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1928-2014

## Maya Angelou

**An extraordinary life:** Poet's memoirs of struggle inspired nation

By Hillel Italie  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK » Maya Angelou's story awed millions. A childhood victim of rape, she broke through silence and shame to tell her tale in one of the most widely read memoirs of the 20th century. A black woman born into poverty and segregation, she recited the most popular presidential inaugural poem in history.

"I'm not modest," she told The Associated Press in 2013. "I have no modesty. Modesty is a learned behavior. But I do pray for humility, because humility comes from the inside out."

Angelou, a Renaissance woman and cultural pioneer, died Wednesday at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was 86.

ANGELOU » PAGE 5

*Angelou was a rare literary figure unafraid to speak truth to power*

Contemporary poets — and I am one, occasionally publishing ditties in little magazines with circulations in the high two figures — have a complicated relationship with the very few among us who achieve stardom and fame. And when it's "Oprah"-appearing fame, which is for maybe one poet in a generation, the jealousy is cubed.



Larry Wilson  
Columnist

The ethereal, almost royal, indeed angelic personage that was Maya Angelou was beyond all that earthbound tripe. She was that rare literary figure of today who transcends the brows — the low, the middle, the high. When she died on Wednesday at 86, the mourning response was universally

WILSON » PAGE 5

Online: To see a photo gallery of Maya Angelou, go to [PHOTOS.DAILYBREEZE.COM](http://PHOTOS.DAILYBREEZE.COM)



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maya Angelou, with a copy of her book "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" in Los Angeles in 1971, overcame poverty and racism to become an actor and dancer, then a famed author and activist, cultural beacon and pioneer. She died Wednesday at 86.

### REPORTS

## Big names in bidding for NBA Clippers

Winfrey among stars in business, sports

By Jack Wang  
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@TheJackWang on Twitter

As the NBA moves toward its June 3 hearing to oust Clippers owners Donald and Shelly Sterling, the latter continued her effort to sell the Los Angeles franchise for what could be a record price.

The first round of bidding for the Clippers closed Wednesday afternoon with a flurry of big names entering the ring.

According to ESPN, a group that includes Oprah Winfrey, music mogul David Geffen and Oracle CEO Larry Ellison has teamed with Guggenheim Partners executives Todd Boehly and Mark Walter — as well as Steve Jobs' widow Laurene Jobs and record executive Jimmy Iovine. Forbes ranks Ellison as the world's fifth-richest man, with a net worth of \$51 billion. Geffen and Winfrey are worth \$6 billion and \$3 billion, respectively.

Another group that includes former NBA All-Star Grant Hill, CLIPPERS » PAGE 8

### USC KECK SCHOOL

## Jet pollution levels higher than thought

Study: LAX particulates permeate 10-mile area

By Sandy Mazza  
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@sandymazza on Twitter

Levels of hazardous pollutants generated by planes at LAX are much more prolific and dangerous than previously believed, according to a study to be released today that asserts the airport generates as much toxic chemicals as hundreds of miles of freeway traffic.

Ultrafine toxic particulates permeate the area 10 miles downwind of the Westchester facility, contrary to previous studies that have found air pollution dissipates quickly after airplane take-offs, according to the study that will be published in the American Chemical Society's Environmental LAX » PAGE 8

### FRENCH OPEN

#### No Williams sisters match for third round

Serena Williams was defeated by Garbine Muguruza, and her sister Venus lost to Anna Schmiedlova. SPORTS



### REPORT

#### Phoenix hospital delayed care for 1,700 veterans

Veterans in need of care were "at risk of being lost or forgotten" after being kept off the official wait list. PAGE A15

### SCRIPPS SPELLING BEE

#### Torrance eighth-grader advances to semifinals

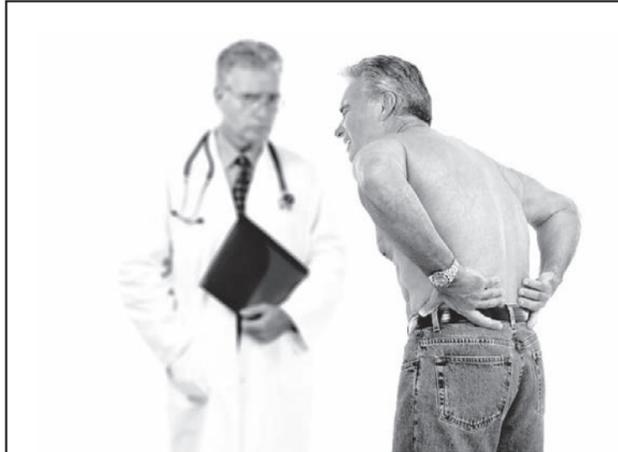
Timothy Lau survives the second and third rounds of the national contest, moving on to the semifinals today. PAGE A3

### VIDEO

#### Listen to Maya Angelou recite her poetry

See a video collection of author, poet Maya Angelou reciting some of her most notable works. BIT.LY/MAYADN1

INDEX Bridge.....D5 | Classifieds.....D1 | Comics....A14,D5 | Obituaries.....A5 | Puzzles.A13,D2,5 | Ship Arrivals...D5 | TV Listings...A15 | MediaNews Group 8 17923 1 00001 13



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