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A Crack, A Boom, Then a Mess to Clean Up

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By Kirsten Ballard

Staff Writer

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Aberdeen resident Mindi Furby lives in a tree house. Or at least that's what she jokingly refers to her house after a century-old tree came crashing down early Sunday.

At around 2 a.m., Mindi Furby and her husband, Sean Furby, woke to a "very weird noise."

"It woke up my husband, which is a feat. Nothing wakes him up," said Mindi Furby. The couple walked around the house but didn't see anything. They assumed something had fallen in the attic. "It's an old house, we're used to weird noises."

They went back to bed. Thirty minutes later it was a small noise that roused them. Sean Furby got up to explore. As he was looking around there was "a loud noise. We thought it was an explosion. The house was shaking."

"It freaked us out. We had no idea what it was," said Mindi Furby. The couple called police. A patrol car was dispatched.

Sean Furby decided to continue looking around. Outside the master bedroom were leaves. "We don't have bushes outside!"

A tree in the backyard had split in two, landing on the house directly above the

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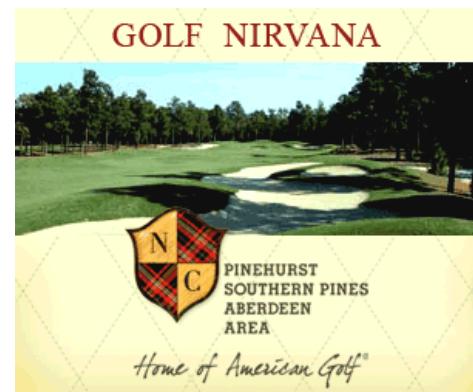
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"Nothing but the grace of God," said Mindi Furby. "It didn't pierce our roof. It weighed several tons and there is almost no damage."

Thirty minutes later, the last piece of the tree fell into their neighbor's yard and through the Furby's new fence.

"Ugh, great. Nothing we can do about that," Mindi Furby laughed.

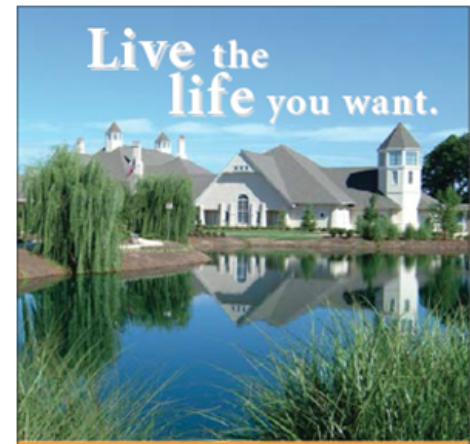
Now a crew is clearing out the pieces of the tree. After the yard is clear, an insurance adjustor will be out.

"It should all be cleared up in a few weeks," said Mindi Furby. The tree is estimated to be 150 to 200 years old. "Nothing we're aware of made it fall down, crack or split into three."

The Furby's are more than ready to have their yard back. "It's like living in a jungle. I'm tired of living in a bush," said Mindi Furby.

More than anything, they are grateful nobody was harmed. "Our bed was right in the line of the tree," Mindi Furby said. "It should have killed us. It just doesn't make sense. It was a miracle."

Contact Kirsten Ballard at Kirsten@thepilot.com.



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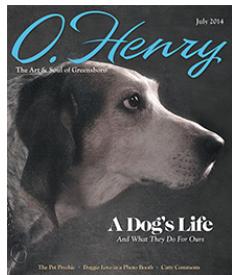
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