

severe that even trees that should have enough resources around them are getting hit."

Pencil lead-sized holes in the trunk marked where the beetles entered, and small piles of fine sawdust on the branches and the ground were signs of their success.

In addition, there were several "pitch tubes" on the broad trunk. The tree had spurted out resin, or sap, in an attempt to eject the beetles. A healthy tree can fight off beetles that way, but drought means the trees don't have enough moisture to produce the needed sap.

Bark beetles are efficient killers.

Once a few successfully bore into a piñon or ponderosa pine, they send out a chemical signal that attracts thousands of other beetles.

They invade the phloem tissue right under the bark, the tissue that carries sugars from the pine needles to the tree's roots. The beetles also carry pockets of fungus on their bodies. The fungus attacks the water-conducting tissues of the tree.

Once the signs of beetle infestation are clear, it's too late to save the tree.

"You really have no good evidence of beetles in the tree until the tree is fading," Cain said. "Insecticides are not efficient at that point."

The only solution is to cut down the tree and get rid of it—and the beetles inside—to stop the beetle invasion from spreading to other trees. To use it for firewood, first stack the logs in the sun and cover them with plastic for several days to kill the beetles.

The insecticide Sevin can be used to protect high-value trees that are at risk, but Cain does not recommend it for general use. Watering trees so they are able to fight off an attack also can help.

"The good news is if we get these monsoons, the trees will become more resistant," he said.

Drought also has increased populations of spider mites in corn crops in eastern New Mexico.

"It can be quite severe," said Mike English, head of the NMSU Extension Service's Agricultural Science Center in Los Lunas. "It can lose half your crop."

The drought could be making blood-sucking kissing bugs a problem in the southern part of the state, Sutherland said.

The bugs' usual prey, small rodents and birds, probably are in shorter supply so they are biting people and leaving behind big, itchy welts, she said.

"You've seen mosquito bites but you ain't seen nothing yet," she said. "These are a lot worse."

Still, the situation in New Mexico could be worse.

Grasshoppers and Mormon crickets are ravaging crops and pastures in Nebraska and other Western states in what could be the biggest such infestation since World War II, according to agricultural officials.

There were early reports of a few pockets of grasshopper problems in New Mexico, in Lea and Eddy counties and near Silver City, English said. But Sutherland said there were no reports of major problems in the state as of mid-July.●

THE OREGON RED CROSS

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, as I am sure many of my colleagues are aware, as I speak here today on the floor, fire continues to rage across the state of Oregon. At last count, there were no fewer than fifteen fires burning throughout the state, leaving behind

hundreds of thousands of charred acres and a sobering path of destruction. As such, I stand here to salute and pay tribute to the benevolent Oregonians of the Red Cross who, throughout this tragedy, have responded with remarkable compassion and service to their communities.

When fire first broke out near my own home in Pendleton, OR, the Umatilla Chapter of the Red Cross was there and opened an emergency shelter for residents of fire threatened homes. More than twenty paid and volunteer staff enlisted for what fortunately became a substantial "cold start" exercise.

In Lake County, Oregon, where the Winter, Toolbox Complex, and Grizzly Complex fires have combined to form a 115,000 acre inferno, the Red Cross has been on the ground, organizing local residents and setting up a shelter to disseminate information and to provide aid to affected families. That shelter remains on standby status today, pending containment of the fire, which is not expected for another week.

There are similar examples throughout the state and throughout the country of local Red Cross chapters responding to help friends and neighbors in need. For as tragic as this fire season has been to date, the staff and volunteers of the Red Cross have responded with an equal level of kindness and selflessness.

This has been a very emotionally charged past few months. As a U.S. Senator and as an Oregonian, I am deeply proud of how the people in my state have responded to life-threatening crises. The generosity shown by so many truly reaffirms one's faith in the goodness of people. Today, I salute the workers and the volunteers who gave and continue to give of themselves to help our communities in need.●

TRIBUTE TO ROSELLA FRENCH PORTERFIELD

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a truly amazing and admirable individual, Mrs. Rosella French Porterfield. This Saturday, the Elsmere Park Board will be rededicating the Rosella French Porterfield Park to honor the retired educator, who played such a vital part in the successful integration of the Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School System.

A bronze plaque depicting Mrs. Porterfield holding the hands of a young Debbie Onkst of Erlanger, a white student who later followed in Mrs. Porterfield's footsteps as a librarian for the school system, and Elsmere Mayor Bill Bradford, northern Kentucky's first African-American Mayor, will be unveiled.

Looking back on Rosella Porterfield's life and her many accomplishments, I am impressed the positive strides one African-American woman was able to make in a nearly all-white community during the 1950s.

But once you hear people talk of Rosella, you understand the simple fact that amazing people can do amazing things.

A Daviess County native, Rosella received a graduate degree during a time when African-American women did not accomplish such things due to institutional and personal biases. Her first job as an educator was at Barnes Temple Church on Elsmere's Fox Street. After 7 years at Barnes Temple, Rosella moved to Wilkins Heights School in Elsmere, where she successfully transformed the one depleted school library into a place that fostered and encouraged educational excellence. But even as hard as Rosella worked, the segregated school system constantly worked to her disadvantage.

In 1955, 1 year after the U.S. Supreme Court abolished segregated schools, Rosella Porterfield approached Superintendent Edgar Arnett. She told him the time was right to bring white and black together in an educational atmosphere. She firmly believed that if the kids could be brought together in an effort to achieve common goals, they could learn to live together in peace and harmony. Mr. Arnett listened to Rosella and promptly took her proposal to the school board. In turn, the school board unanimously approved a phased-in integration starting in the lower grades.

Erlanger-Elsmere schools integrated in what Time magazine recognized as a very smooth and peaceful manner, a very uncommon phenomenon at the time. The schools were not forced to action by any outside factors such as government officials or military personnel. It was a voluntary and rational approach to a community's educational needs. This happened largely because of the efforts of individuals like Rosella Porterfield.

I kindly ask that my fellow colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Porterfield for her vision, persistence, and patience. When I think of Rosella's actions and the effect she had on her community, I recall the words of Winston Churchill, who said, in reference to the heroic efforts of Great Britain's RAF, "Never have so many owed so much to so few."●

TRIBUTE TO TONY TURNER

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, the late Tony Turner. On June 30, 2002, Tony passed away after succumbing to injuries suffered in a tragic car accident. He was only 40 years old.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife Geraldine, his two children, Courtney and Cameron, and the rest of his family and friends. Tony made it easy for people to remember him, leaving behind a legacy as a loving husband and father, loyal friend, successful broadcaster, and community leader. He was a spirited individual who cherished life and enjoyed helping others. He was