# Keizertines

**MARCH 5, 2021 SECTION A** \$1.00



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald The cost of removing debris and replacing damaged city property racked up

### **CLOSING TIME**

Keizer debris collection site will close for good Sunday, March 7.

> Hours for the final weekend are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

#### By ERIC A. HOWALD Of the Keizertimes

Recovering from a February ice storm is expected to cost the city of Keizer at least \$340,000.

According to a damage estimate Keizer Public Works (KPW) submitted to Marion County officials, the bulk of the expense (\$225,000) can be attributed to removal of fallen and hanging branches from streets throughout Keizer.

"We will be doing one more pass this week and removing branches and limbs from rights-of-way, but we're hoping that will be the end of it," said Bill Lawyer, KPW director, at a meeting of the Keizer city council Monday, March 1.

quickly in the wake of a two-day ice storm in February.

The next largest expense for the city as a result of the storm was cleaning up of debris and tree trimming in Keizer parks. The expected final cost of park clean-up is approximately \$50,000 with an additional \$2,100 in overtime

In the weeks since the storm, the city operated a debris collection site for nearly two weeks and then on weekends.

Since the site was established, 144 30-yard containers have been removed from the parking lot south of Keizer Little League Park.

"That's about 4,300 cubic yards of debris and there's still a pretty good pile up there," Lawyer said.

Debris from the collection site is being dumped at Salem's Brown Island facility for free, but Keizer is expected to rack up a \$30,000 bill between

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funding PAGE A3

## Daysofdark Reizer family recounts 10 days without power

#### By MATT RAWLINGS Of the Keizertimes

When a record-breaking ice storm hit the Salem-Keizer area last month many were without power for just a few days. However, others around town weren't nearly as

fortunate. along with their four kids all who are under the age of 10 — were without power for 10 Feb. 13 when the power

two of their cars wound up getting crushed by large trees that fell due to the ice.

Despite the hectic weekand-a-half the Ford family maintains a posture of thankfulness.

"We have a roof over our head and we have each other. Seth and Natalie Ford, We have a lot to be grateful for," Natalie said.

It was 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, days. To make matters worse, went out at the Ford house.

When they went looking for a generator the following day the Fords discovered that all generators had been sold out within a 40-mile radius. Thankfully, they had a friend from Sisters drive and deliver them a generator on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

"It was definitely a lesson on how we could be better prepared," Natalie said.

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Downed power lines near the Ford home were the source of 10 days of upheaval.

## A first day like no other



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Clear Lake Elementary School kindergartener Brooklyn says goodbye to her mom on Tuesday, March 2, the first day of in-person learning in nearly a year. More photos on Page A5.

## Park survey results are in

TRAILS, PLAYGROUNDS, RIVER ACCESS MOST DESIRED

#### By ERIC A. HOWALD Of the Keizertimes

When it comes to parks, Keizerites feel the main ingredients missing are trails and

pathways. In late 2020, the city conducted a survey of residents regarding the city in parks anticipation of updating the parks masplan. ter In the end,

31% -Extraordinary play features

Keizer received just enough responses to qualify for an adequate sample of the population.

Keizertimes previously reported that more than 1,400

replies had been logged. The end tally was 1,729 responses but it was later determined that more than 1,300 responses were submitted by an auto-

mated web-based program.

37%

put more

connect-

ing parks

prima-

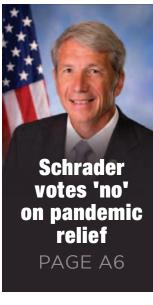
missing

trails parks and

Of the legitimate respons-**37%** - Trails connecting 32% parks and other places Better **MISSING PIECES** piece the current

parks. About 32% put better river access as a top priority and 31% responded that they wanted more variety and extraordinary features in the city's playground offerings.

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# Cha-Cha-CHAMAMS