

Disease: Tree cutting in Hendricks Park postponed

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cerned about the spread of disease," Plamendon said. Plamendon also expressed concern regarding damage to houses and property.

One nearby resident said that living with falling trees was a risk that was associated with living near Hendricks Park and one that he was willing to take to allow more trees to remain.

Another resident suggested leaving a large stump, so that wildlife could use it as a habitat.

Yet another nearby resident said that she saw the trees that were marked for removal, and said they didn't look that sick to her. "Why would the city cut these trees down?" she asked.

While most of those who attended the meeting were against the tree-cutting, there were a few who were concerned about possible property damage.

At the end of the meeting, Public Works Director Chris Andersen and City Council President Laurie Swanson Gribbskov agreed to postpone the Hendricks Park tree cutting and form a committee to reevaluate the diseased trees.

"We're still working on what the total scope of the committee's work is," said Johnny Medlin, maintenance support manager for Eugene, who was at the forum. "The basics of it is to involve some of the local residents in evaluating the specific trees the city has concerns about and to also talk to this group about their concerns about how the city could better involve them."

"The forum was just a public-comment session," he said. "We were informing the residents what the recommendations are and asking for their input. The tree-cutting was not a done deal."

Protest: Meeting was tour, not forum

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gene resident, said.
City Manager Vicki Elmer assured residents in a tour Thursday that this project was going to happen. It has been planned for years, she said.

The protesters had several complaints.

The trees were marked by the day they were to be cut down. The trees on the north bank were identified as being cut down Monday, while the south bank trees were to be cut down today. The construction crews reversed this.

The signs are merely a courteous gesture, Larsen said. During Thursday's tour, city officials gave no indication as to which trees would be cut first.

Protester Ira Gilbert claimed that one member of the construction crew deliberately cut a limb off of a tree that Shane Scully was using for support. Scully nearly fell about 20 feet,

he said.
Scully later climbed close to the top of the tallest tree on the south side. He planned on spending the night in the tree, he said.

Other protesters, including men who called themselves E and Brian, said they saw a worker throw a branch at Gilbert while he was climbing a tree.

The worker's supervisor, Mike Rose of MR Tree Service, said that his worker was pulling on a limb that snapped and flew towards Gilbert. It was purely an accident, he said, that could have been avoided if the protesters had not crossed the specified lines into the construction area.

Larsen had not heard about the accusations.

"I didn't see anything that looked like that when I was there," he said.

If it did happen, he said, he

"Maybe we'll open some more eyes."

Ollalieberry
Tree-cutting protester

cannot understand why.

A woman who calls herself Ollalieberry climbed a Cottonwood tree at 6 a.m. City officials said they were worried about her health because she nearly fell out of the tree when a branch snapped off. Cottonwoods are notoriously brittle, they said.

She found a new branch and said that she felt safe. Ollalieberry said that the protest would probably not be successful, but she said she hoped it would do something.

"Maybe we'll open some more eyes," she said.

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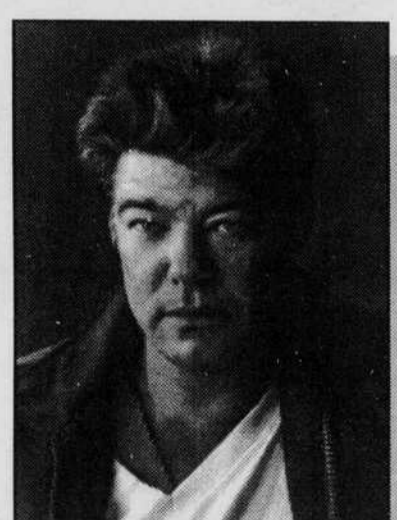
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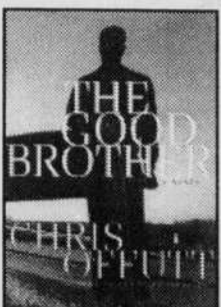
Reading & Booksigning

Chris Offutt

Thursday, July 24 • 7:00 pm • Browsing Room • Knight Library



Montana author Chris Offutt will read from his new novel, **The Good Brother**. He's also the author of a short story collection **Kentucky Straight** and a widely-praised memoir **The Same River Twice**. A booksigning will follow.



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