



ROBERT S. CROSS / Tulsa World

Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Mike Sherman stands on the shore of Fort Gibson Lake as he finishes a cell-phone call Thursday to other troopers to tell them about the discovery of the body of Phillip Allen Paul.

FOUND:

A memorial service for Paul will be held Saturday in Broken Arrow.

FROM A-13

He was planning to attend classes at Tulsa Community College in the fall, one of Paul's

friends told the Tulsa World.

His death happened nearly a year to the day after a Broken Arrow teenager was found dead after partying at another area on Fort Gibson Lake.

Jarret Clark, 18, disappeared May 14, 2006, during a post-graduation celebration in the Wahoo Bay area.

The autopsy report on Clark was inconclusive about the cause of his death. The Wagoner County Sheriff's Office listed his

death as "suspicious" because of an alleged fight during the party.

Paul's body was sent to the state Medical Examiner's Office to determine his cause of death. A finding had not been released by Thursday evening.

A memorial service for Paul will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday at Floral Haven Funeral Home in Broken Arrow.

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KING:

Hicks says the project needs a relatively young person to take the reins.

FROM A-13

equivalence and college educations.

They have worked with children — many of whom lack an adult in their lives — on finding role models, Hicks said.

Many of the children's parents were on drugs or had other problems, Hicks said.

Yolanda King wanted to pursue the dreams of her parents, and she understood what it would take to begin the I Can Achieve ministries

in Tulsa, Hicks said.

"She was a carbon copy of her mother," Hicks said. "She knew what the nation needed, and we were going to carry it on."

Hicks, 78, said she doesn't think she will be able to lead the project the way a younger person like King would have.

"I would like for someone to step forward to find out what her plans were, what she did and what she planned to do," Hicks said.

King was determined to find a way to connect with children and teenagers and teach them about respecting others and respecting themselves, Hicks said.

"The last thing she said to me was, 'Mary, we've got to do it,'" Hicks said.

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GOLF:

Tulsa's proposed budget says the closure would cut the city's subsidy cost.

FROM A-13

needs further consideration.

Commissioner Fred Perry said the bottom line on both issues is the bottom line.

"The city appears to have a hole in its budget," Perry said. "I just want to make sure we don't create a hole in our budget."

The \$561.4 million budget proposed by Mayor Kathy Taylor says closing the 27 holes likely would cut the city's \$1.6 million subsidy for the courses by nearly half.

Miller said two members of the county's Performance Audit

Efforts to preserve Tulsa to be lauded

The Tulsa Preservation Commission will present the inaugural Tulsa Preservation Awards at Saturday's Citywide Preservation Celebration.

Those being honored include:

Stewardship Award: Martin Newman; Tim A. Williams; Brady Heights Neighborhood Association; and Alves Properties.

Restoration Award: VFW Post 577; American Lung Association & Fritz Baily Architects; Beth Downing; Philtower LLC; Tom Wallace; KMO Development Group; American Electric Power-Public Service Company of Oklahoma; Circle Cinema; Micha Alexander; Mike and Sarah Schmitz; Deryk & Michell Newberry; and the Philbrook Museum of Art.

The event is from noon to 2 p.m. at the Central Center at Centennial Park, 1028 E. Sixth St. The public is invited.

A barbecue buffet and music by Scott Aycock will be provided after the awards ceremony.

May is National Preservation Month.

Analog TV going off, but converter aid is provided

Dear Action Line: Are we all going to have to buy digital television sets in 2009 and get rid of our analog sets? Will there be converter boxes for the analog sets, and will there be any government subsidies for them? — L.P., Tulsa.



PHIL MULKINS
Action Line

Analog and digital: In 1996, Congress began passing legislation that culminated in the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005. This requires the change from analog to digital television broadcasting.

The Federal Communications Commission says digital television uses new technology to produce a better-quality picture and presents more choices and control to viewers.

Digital television eventually will replace analog television. Digital signals are transmitted as computer code and are less susceptible to interference, providing a higher quality picture and sound.

Writing on the wall: Many people still have analog televisions, which use radio frequency waves to receive pictures and sound.

Broadcast television stations, for now, are using a second, separate channel for digital broadcasting so they can switch from analog to digital by Feb. 17, 2009, the target deadline for ending analog broadcasting.

When analog broadcasting ends, consumers with analog sets will need to obtain a converter to watch broadcast television.

Analog sets that have the converter will display the digital broadcasts, but not in full digital quality.

Cable television customers, however, might not have to buy new digital-ready television sets if the FCC has its way.

Conversion box subsidies: The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, signed by President Bush on Feb. 8, 2006, allocates \$1.5 billion for "DTV converter box" subsidies for owners of analog television sets.

During debate on the amount, Democrats said they feared that a lesser amount would not cover the 45 million analog televisions in 20 million households. The converters cost about \$50.

Why change?: When analog broadcasting ends, those frequencies in the 700MHz band will be returned to the federal government, which will auction them to companies interested in deploying wireless technologies.

The auctions are expected to bring the government \$10 billion.

Law enforcement and emergency management agencies also will communicate over the band.

Pause the parade!: The FCC, noting the financial and energy burdens, voted 5-0 on April 25 to allow cable television customers to continue to receive analog programming after the 2009 deadline.

Commissioners said cable operators should convert their broadcasts from digital to analog form before they send the programs to their analog-cable customers.

Submit Action Line questions to 699-8888 or by e-mail at phil.mulkins@tulsaworld.com. Action Line pursues consumer complaints submitted with photocopies of documentation to Tulsa World Action Line, P.O. Box 1770, Tulsa, OK 74102-1770.

HEALTH:

Expanding the program will help struggling rural nursing homes and hospitals, a Tulsa lawmaker says.

FROM A-13

the money in the special fund is used up, it will be used to provide care for parents of children who already receive free health

care through Medicaid.

"This will delay the parent trigger for at least four years and provide insurance to those who are working," Steele said.

Lawmakers say it would be better to subsidize working parents than to provide free insurance to those who don't work.

Expanding the program will help struggling rural nursing homes and hospitals, said Sen. Tom Adelson, D-Tulsa, who led efforts to create the government-subsidized health insurance plan for small businesses.

"I'm just interested in getting people insured, no matter who it is," he said.

The nursing homes and hospitals have employees working in three shifts around the clock, but they can't afford to provide health insurance to their workers, who take care of the elderly, nursing home operator Scott Pilgrim said recently at the state Capitol. Pilgrim operates homes in Medford, Bixby and Beggs.

The bill was approved Thursday by a Senate committee, and it will be considered by a House committee Monday before heading to the floors of both chambers.

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