

The Record

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Jobs picture looking better

Pacific forecast sees recovery to 2007 levels

By Reed Fujii
Record Staff Writer

STOCKTON — Strong job growth will soon push California to a new recovery milestone — 15.4 million nonfarm jobs, equal to the pre-recession peak seen in 2007, economists at the Business Forecasting Center at University of the Pacific reported Wednesday.

That's nearly a year earlier than previously forecast and is due to revised employment figures showing California jobs grew at a strong 3 percent rate in 2013.

Forecasting Center Director Jeffrey Michael said he's raised his expectations for the broader state economy because of the job growth, which is being led by technology and science-related industries, primarily in coastal California.

"The biggest concentration of that is computer programming and technology and R&D in the Bay Area," he said.

Still, Pacific's latest quarterly forecast shows all 10 metro areas it covers — five in the Bay Area and five in the Central Valley — posted solid job growth of greater than 2 percent.

California's recovery continues to gain momentum, despite the continued sluggish performance of the housing and construction sectors.

"It's one of the reasons that this recovery is slow, slower to develop than previous recoveries," Michael said. "Typically housing is one of the first sectors to bounce back and leads the charge. In this recovery, (it is) at the end."

The drought will have some impact on agricultural production and could reduce employment by about 1 percent in the San Joaquin Valley this year, the forecast says. Still, overall job growth in the Valley should still reach or exceed 2 percent this year compared to about 3 percent in 2013.

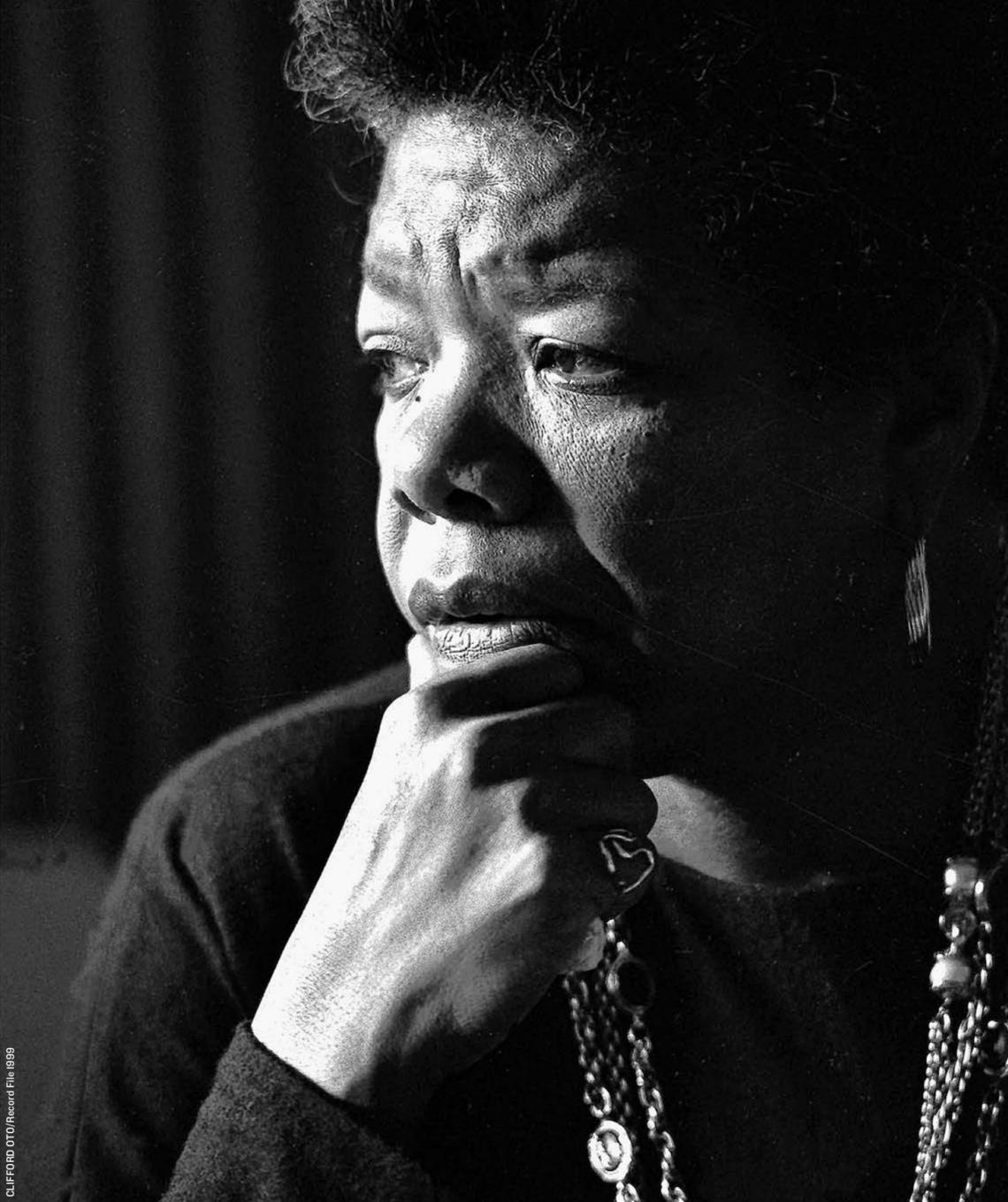
In San Joaquin County, nonfarm employment is expected to grow 2.3 percent this year, slowing down from 2013's strong 3.2 percent gain, according to the Pacific forecast. That pace should pick up again with 2.6 percent job gains in both 2015 and 2016.

Part of those ups and downs is due to the construction and opening last year of the California Health Care Facility, a state medical prison in Stockton.

SEE JOBS, PAGE A6

Maya Angelou • 1928-2014

WITH HER WORDS



CLIFFORD OTTO/Record File 1989

Dancer, poet told powerful story

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.

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

"She lived a life as a teacher,

INSIDE

Editorial: Maya Angelou, in her own voice. **PAGE A7**

activist, artist and human being. She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace," said her son, Guy B. Johnson.

Tall and regal, with a deep, majestic voice, she was unforgettable whether encountered in person, through sound or the printed word. She was an actress, singer and dancer in the 1950s and 1960s and made a brave and sensational debut as an author in 1969 with "I Know

SEE POET, PAGE A6

Stockton ties run long and deep

By Tony Sauro
Record Staff Writer

Maya Angelou always left an imposing impression on Stockton.

"Emotionally and powerfully, she just mesmerized people everywhere," said Larry Meredith. "She was uniquely powerful and inspiring every time. She was just as real and just as deep as the high priestess of autobiography she was."

Angelou, whose mother was a community leader in Stockton for 23 years, died Wednesday at 86.

Angelou leaves a global

legacy — as poet, author, playwright, artist and noble "priestess" of human rights and dignity — that remains as indelible as the praiseful prose of Meredith, an emeritus professor of religion at University of the Pacific.

"She was fantastic," said Ralph Lee White.

"She was a civil rights activist ... back in the day. I had nothing but the utmost respect for her and a lot of love for her activities and work. I'd see her with Oprah (Winfrey) and President (Barack) Obama and think, 'My, that's my friend, too.'"

SEE STOCKTON, PAGE A6

Two cops hurt in crash

Officers were going to help arrest suspect in shooting

By Jason Anderson
Record Staff Writer

STOCKTON — Two police officers were badly injured and required extrication from their patrol car after they crashed while responding to assist in the arrest of a shooting suspect early Wednesday in central Stockton, authorities said.

The officers were taken to a hospital with serious injuries, and one had to undergo surgery, but both were listed in stable condition Wednesday afternoon, said Officer Joe Silva, a spokesman for the Stockton Police Department. Police did not disclose the nature or extent of the officers' injuries, and their names were not released.

"This is one of the hazards of being a law enforcement officer, and unfortunately accidents will happen," Silva said. "We are very fortunate both of our officers appear to be recovering well."

The shooting occurred shortly before 2 a.m. after a man and a woman in one vehicle were cut off by a man in another vehicle while traveling south on West Lane near East March Lane, police said. A confrontation ensued and the driver of the second vehicle, identified by police as 32-year-old Jimmie Lee Turner, then opened fire on the victims, authorities said.

Neither of the victims was injured, but their vehicle was struck by gunfire before Turner drove away, police said. Officers responded to the area, found Turner's vehicle.

SEE CRASH, PAGE A6

Officers seriously injured

Two police officers were seriously injured shortly after 2 a.m. Wednesday when their patrol car crashed into a tree in the center median on North El Dorado Street near East Jamestown Street.



The Record

TODAY'S RECORD



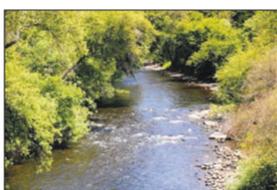
MENTAL HEALTH FOCUS OF FORUM

Veterans discussed access to mental-health services at a forum hosted by American Legion Karl Ross Post 16. **A3**



RAMS FIND POWER FOR TITLE PUSH

Scot Michaels, who had been scrambling for playing time, has been a revelation for the St. Mary's baseball team. **C1**



WILD? SCENIC? NO THANKS, S.J. SAYS

San Joaquin County is not wild about a proposed designation for the Mokelumne River upstream from Stockton. **A3**



Classified **C5** Lottery **B8**
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Mostly sunny

Stockton: 87/56
Manteca: 88/56

Complete weather, **PAGE B5**

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