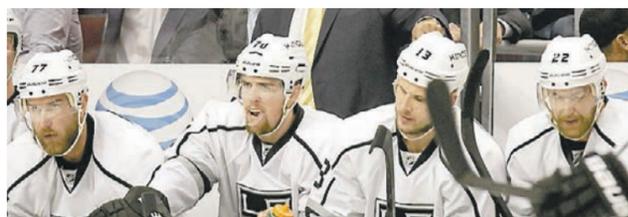




SPECIAL SECTION Leadership Long Beach celebrates 25 years Section » S1



NHL PLAYOFFS Kings can't close out Chicago, lose in 2nd OT Sports

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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.

"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 6

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.



Larry Wilson Columnist

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 6

Online: To see a photo gallery of Maya Angelou, go to PHOTOS.PRESSTELEGRAM.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.

CONTESTS

So-called sweepers keep eyes on the prize

By Jeremy Thomas and Rebecca Kimitch Staff Writers

When Covina resident Kevin Rader entered his first sweepstakes, he got the same reaction as the lead character in the Oscar-nominated movie "Nebraska."

"Friends, family — they all pooh-poohed it. They said, 'Nobody can win. It's too hard,'"

Rader said.

But while in the movie, Bruce Dern's character was indeed disillusioned, in real life, Rader has proved his naysayers wrong, over and over and over again.

Trips to Hawaii, Japan, Alaska and Mexico, Caribbean cruises, a \$100,000 RV and multiple cars are among the long list of loot Rader has collected since he started entering sweepstakes

SWEEPS » PAGE 7



From left, Mason Fine, Julie Fine, Margaret Sackrison, Jeffery Carman and Ellie Jordan meet once a month. BRITTANY MURRAY STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NBA

Reports: Offers made for Clippers

Winfrey among stars in business, sports

By Jack Wang jack.wang@langnews.com @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.

Another group that includes former NBA All-Star Grant Hill, billionaire investor Bruce Karsh and Milwaukee Brewers part-owner Tony Ressler submitted a bid of \$1.2 billion, according to Bloomberg.

Former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer is also said to be interested, and met with Shelly Sterling on Sunday. Now the largest individual Microsoft shareholder, Ballmer

CLIPPERS » PAGE 8

INSPECTOR GENERAL

Phoenix VA hospital had 1,700 vets off waiting list

Report finds similar problems nationwide

By Matthew Daly The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » About 1,700 veterans in need of care were "at risk of being lost or forgotten" after being kept off the official waiting list at the troubled Phoenix veterans hospital, the Veterans Affairs watchdog said Wednesday in a scathing report that increases pressure on Secretary Eric Shinseki to resign.

The investigation, initially focused on the Phoenix hospital, found systemic problems in the VA's sprawling nationwide system, which provides medical care to about 6.5 million veterans each year. The interim report confirmed allegations of excessive waiting time for care in Phoenix, with an average 115-day wait for a first appointment for those on the waiting list.

"While our work is not complete, we have substantiated that significant delays in access to care negatively impacted the quality of care at this medical facility," Richard J. Griffin, the department's acting inspector general, wrote in

REPORT » PAGE 7

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



WEST POINT GRADUATION

Obama seeks shift in military policy

The president says America is the world's only indispensable nation but that military force is not the only path. PAGE A10

OMAR AWADA

Benefit to be held after 13-year-old's death

Community will host "It Takes a Village" fundraiser for Omar, who died in a hiking accident in Sequoia National Park. PAGE A5

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