

CALL THE EDITOR

Call the Editor gives readers a forum to express opinions on a variety of issues. All calls must be limited to one minute, and we reserve the right to edit each call. You can Call the Editor at 581-8499, day or night.

You can also Speak Out! on www.tulsaworld.com. Go to the Web site, and join Tulsa's forum by clicking on Speak Out!

Plan for Stroud hospital unwise

Are they nuts? Why are they going to build a hospital in Stroud on the site where the tornado destroyed the shopping center? I sure wouldn't want to go there.

Tulsa pupils do have school duties

I'm calling in response to the caller's comment that the kids can pick up after themselves. I'm a teacher for Tulsa Public Schools. The kids in my classroom have responsibilities. I think it's important that they pick up after themselves every day. We do have janitors, but our children are given simple jobs in the classroom to complete. It shows them they can be responsible and be successful at something besides school work.

Preachers, shut up and let us deal

Come on, preachers. Let us gamble. We don't need an Oklahoma Taliban who thinks we can't think for ourselves. Maybe they are worried that their collections will dwindle.

Retrial just excuse to soak taxpayer

No more retrials unless they are free. Lawyers go to school for a long time to learn their trade. A mistake allows them to double-dip into the taxpayers' pockets. If a tradesman makes a mistake, he has to correct it at his own expense, not ours.

Blame FBI for terror strike

If anyone should be blamed for the 9/11 attack, it should be the FBI.

Service families, we salute you

I would like to let the families of our service men and women know that we appreciate the sacrifices you are making on our behalf. We are praying for you as well as your loved ones who are serving in the military.

South Tulsa landlords stifle north

The north side of Tulsa is never going to grow until Code Enforcement does something about the rent houses that are owned by people on the south side. They don't make them clean up their yards or make sure the property is maintained. No wonder the north side is going downhill. The south side owns it!

Who made U.S. world's top villain?

How did the U.S. go from the most envied and respected country in the world to the most hated and despised in just four short years? Could it be our government?

Bush has flip-flopped several times

I had to laugh at the Bush/Cheney campaign for portraying John Kerry as a flip-flopper on the issues. They must not realize how vulnerable they are to the same charge. Bush didn't want to have a Homeland Security Department and then he flip-flopped. He didn't want to make airport security a federal responsibility and then he flip-flopped. He didn't want to have a 9/11 investigation and now he's happy he testified. He was only going to see two 9/11 commission members for an hour. He ended up seeing them all for three hours. Who is flip-flopping now?

What would Kerry do as president?

In regards to John Kerry running for president, we saw what Bill Clinton did as president. Can you imagine what Kerry will do? Anyone who thinks that George Bush is in the wrong and is not a good president has to be a complete idiot.

Strangers thanked for kindness

I would like to thank the two ladies that helped an old lady that fell and hurt herself on Denver Avenue. I'd like to assure that I did get home and I am OK. Thank you for your kindness. Tulsa is a wonderful place to live.

PSO crews are butchering trees

PSO is not doing a good job. What they are doing is permanently disfiguring and killing trees in this area. Just drive up Peoria Avenue between 21st and 31st streets. They have literally cut the top off trees and left them exposed to the elements. That's not good tree trimming. If they really cared about their power lines, they would start digging and put them underground.

Which anti-war critics drive SUVs?

It would be interesting to know how many critics of the Iraq war — who call it a fight for oil — drive gas-guzzling SUVs. I'm sure it's a high percentage.

Who'll invest to end I-44 blackout?

The lights on I-44 are out again. This time the outage includes a few more lights. After making several calls, I found out that there is an overload on the transformers and the area needs to be wired. Money and priority is the problem. I-44 is traveled by Tulsans as well as tourists. Maybe our elected officials need to see if they can get some investors willing to help the city so we can get the lights on and our tourists can see the Indian statue.

Spence was giant in local theater

The passing of actor and director Ken Spence will leave a huge void in the heart of the Tulsa theater community. He was a nice man, a good actor and a great director. He will be missed.

Siddiqui mistaken on trinity

I must admit that I had qualms about Sheryl Siddiqui representing Muslims in Tulsa. After reading the excellent article written by Bill Sherman, I admire her as a woman who has found what is the truth for herself. She, however, bases her disagreement with Christianity mainly on the trinity, because she says it includes the worship of other gods. The trinity is a complex thing, but it basically means one God which encompasses God the father, God the son and God the holy spirit. It's kind of like a ring with three precious stones on it. It is still one ring.

Whose economy is improving?

How in the world can our political leaders say the economy is getting better with milk and gasoline prices steadily rising?

CORRECTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS

Corrections and clarifications pertaining to Tulsa World articles will appear in this space when necessary.



ED CRISOSTOMO / Associated Press

Santa Barbara firefighter Capt. Mitch Reed turns his face from the heat of the Eagles fire near Los Caballos Road, east of Temecula, Calif., on Tuesday. Southern California's first wildfires of the season burned homes and brushlands and forced thousands of people to evacuate on Tuesday, beginning what could be an especially dangerous and costly summer.

Thousands flee homes

Southern California fires scorch 15,000 acres

By **TIM MOLLOY**
Associated Press

CORONA, Calif. — Southern California's first wildfires of the season burned homes and brushlands and forced thousands of people to evacuate on Tuesday, portending what could be an especially dangerous and costly summer.

A man was charged with negligently setting the largest blaze.

The fires burned through more than 15,000 acres of grass and low-lying scrub parched by blistering spring heat that led the state to declare an earlier-than-usual start to the fire season on Monday. At least nine cottages and two mobile homes were reported destroyed.

"We've never been burned this bad before," said Dick Benjamin, 70, whose home in Riverside County was saved. "Fires are supposed to be in August and September, not May."

Nearly a dozen firefighters among the thousands on the job in Southern California were treated for injuries, including heat stroke and dehydration. At least two people fleeing a fire in the Los Padres National Forest were treated for injuries, including smoke inhalation and cuts and bruises.

The two biggest fires burned in Riverside County, an inland region east of Los Angeles. Fires also burned in San Diego County and up the coast in Santa Barbara County.

"Burning conditions are probably about what we'd expect in late June or July," said Rich Green, assistant deputy director of the California Forestry Department. "It's shaping up to be a very difficult year statewide."

A drought that has left vegetation tinder dry and an infestation of tree-killing bark beetles have set the stage for what could be a severe fire season. Those conditions have been compounded by



MARK ZALESKI / Associated Press

A fire helicopter drops water on the front of the El Cerrito fire in a canyon near Surmac Road in Corona, Calif., on Tuesday.

record-setting heat and thin budgets for fire departments.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein said 2004 could be one of the worst fire seasons ever, coming on the heels of a record series of wildfires that tore through Southern California last year, killing 22 people and burning 3,600 homes. Feinstein said recreational areas may have to be closed during the peak fire season.

"It's hardship for some, but on the other hand the worst hardship is to have one of these major firestorms in play," she told KNX-AM.

As many as 600 people were evacuated as a 9,000-acre fire in Riverside County between Corona and Lake Elsinore approached their homes. An additional 2,000 to 3,000 people may have left voluntarily, Forestry Department engineer Rick Griggs said.

Abraham Contreras said firefighters warned on Monday that flames from the largest fire were coming toward

Early start to fire season

Fire season started early this year in Southern California as wildfires have burned more than 15,000 acres of land. The fires destroyed homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate on Tuesday.



his home. He said he got in his tractor and cleared debris around his 33-acre property, but the fire burned everything except his and his neighbor's home.

"The fire can't come back — everything's burned," he said.

A smaller, 4,000-acre fire in Riverside County, 10 miles south of an area that burned last fall, destroyed 13 structures, including two mobile homes, officials said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency made federal money available to firefighting agencies for the two Riverside County blazes.

Last month, a governor's review panel outlined a series of changes that could be made to better prevent and respond to wildfires such as the ones last fall.

Among the commission's recommendations were more training and improved equipment; quicker use of military aircraft; and reconsideration of the sunset deadline for launching firefighting aircraft.

National Interagency Fire Center:
<http://www.nifc.gov>

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Clean hard drive before donating computer

How do you destroy all information on a hard drive before giving your old computer to someone? — C.P., Tulsa.

Don Singleton, president of the Tulsa Computer Society, said when the group's Refurbishing Computers Project receives a donated computer from the public, the first thing done is checking it out to see how well it works, identifying any problems and determining its speed, memory and available hard-drive space. Once this is determined, its hard drive is removed and a completely new operating system with application software already installed is transferred over. Nothing the donor left on it is available. This procedure is documented at <http://helpingtulsa.org/howto> — and the society offers donors a "drive setup disk" to run on their machines to un-partition the drive, repartition it as one big drive and run a scan-disk on it so that nothing from previous software is visi-



PHIL MULKINS
Action Line

ble. He suggested you check out commercial data-erase software.

Ultra-X, Inc — QuickTech HD Clean — <http://www.uxd.com/qthd/clean.shtml> — the ultimate hard drive data erase tool. "Typical formatting of a hard disk drive does not remove or erase your private data! When you format a disk, partition a hard drive or even delete a file, your data still remains on the disk. There are many hard drive recovery tools on the market that can recover your data. QuickTech HD Clean eliminates data recovery by securely erasing all your data."

White Canyon Software — Wipe Drive 3.3 — <http://www.whitecanyon.com/wipedrive.php> — deleting a file, partitioning a disk or formatting a hard drive will not erase your data. WipeDrive securely overwrites and removes all your information, giving you peace of mind that you will not be the victim of identity theft. Don't give away data with an old PC. If you don't erase it before selling or donating a computer, it can be stolen or even used against you.

CyberScrub LLC — CyberScrub Professional Edition 3.5 — <http://www.cyberscrub.com/home/google.html> — removes all evidence of your online activity, erases previously "deleted" files beyond recovery, purges all traces of Peer2Peer applications and securely destroy e-mail. CyberScrub is a high-level military-grade security application designed to help you completely eliminate sensitive information from your computer, protect your Internet privacy and enhance system performance. CyberScrub also func-

tions as a wonderful clean up utility by removing useless files (.bak, .chk, etc) that slow down your computer. It defeats forensic recovery tools.

O&O Software — O&O SafeErase — <http://www.oo-software.com/en/products/oose/index.html> — offers reliable erasure of security-sensitive files, giving you the ultimate in data protection. With O&O SafeErase, even hackers and data spies cannot restore your safely erased files. O&O SafeErase does not simply delete your files; it annihilates them using approved and recommended methods. If Windows NT, 2000 or XP is your system, O&O prevents unauthorized access to files.

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