

Senator

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where," said Coburn, who committed to serving no more than two terms.

"In the meantime, I look forward to finishing this year strong."

Coburn served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 2001, deciding not to seek re-election to another term to uphold a campaign pledge.

He returned to political office in 2004 after being elected to the U.S. Senate, and was re-elected to a second six-year term in 2010.

A fiscal and social conservative, Coburn is known for his opposition to deficit spending and pork barrel projects.

His zeal is reflected his annual, much-pored over "Wastebook." It details examples of what he views as flagrant government spending excesses. Last year's compilation of 100 included \$65 million for post-Hurricane Sandy tourism advertis-

ing, as well as \$10,000 for a National Endowment for the Arts grant to produce a live "pole dancing" performance that featured power linemen, their bucket trucks and 20 utility poles.

Coburn supports term limits, gun rights and the death penalty and opposes gay marriage. He's also known for his leadership in the pro-life movement.

Dr. Coburn, 65, is a medical doctor specializing in obstetrics and a Southern Baptist deacon.

'DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT' TO ALL

Fellow Oklahoma elected leaders say Coburn will be greatly missed.

Oklahoma's senior U.S. senator said he was honored to help recruit Coburn in 1993 to run for the House of Representatives.

"I knew then that he was an intellectual and superb medical doctor," said U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Oklahoma. "As we worked together, I came to learn he

also had the skills that made him arguably the most sought-after advisor in the Republican conference.

"In every policy decision, Tom has sought to be a faithful steward of the taxpayers' money and a dedi-

"Agree with him or not, there is never any doubt where Tom Coburn stands on the issues. He is as impressive a public servant as they come, and I am sure we have not heard the last from him."

- Gov. Mary Fallin

cated public servant to Oklahoma. He is a true brother in the Lord and my prayers are with him and his family in this time."

Oklahoma's Republican governor, Mary Fallin, says Dr. Coburn has represented the "gold standard for smart and tough fiscal conservatism" since he came to Washington, D.C. in the mid-90s. Gov. Fallin says the Senate is losing one of the country's "great statesmen."

"His consistent, relentless

advocacy for responsible spending and deficit reduction has earned him respect from men and women on both sides of the aisle," Gov. Fallin said. "Agree with him or not, there is never any doubt where Tom Coburn

stands on the issues. "He is as impressive a public servant as they come, and I am sure we have not heard the last from him."

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, another fellow Republican, believes Dr. Coburn is an example of "what is right in Washington."

"His unrelenting dedication to uncovering wasteful spending has helped bring a renewed focus on the importance of the federal government living within its

means," Pruitt said.

The state's AG called Coburn a "genuine leader" unafraid to "tell you exactly where he stands."

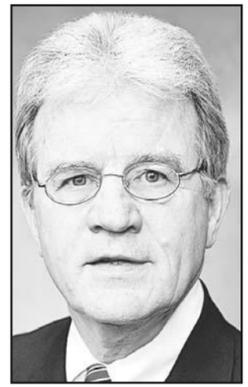
"And unlike most in our nation's capital, Dr. Coburn is driven not by partisan politics or a desire to get re-elected, but rather by his commitment to secure a brighter future for the next generation of Americans.

"That kind of principled leadership is in short supply in Washington these days and will be sorely missed."

U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Oklahoma, believes Dr. Coburn has been a "dedicated servant" to all Oklahomans.

"Throughout his tenure, he has worked tirelessly to provide ways to cut government waste, eliminate fraud and abuse of taxpayers' dollars, and create economic certainty for all Americans," Congressman Lucas said.

"His commitment to solving our country's fiscal crises serves as a true testament to his hard-working spirit. He



U.S. Sen. Dr. Tom Coburn

has been an influential leader during his time in office, and I know he will accomplish more as he finishes out the 113th session."

SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL SEAT

Coburn's retirement from the U.S. Senate triggers a special election for his seat on the same dates as Oklahoma's regularly scheduled elections. The primary will be June 24, runoff primary (if needed) would be Aug. 26 and the general election will occur Nov. 4.

YPR

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cial events are award winners, with Festival of the Child, Freedom Fest, Christmas in the Park, and the Taste of Yukon prominent on the list.

"This is just a great place to live, and part of that is the fact that we have a City that's willing to support its parks for the citizens," Chairman Edwards said in a report at the Jan. 8th Yukon City Council meeting.

The City of Yukon has been active in obtaining grant funds to help pay for park and recreation projects. City grant writer Audrey Fitzsimmons is credited for her efforts in this area, most recently in trying to secure federal grants to improve the Chisholm Trail Park trail system and update the Ranchwood Park restroom facility.

NEW ADDITIONS

Edwards, who has served the past 13 years on the Yukon Park Board, described some new additions to Yukon park system.

"We have the new splash pad going it at Sunrise Park," Edwards said. "That's going to be something I think will be heavily utilized. Hopefully, we'll see completion of the splash pad before spring."

A \$100,000 federal grant

will help pay for this unique water spray ground.

Another major addition is a new air conditioning system at the Jackie Cooper Gym, which has been without one since opening in 1999. The gym also will receive a new floor and roof updates.

"It's going to be a real fine facility when that's done," Edwards said.

Both the splash pad and Jackie Cooper Gym upgrades are projects the Park Board "has been working on behind the scenes for years," Edwards noted.

In his report to the City Council, Edwards recognized other Yukon Park Board members: D.E. Brower, Joe Baumann, Ed Hatley, and Ward Larson.

Edwards explained the Park Board does "some legwork" before items come before the Council for approval; its members also conduct regular park inspections and volunteer for local special events. The Board reviews facility use agreements with local organizations and clubs, citizen complaints and suggestions from the city manager and staff.

The Park Board chairman expressed appreciation to City Manager Grayson Bottom for helping reorganize the YPR department, specifically with the addition of a parks

superintendent position.

"So now maintenance is done proactively instead of waiting for a complaint - or waiting for another department to make time to come out and do that," Edwards said.

He also credited YPR staff members, calling them "some of the hardest-working people I know."

"Over the 13 years I've

been on the Park Board, I've really come to appreciate the time and effort our Parks and Rec staff puts in," Edwards said.

GREAT FOR YUKON

Ward 2 City Council Member John Alberts, a former Park Board member, called Yukon's parks and recreation system a "great part of our city."

YPR programs "bring so much pleasure" to both City of Yukon citizens and people who live on the outskirts inside the 73099 zip code, Alberts emphasized.

This includes Oklahoma City residents who live close enough to consider Yukon their "home."

Offering them access to the many YPR programs "is a

great way to give back to those people who come here and shop (in City of Yukon stores)," Alberts said.

Vice Mayor Nick Grba thanked Chairman Edwards for his 13 years of volunteer service to the City of Yukon.

Grba called "amazing" the impressive growth of Yukon's Parks & Recreation Department over those years.

Spartan

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has lost 60 lbs since July and is working his way from one level of racing to the next.

Spartan races have three distances: 3.1 miles, 8 miles and 15 miles and Butts has completed them all, the first in Nebraska, the second in New Jersey and the grueling 15-miler in Texas.

On Friday, Butts will be headed to California to compete in an obstacle course/racing event. On

Saturday he'll run a 3.1-mile "sprint" and on Sunday he's entered in an 8-plus mile "Super" race. There will be 15 obstacles in the sprint race and 20 in the longer one.

But, maybe not. "They play with your mind a little bit," Butts said, which is part of the challenge. "They might say there's 15 obstacles but there might be 25 obstacles. You never really know how far the race is going to be or

how many obstacles there's going to be during the race."

The kingpin of all the Spartan races is the ominous "Spartan Death Race" held each year and billed as "the world's most challenging endurance race."

According to a detailed description of the race, it "requires competitors to complete numerous grueling mental and physical challenges throughout a 40-mile course that runs through the Vermont

woods. Competitors may be asked to chop wood for two hours; complete a 30-mile hike with rocks and weighted packs; build a fire from scratch; cut a bushel of onions; or, after 24-hours of racing, memorize the names of the first 10 U.S. presidents or a Bible verse, hike to the top of a mountain and recite them back in order - miss a word and you get to do it again.again.again."

Butts classified the "Death Race" as "the toughest competition on the planet."

"It's an endurance race," he describes it. "Physically and mentally, it's just above and beyond. The minimum is 48 hours with no sleep. The sleep deprivation is what really hits people."

One race he competed in last year started with 159 entries and ended with only 15 finishers.

"It lasted 70 hours with no sleep," Butts said of the torturous event. "You don't know when it starts and you don't know when it ends. That's the way it's designed. They try to break you physically and mentally and they will. It's just a matter of time to where they're going to get you one way or another."

Butts has finished all the races he's competed in and has several medals to show for it. An average day of training includes running maybe six miles, chopping wood, carrying a 60-lb sand bag over his shoulder while he walks through his neighborhood, through creeks and over hills near his home. Not an average day for any athlete, especially one who has withstood a massive head injury.

Ban

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approved the burn ban proclamation at a special meeting Jan. 17.

All three Commissioners signed the resolution, which states: "Any fire started under these extreme conditions may become out of control causing major property damage and the possibilities of injuries and danger of loss of life."

The resolution makes it "unlawful for any person to purposefully set fire or to ig-

nite material such as fireworks, campsites, bonfires or fires to burn trash and debris, vegetation, forest or grass range unless otherwise granted special permission by the Canadian County Board of Commissioners or their designated person."

There are three primary exceptions/exemptions to Canadian County's outdoor burning prohibition:

- * Outdoor grilling using gas and charcoal grills with hood covering.
- * Cutting and welding op-

erations; each case must be approved by permit through local fire authorities.

* Burning vegetative debris if: Weather forecast/conditions become favorable, request made at least 48 hours in advance, detailed burn plan accompanies request, and adequate fire suppression arranged and approved by local fire authorities.

Anyone convicted of violating Canadian County's burn ban resolution is subject to a maximum \$500 fine and/or up to one year in jail.

Hopkins

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move forward in a positive way."

Hopkins is a former Director of Land Development for Home Creations. While living in Norman, following his graduation from the University of Oklahoma, he was elected to the Norman City Council. He went on to serve three terms.

"Canadian County is at a crossroads," Hopkins said. "It will take strong leadership and the desire to create an atmosphere that nurtures prosperity and enhances the great quality of life we have in our communities."

Hopkins is a graduate of the University of

Oklahoma. He is a member of the Piedmont Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Canadian County and the American Public Works Association where he is active in the Central Oklahoma Chapter.

Hopkins is married to Paisley Basham Hopkins, who is the current CEO of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce. They attend Piedmont First United Methodist Church. They have six children - Hayley, Wiley, Kennedy, Dillon, Aidan and Lydia.

Kevin Hopkins can be contacted at 373-1609 or votekevinhopkins@gmail.com. Current District 1 Commissioner Phil Carson has announced he will not seek reelection.

DADDY - DAUGHTER DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2014

ROBERTSON ACTIVITY CENTER

HWY 66 & YUKON PARKWAY

\$5 in advance

\$7 day of the dance

AGES 4-8 FROM 3:00-4:30 PM

AGES 4-8 FROM 5:00-6:30 PM

AGES 9-12 FROM 7:00-8:30 PM

LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS PER DANCE

Ticket Locations:
 Community Center
 Jackie Cooper Gym
 Robertson Activity Center
 Information: 354-8442

MR. ROCK N' ROLL
DJ RONNIE KAYE
 KEEPSAKE PHOTOS &
 T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE
 FOR PURCHASE

Yukon McDonald's
Main Street
Garth Brooks Blvd.