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Christmas Greetings
Third Section



BRIAN WILSON/THE STAR NEWS

The clean up from last week's winter storm is still going on around the area. Many trees and branches such as this one on the Medford City Park were taken down with the ice and heavy snow. A coating of snow and ice covered signs, buildings and road surfaces on December 14-15 leading to school and business closures and event cancellations. The snow and ice also led to a number of power outages around the county with several hundred people being impacted. It took crews until Sunday to get power restored to most homes in the county. Winter is not giving anyone a break as another strong storm is forecast to hit the area this week and expected to snarl Christmas travel plans.

Storm wallops area with ice and snow

BY BRIAN WILSON
NEWS EDITOR

Several hundred area residents lost power and many others saw damage to their trees, landscaping and structures as a result of last week's winter storm that struck the area with a one-two punch of ice and snow.

In the first round of severe weather the area was hit with an ice storm the evening of Dec 13 into Dec. 14. While temperatures remained relatively mild

hovering the low 30s the ice accumulations on roads made driving and walking on untreated roads and surfaces dangerous. Schools in Medford, Rib Lake and Gilman were all closed due to conditions.

Things went from bad to worse overnight on Dec. 14 as the precipitation turned into heavy snow which blanketed the area into the morning of Dec. 15. School was canceled for a second day, leading to scrambling to reschedule elementary Christmas concerts.

The combination of ice and snow caused the failure of electric system components causing significant damage. Other power and communication lines were taken down by the accumulation of ice and snow. In addition, trees and branches already weighted down by the ice broke under the weight of the snow resulting in downed power lines, blocked roads and driveways and damage to people's homes.

See **STORM** on page 3

Starting over

Parent concerns prompt school to review finger scanning for lunch lines

BY BRIAN WILSON
NEWS EDITOR

Seconds add up.

At least that was what the school district administration hoped when they spent \$3,000 to add a fingerprint scanner option to speed up flow in the cafeteria lunch lines.

Medford Area Senior High School principal Jill Lybert told members of the Medford School Board Monday night the hope was to cut lunch line transactions to being one to two seconds each and potentially be able to shave five to 10 minutes off of time spent in the serving lines in order to give students more time to eat.

What the school administration didn't count on was the backlash from parents concerned that their children's fingerprints are being kept on file by the district and the potential for data breaches down the road.

"If I could go back in time, it should have come here first," said district administrator Pat Sullivan to school board members.

He explained that since he came to the district 15 years ago, they have been

See **MEDFORD** on page 4



BRIAN WILSON/THE STAR NEWS

Members of Take Note, the school's a cappella choir performed holiday songs during Monday's board meeting.

Page 9: Holy Rosary Christmas Concert

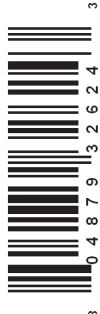


SPORTS: Round-up of college athletes from area schools



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