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# The Tuscaloosa News

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## AG seeks to halt Greene case against state agents

Three people were involved in the 2011 seizure of gambling machines from Greenetrack, Frontier Bingo

By Stephanie Taylor  
Staff Writer

Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange is attempting to halt prosecution of two state agents and a hired gambling machine expert recently indicted on felony perjury charges in Greene County.

Lawyers with the attorney general's office have filed documents to dismiss cases against three people who were involved in his office's 2011 seizure of electronic gambling machines from Greenetrack and Frontier Bingo.

The documents were filed under seal, but obtained by The Tuscaloosa News last week. A spokeswoman from Strange's office declined to comment about why the office took over the cases, why the office wants the cases dismissed and why the court filings were kept secret.

Greene County District Attorney Greg Griggers condemned the attorney general's actions at a court hearing Wednesday at the William McKinley Branch Courthouse in Eutaw. Griggers has refused to hand over any materials

SEE GREENE | 7A



Greene County District Attorney Greg Griggers speaks with the media after a hearing at the William McKinley Branch Courthouse in Eutaw on Wednesday.

STAFF PHOTO | ERIN NELSON

MAYA ANGELOU  
1928-2014



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Poet and author Maya Angelou, shown in 2005, died Wednesday morning at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was 86.

## Poet captured black culture

By Elaine Woo  
Los Angeles Times

Maya Angelou was a diva of American culture: an actress, singer, dancer and film director as well as an essayist and Pulitzer-Prize-nominated poet, whose mainstream magnetism led her to write verses for Hallmark and recite one of her poems at the 1993 inauguration of President Bill Clinton.

Her most celebrated achievement, however, was the stories she told about herself in "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" (1969), the first in a series of best-selling memoirs. Universal in its themes yet compellingly particular in its details about being a black girl in a white world, it is a story of survival that exposed the ugliness as well as the beauty in a prodigiously inventive life.

A staple of high school and college reading lists, SEE ANGELOU | 4A

## Judge to decide if jury can hear graphic details of case

Tracey Grissom murder trial to begin Aug. 4



STAFF PHOTO | ROBERT SUTTON

Tracey Grissom appeared for a hearing with her lawyer, Warren Freeman, in Judge John England's courtroom at the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse on Wednesday. Grissom confessed to police that she shot her ex-husband, Hunter Grissom, at Binion Creek Boat Landing on May 15, 2012.

By Jason Morton  
Staff Writer

Jurors in the upcoming murder trial of Tracey Grissom may not get to hear details of what her defense attorney claims was her motivation for killing her ex-husband.

Grissom, now 32, is accused of shooting to death 27-year-old Hunter Daniel Grissom on May 15, 2012, at the Binion Creek Boat Landing off U.S. Highway 43 North.

At the time, the former couple was involved in court disputes about child support for their young daughter.

Also, Hunter Daniel Grissom was awaiting prosecution on charges of first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy and unlawful imprisonment that had been filed against him by Tracey Grissom in 2010, about 18 months before the slaying.

Her Clay County-based attorney, Warren Freeman, has argued that years of abuse contrib-

uted to an act of self-defense brought on by the post-traumatic stress disorder Grissom was suffering from when she unloaded the gun into her ex-husband's back.

Now, prosecutors want to prevent the jury from hearing details of those accusations.

In April, Assistant Attorney General Ternisha A. Miles filed a motion to prevent details of Hunter Grissom's past from becoming part of the trial that is set

SEE TRIAL | 4A

## Tax credits for private schools struck down

Judge rules Alabama Accountability Act violates state constitution

By Phillip Rawls  
The Associated Press



MONTGOMERY | A Montgomery judge on Wednesday struck down Alabama's tax credits for parents who move their children from failing public schools to private schools.

Circuit Judge Gene Reese ruled the Alabama Accountability Act violates the Alabama constitution in several ways, including putting more than one subject in a bill. Proponents said they will appeal the ruling by the Democratic judge before the all-Republican Alabama Supreme Court.

The Republican-controlled Legislature passed the act in February 2013. It started out as a bill to give city and county school systems more flexibility in trying new approaches to education.

Over Democratic objections, the Republican majority expanded the bill to include state income tax credits for parents who move their children from public schools rated as failing

Should parents in Alabama receive tax credits for moving their children from failing public schools to private schools? Vote in our Web poll at www.tuscaloosa-news.com.

SEE TAX | 7A

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High 85  
Low 66

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