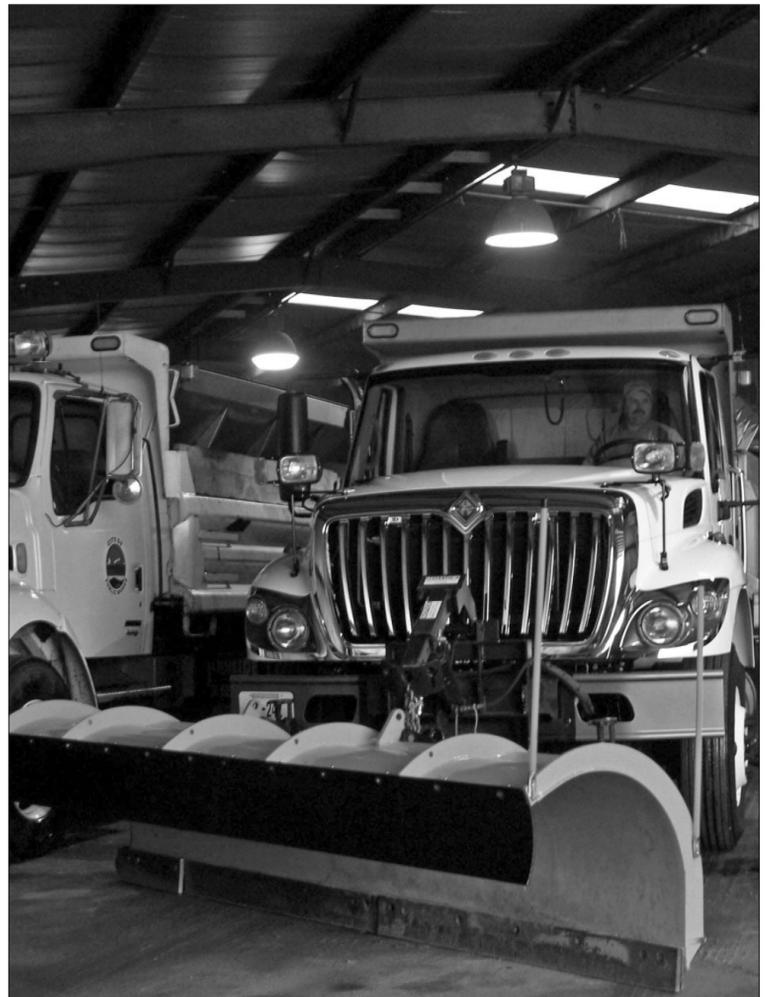
"I fall a lot on the ice," she said. "It's embarrassing."

Buneta said she thinks there isn't much the University can do when the snow compacts into ice short of making it stop snowing and using more salt.

Business owner Larry Platz, lifelong resident of Adair County, said nearly all of his customers notice the ice and pot holes. The cyclic freezing and thawing leads to a lot of problems that will need repair in the spring, he said.

Platz said the weather in the area tends to be unpredictable.

"They always say, 'If you get tired of the weather here, wait three days and it'll change,'" he said.



Erin Givarz/Index  
Kirksville's snow plows have gotten a workout from the frequent snow storms.

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**Ray Sandstrom**  
Kirksville Street Supervisor

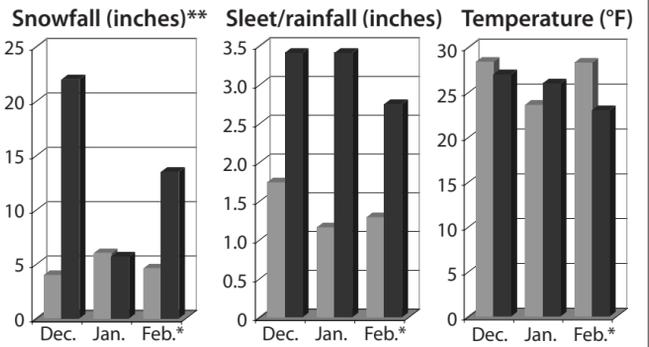
## Wicked winter

■ Average monthly snowfall\*\*, sleet/rainfall and temperature in Kirksville\*\* from 1971 to 2006.  
■ This year's monthly totals

\*February totals through Feb. 25

\*\*Snowfall totals were unavailable for Kirksville. Totals for Burlington, Iowa, which is 120 miles away and averages 1.1 inches more snowfall per month, are shown.

Sources: wunderground.com, Midwestern Regional Climate Center, Quad Cities, Iowa, Forecast Center



# Free download service appeals to students



Heather Turner/Index  
Junior Sonia Mejia and senior Ellis Ray listen to their iPods while studying in the library. Music downloaded from Ruckus is not compatible with iPods.

**ITS reports high usage of free music download service on campus**

BY RENÉE CELLA  
Staff Reporter

Despite an e-mail that has circulated through some Truman students' inboxes, Information Technology Services is calling Ruckus, a newly implemented music download service, a success.

Truman purchased Ruckus, a source for authorized music downloads, in the fall of 2007. Students now can download music legally, despite small inconveniences caused by the technology, such as an incompatibility between Ruckus tunes and other outlets for playing music.

A Feb. 13 e-mail from Ruckus asked students to save their free music source by recruiting more users.

"We pay our bills with ad revenue, so we need more users on the Ruckus site in order to pay the rent and keep your music flowing for free," according to the e-mail.

Despite the e-mail, Matt Farwell, director of technical services for ITS, said lots of students at Truman are using the service.

"So far, 2,736 students have decided to download Ruckus," Farwell said. "And from those 2,736 students, 492,000 songs have been downloaded."

Peter Opere, the University's Ruckus account executive, also said the music program is prospering at Truman.

"Fifty percent of possible users is fairly common in the first year," he said. "We usually see anywhere from about 40 percent to 90 percent of users over time in other schools. In schools like Truman, after the first year, student usage usually reaches at least 75 percent."

Opere said Ruckus reached one million downloads nationwide last month, and that right now, Ruckus has about 1.1 million users across the country.

Senior Todd Kulage is one of those students taking advantage of the free music service.

"I like that Ruckus is a quick and easy way to find and download songs," senior he said. "I can open Ruckus, search for a band

and download their newest album. ... I can only remember one or two times since I've had it that I haven't found the band or song I was looking for."

Kulage said he also has passed Ruckus on to his family as well.

"My dad in particular enjoys Ruckus," Kulage said. "He was never a fan of illegally downloading songs onto our home computer, so Ruckus is a great alternative. Now when he works in the office at home, he has a legal and very easy and hassle-free way of downloading and listening to all his favorite songs."

Despite the high number of downloads that both Farwell and Opere report, some students still say Ruckus has some disadvantages.

"I downloaded Ruckus, but because I can't put any songs on my iPod from Ruckus, I usually just tend to use iTunes," junior Wes Hadler said. "Ruckus also takes up a lot of memory, so these things may be reasons why students haven't downloaded it yet."

**"I like that Ruckus is a quick and easy way to find and download songs. I can open Ruckus, search for a band and download their newest album."**

**Todd Kulage**  
Senior

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