

MICHAEL'S MESS



Hurricane Michael's heavy rain and harsh winds knock a white oak tree onto Haggard Avenue on Thursday, Oct. 11. Clean-up crews cleared the avenue in less than an hour.

ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Trees down and power out, Elon recovers from Hurricane Michael

ANTON L. DELGADO | Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

WENDY WILLIAMS' FIRST RAYS of sunshine after Hurricane Michael were through the damaged branches of an oak tree.

As she worked, Williams wore soundproof earmuffs — she doesn't like the sound of branches hitting the ground — but thankfully her phone was on vibrate.

As the only arborist at Elon University during Michael, her phone hadn't stopped alerting her to the damage around campus. But on Friday morning, it buzzed for breakfast.

Along with 22 members of Physical Plant's Landscaping and Grounds crew, Williams ate her breakfast while listening to her supervisor's hopes for the weekend.

According to Physical Plant, the storm downed and damaged around 57 trees on campus, falling on roads, buildings, cars and utility lines. Power in areas around Elon was cut off for roughly 50 hours from Thursday to Saturday. While restoring power wasn't their job, much of the recovery effort fell at the boots of Physical Plant workers.

"Our goal is get campus cleaned up of debris by the end of the day,"

said Scott Stevens, director of Landscaping and Grounds, on Friday. "If we can get campus clean, there is no reason to come in tomorrow."

After a 13-hour shift the day before, and knowing what work needed to be done, Williams marveled at the thought of spending the weekend with her daughter. But her gut told her she wouldn't finish everything that needed to be done by the end of the day.

Better to aim for the sky and reach the treetops, Williams thought as she set off from Lakeside to take care of a downed tree — business as usual.

Height of the damage

Now in her 26th year at Elon, nothing comes as a surprise to Williams, especially not hurricanes. Most recently, Williams helped the campus recover from Hurricane Florence in mid-September.

"I don't even remember Florence other than it rained a little," Williams said. "Michael has been far worse for us."

See MICHAEL | pg. 4



Arborist Wendy Williams uses an extended saw to cut down damaged branches of a tree behind Story Hall in the Colonnades Neighborhood on Thursday, Oct. 11.

ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

DOWNED AND DAMAGED

~57

trees downed and damaged around Elon University's campus. Hurricane Michael's 2.5 inches of rain and up to 56 mph winds is to blame.

HOURS WITHOUT POWER

~50

hours without power at The Station at Mill Point and parts of South Campus. The power outage was from Thursday afternoon to Saturday evening.

TO OUR READERS

This special edition of The Pendulum is being delivered on Monday instead of Wednesday in order to give you timely coverage of Hurricane Michael. The Pendulum will resume its normal delivery schedule next week.