



The cost of storm recovery? \$340K

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

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

The cost of removing debris and replacing damaged city property racked up quickly in the wake of a two-day ice storm in February.

Bill Lawyer, KPW director, at a meeting of the Keizer city council Monday, March 1.

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 pay.

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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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.

Boys soccer wins 2-1 in first outing since 2019
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Peer court director will be namesake of permanent funding
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Schrader votes 'no' on pandemic relief
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Who's open for dine-in
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Days of dark Keizer 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.

Seth and Natalie Ford, along with their four kids — all who are under the age of 10 — were without power for 10 days. To make matters worse,

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

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

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

It was 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13 when the power 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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Submitted photo

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 parks in anticipation of updating the parks master plan. In the end, 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 automated web-based program.

Of the legitimate responses

37% put more trails in parks and connecting parks as primary missing piece in 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-CHANGES

Coming to Keizertimes on March 19