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Home of Keith Ketner

Wednesday Jan. 22, 2014

Around YUKON

'Mr. Yukon' Contest

The Yukon Varsity Pom Squad will host the 15th annual Mr. Yukon contest at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 in the Yukon Fine Arts Auditorium, 850 Yukon Ave. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults (program included) and \$5 for students. Luke Swanson will return to emcee the event. Money raised will go toward the pom squad's Feb. 1 trip to national competition in Orlando, Fla. For more information, call 834-7157.

Crochet Workshop

A beginning crochet workshop for adults will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Mabel C. Fry Public Library, 1200 Lakeshore. Participants will make a crocheted bracelet with beads. Bring scissors; other materials will be furnished. Space is limited for the free workshop. Sign up at mabelcrypubliclibrary.com or call 354-8232.

Community Coffee

The Yukon Chamber of Commerce Community Coffee will be this Friday, Jan. 24 at A Child's Garden Daycare, 1210 W Vandament. Networking starts at 8 a.m. with announcements at 8:30 a.m. A ribbon cutting will follow.

Knights' Blood Drive

The Knights of Columbus will host a breakfast and blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 at the St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church Gym, 600 S Garth Brooks Blvd. Each donor will receive a hot/cold gel pack, health screenings and donor rewards points. A photo ID is required to give blood.

Groundhog Dinner

Yukon's 58th Annual Groundhog Day Dinner will be 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at the First United Methodist Church, 400 Elm. Menu consists of sauerkraut and ribs, new potatoes, sausage patties, sausage gravy, biscuits, and apple butter. Advance tickets are \$7, or \$8 at the door. Tickets for children under 12 are \$4. For more information, call 354-8858.

Pet Adoption Totals

Pets & People adoptions year-to-date through Jan. 18 are 75 dogs and cats. The 2013 adoption total was 1,161 dogs and cats. For adoption information, call 350-PETS.

Call Our Office - 354-5264

With high fire danger, burn ban OKd

By Conrad Dudderar
 Editor

EL RENO - With no measureable precipitation forecasted - combined with plenty of dead vegetation and high winds - Canadian County officials have prohibited outdoor burning over the next month.

Canadian County Commissioners have declared a burn ban that began

■ No measureable precipitation expected; high winds and dead vegetation across Canadian County

at midnight Jan. 18 and will continue through noon Feb. 17, although the prohibition could be lifted before then if high fire dangers subside.

Canadian County Emergency Management Director Jerry Smith doesn't expect "any measurable precipitation" over the next month, and

cited the low humidity, high winds and dry ground. Smith noted there was "a lot of vegetative growth" last summer that dried up.

A majority of Canadian County's municipal and rural fire chiefs who met Jan. 16 determined that "extreme fire danger exists in Canadian

County," according to Smith.

"All of the chiefs who attended were in favor; they concurred," Smith said. "They were the ones who actually brought it up."

Canadian County Commissioners

See Ban, page 2

Yukon 'Spartan' up to challenge

■ Extreme method to get fit after brain injury

By Jim Powell
 Staff Writer

A Yukon man who suffered a traumatic brain injury has chosen an "extreme" method of getting back into shape.

Kenny Butts, 44, was kicked in the head by a horse nine years ago and has undergone extended and intense medical procedures in the wake of his injury. He has a neuro-stimulator in his lower back with wires going up to his brain and he has a shunt in his head that drains the fluid off his brain.

"It controls the seizures and headaches," Butts said, "and I've had 21 revisions on that stimulator."

Even though he will have the disability the rest of his life, Butts is becoming adept at one of the most grueling sports in modern history, with events named after the



Yukon's Kenny Butts competes in an event that was part of a Spartan race last year.

Spartans - a warrior society of ancient Greece.

Spartan races are obstacle and challenge-driven endurance races that require competitors to complete numerous grueling mental and physical challenges throughout marathon-style

obstacle courses. The races are staged at a variety of venues across the country with the highlight being the "Spartan Death Race" held in Vermont this June.

Butts decided to get involved in Spartan racing, a sport he knew about

through his brother who also races in the events.

"I needed to get active," he said. "I needed to lose weight and this is what I want to do."

The Yukon "Spartan"

See Spartan, page 2

Senator to end service

■ Dr. Coburn to bow out before term ends

By Conrad Dudderar
 Editor

Oklahoma's junior United States senator, who is battling cancer, will leave office two years before his term ends.

Republican Dr. Tom Coburn has announced he will retire this year from the U.S. Senate at the end of the 113th legislative session.

In a statement, Sen. Coburn said his decision to retire isn't about his health, his prognosis, or even his hopes and desires.

"As a citizen, I am now convinced that I can best serve my own children and grandchildren by shifting my focus else-

See Senator, page 2

Hopkins seeks Commissioner seat

Piedmont resident Kevin Hopkins has announced that he will seek the Republican nomination for the District 1 Canadian County Commissioner position.

Hopkins, 47, currently serves as the Highway Superintendent for Oklahoma County District 2, where he oversees the construction and maintenance of county bridges and over 177 lane miles of county roads.

"I have a firm commitment to public service," Hopkins said. "My overall experience in county government has given me an understanding

■ Piedmont man candidate for D1 office



Kevin Hopkins

that will help me in making decisions as County Commissioner from day one."

Hopkins stressed that his accumulated professional experience as provides a balance that has prepared him to serve at this particular time.

"As a land developer in the private sector and my six years as an official at the municipal level, my experience is unique," Hopkins said. "I understand the challenges that exist during a great time of growth like Canadian County is experiencing and the commitment it takes to

See Hopkins, page 2

YPR keeps locals active year-round

By Conrad Dudderar
 Editor

Yukon provides the public with 26 special events each year - and the dedication and commitment of the City's Parks & Recreation Department is integral to their success.

Yukon Parks & Recreation offers 30 youth exercise pro-

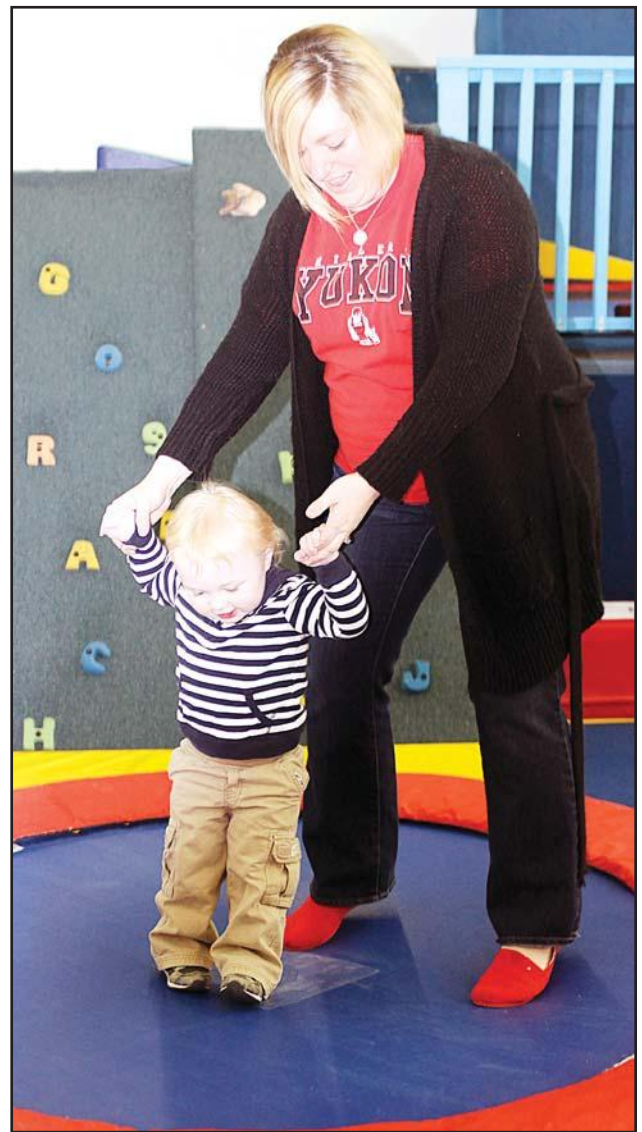
grams, 9 adult sports leagues, 3 adult arts programs, and 23 senior activities.

"We're really lucky in Yukon to have our Parks and Recreation Department and all the activities that we do," Yukon Park Board Chairman Joe Edwards said.

"If you look at a lot of other cities our size, they don't do near the things or have near the programs that our Parks and Rec Department have."

Many of Yukon's 26 spe-

See YPR, page 2



Let's Bounce!

Kellen Ladymon checks out the bounce in this small trampoline with help from Teresa Vestal of Synergy Wellness during Friday's Yukon Chamber of Commerce Community Coffee at Bounce Academy, 1103 Garth Brooks Blvd. in the Chisholm Center. (Photo by Conrad Dudderar)

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