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Photo by Steve Card

Strong winds caused a 90-foot Douglas fir tree to fall on Lawrence Hall Sunday, causing minimal damage to the building.

Tree topples on Lawrence Hall damaging roof, exterior walls

By Dan Eisler
Emerald Reporter

Sunday afternoon's high winds tore a 90-foot Douglas fir from its roots and crashed it into the west side of Lawrence Hall, causing minimal damage to the steel-and-concrete building.

The tree damaged the metal strip along the top edge of the building, some plastering, the parapet, and the edge railing along the west and north sides of the roof, said Tim King, University landscape maintenance supervisor.

In addition, about three holes were punctured in the roof, said Al Thelen, University plant maintenance repair worker.

Branches struck the windows of Rooms 227 and

330, but they were not broken, and classes were held in those rooms Monday.

The tree, located near the south steps of the courtyard, toppled sometime between 3:30 and 4 p.m., Thelen said. The clay in the surrounding soil keeps water on the surface so the roots do not go down as deeply, he added.

The trunk fell at a 45-degree angle against the building, landed across the roof, and the top section crashed by the courtyard fountain.

"We're really lucky," Thelen said. "There's no structural damage we can see at this time."

The tree was secured Sunday night and removal began Monday, as University maintenance workers sawed off limbs. A crane from Oldham Crane Service, Inc., will be brought in to remove the trunk, probably tomorrow, King said.

Rental ad policy frustrates landlords

By Hon Walker
Emerald Associate Editor

Off-campus student housing has been monitored more closely since the University's Rental Information Office initiated new guidelines Jan. 1, but some local landlords are already frustrated with the paperwork involved.

Property agents who wish to list their available rentals on the EMU housing bulletin board must now present their listing in person or by mail. Listings are no longer taken over the phone.

Mike Barba, who has rented property to University students for more than 10 years, said the added procedure has slowed the process of getting rental information to students.

"The agency is providing rental information that's dead," he said. "The information on the bulletin board is already rented."

Finding tenants has never been difficult — a sign in a window usually is enough, Barba said — but he wants to continue to use the bulletin board to supply rental information to the University community.

"The service is not for me; it's for the students," he said. "It would be nice if rental information on campus could be up to date. At the least, it's two to four days late."

In July, the University's off-campus housing office changed hands from ASUO to University Housing, becoming the Rental Information Office.

The agency continued to coordinate the housing bulletin board, which is located on the ground floor of the EMU and lists available rentals free of charge.

Barba said he preferred the relatively bureaucracy-free style of working with an ASUO-controlled housing office.

"I think that University Housing should take this information over the phone so students have access to the freshest information," he said.

According to the new guidelines, landlords are also required to sign and submit to the office a statement of compliance for each facility rented.

The document certifies that the structure adheres to health, safety and habitation codes, and that the rental will comply with city and county affirmative action laws.

Mark Tusek owns a house and apartment that for 12 years he has rented by advertising with a sign in a window or a notice on the EMU bulletin board.

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University student steps into Eugene city council race

MacDonald pledges improved economy

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Reporter

University student and former ASUO Senate president Randy MacDonald kicked off his campaign for a city council seat Monday with a pledge to improve Eugene's economy and decrease property taxes.

Eugene can develop economic strength by building on its reputation for environmental concern, active citizen participation, a good educational system, and a healthy lifestyle, MacDonald said.

"We need a clean, stable economy with family-wage jobs that protect the environment," MacDonald said.

MacDonald said that although he welcomed the jobs and economic diversity that companies such as Rohr Indus-

tries can provide, he was wary of contributing to the nuclear industry.

Rohr Industries, which manufactures airplane parts, is negotiating with city and county officials to locate a plant in west Eugene. Some of the company's contracts are with the military, which could violate a stronger nuclear-free zone ordinance that will go before Eugene voters in May.

"I don't know if Eugene wants to contribute to that industry," MacDonald said. "Let's concentrate on the things we already do well."

The decline of Eugene's downtown area could be halted if less attention was paid to streets and buildings and more energy was devoted to attracting the right mix of small businesses, artistic outlets and

housing, MacDonald said.

MacDonald said he supports the urban renewal update plan that will go before Eugene voters this spring and said he is opposed to re-opening Willamette Street.

"I need to hear a lot more information before I change my mind on this," MacDonald said. Eugene citizens have made it clear that they don't support re-opening the street to motor traffic, he added.

To reduce the property tax bills of Eugene citizens, which MacDonald said are probably among the highest in the nation, he proposed having the state pick up a bigger portion of education costs and keeping a tight rein on city spending.

MacDonald also cited housing, homelessness, wetlands and discrimination among the

concerns he plans to address during his campaign.

MacDonald announced his candidacy for the Ward 1 council position accompanied by city council member Emily Schue and Lane County commissioner Jerry Rust at the Wayne Morse Ranch in southwest Eugene.

Schue, Rust and the late U.S. Senator Morse have established a tradition of responsible, progressive leadership and integrity in politics that MacDonald plans to follow, he said.

Schue, the current council member from Ward 1, announced last week that she would not seek re-election this year after serving twelve years on the council.

"It's time for a new look," she said Monday.

Schue said she plans to remain active in politics, possibly at the state level, although she is not interested in elected office.



Randy MacDonald

MacDonald, a legislative assistant to Sen. Larry Hill, D-Eugene, since 1987, plans to graduate from the University at the end of winter term with a bach-

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