

Repair work continues in storm's aftermath

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

Damage from last week's storm is keeping some businesses hopping as they try to keep up with the aftermath of the wild weather.

"So far today our company has looked at seven houses with roof damage," Erica Tejada of Daniel Tejada Siding and Roofing said Thursday. "Some were pretty bad, and others just had a few shingles fallen off."

The damaged roofs were the product of a storm that swept the Pacific Northwest on Nov. 17, killing four people and knocking out electricity for more than 1 million homes and businesses.

In Umatilla County the wind was gusting at 65 miles per hour, which was more than enough to uproot trees and pull shingles off roofs.

Tejada said the roofing business has been getting "a lot of calls" to repair damage caused by the storm. For people whose roofs were damaged, she said it is important to get it fixed right away before water seeps in and causes more damage.

"If it's just a little damage we can fix it that same day," she said.

The problem is not everyone's insurance will allow them to get started on the damage right away. Claudia Dent has a hole in the roof of her Irrigon



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

Strong winds caused damage around Hermiston on Tuesday, including this roof on a home on southwest 12th Street.

home but was told by her insurance company that their claim adjuster had a backlog of calls due to the storm and couldn't get to her house until early this week.

"To have a home that's only nine years old and to have water leaking in is frustrating," she said.

Dent said she had just had a nice siding roof installed over her deck when wind ripped the deck roof clean off the house, rolled it over her roof and blew it across the street, where it smashed into her neighbor's fence and "broke into a million pieces."

"My neighbors were home eating lunch, and

they thought an airplane had crashed. It was that loud," she said.

She didn't realize until Thursday, when she woke up to a puddle of water in the master bedroom, that the debris had ripped a hole in the top of her roof. Fortunately one of her neighbors

climbed up and located the hole for her, and another one came by later with a tarp and some bricks to cover the hole.

Several phone calls to her insurance company later, however, and she's frustrated that she has to wait to call a contractor after she knows what will be covered.

"They already told me that they wouldn't fix my neighbor's fence because it was an act of nature," she said.

Dennis Hulen of Hermiston is also waiting on a claim adjuster before he takes care of the missing shingles, broken deck and fallen tree that resulted from the storm. He said his insurance company was good about getting a file opened right away, but he was told that it would be few days before they got someone out to inspect the damage.

He said he was grateful the damage wasn't worse, however, since his 35-foot Douglas fir missed the

house when it fell over.

"I'm not planting one of those near my house again," he said.

Hulen said he plans to have Travis Badoux of Badoux Mill and Kiln come take the tree away.

Badoux said after the storm he put a notice on Facebook saying he would be happy to take any fallen trees for the rustic furniture he builds. As of Thursday he had cut up and hauled away four trees and had 11 more people on a waiting list. He said the majority of the trees were pine.

"All of the tree will get used," he said. "Nothing will get burned."

The storm damage wasn't limited to homes, either. City of Hermiston employees have been working to cut up and haul away a tree in Victory Square Park that was uprooted in the storm.

"It was a pretty mature pine tree, and it's a shame to lose it," Parks and Recreation director Larry Fetter said.

SAFETY:

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•Hermiston police arrested Randy Mark Johnson, 45, address not provided, for failure to pay fines.

•Hermiston police arrested Devin L. Jensen, 21, address not provided, for failure to present license and driving without a license.

•Hermiston police arrested Silverio Ibarra Covarrubias, 41, address not provided, for failure to appear.

•The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office arrested Holden Dean Holt Smith, 22, address not provided, for first-degree rape (forcible) at the Gilliam County Substation.

•Oregon State Police arrested Sally A. Ramirez Littlelight, 45, no address provided, for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

•The Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested Debbie Lynn Jarrett, 31, of 74937 Estate Loop, Irrigon, for frequenting a place where drugs are used, possession of methamphetamine, selling drug paraphernalia and supplying contraband. Deputies also arrested Leobardo Jacques III, 39, no address provided, at the same residence for violating a restraining order and frequenting a place where drugs are used.

•A 9-1-1 call about a man assaulting a woman led Stanfield police to arrest Chad Everett Bruce, 34, of 420 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield, for strangulation and harassment.

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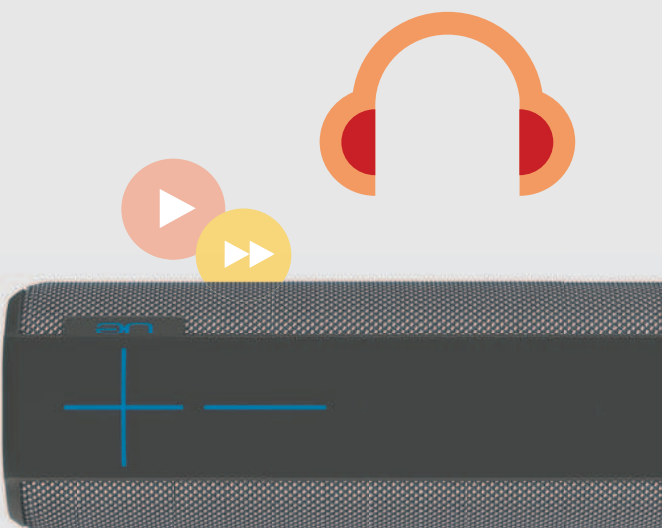
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