

ERIC SPROTT | THE JOURNAL

Storms bring down trees around Oconee

A line of severe storms moved through Oconee County on Thursday afternoon, as high winds, hail and locally heavy rain left numerous reports of damage across the area. Oconee County Fire Chief Charlie King told The Journal that Oconee County Emergency Services received nearly a dozen reports of downed trees, including several trees that blocked railroad tracks near the intersection of Rochester Highway and Old Clemson Highway. King said Norfolk Southern shut down north- and southbound rail traffic, while it also hired Thrift Construction to assist in haul-away efforts after the Corinth-Shiloh and Seneca fire departments responded to the scene and began working to clear the tracks. Another line of storms moved across the area early Thursday evening, and King said there were reports of downed trees in the downtown Westminster area as well.