

# JOURNAL & COURIER

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LAFAYETTE - WEST LAFAYETTE

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## VA calls its Indy office too slow

Review comes year after consolidation; 200-plus handle 14 states; backlog will take years to cut

By Maureen Groppe  
Gannett

WASHINGTON—A Department of Veterans Affairs' office based in Indianapolis has not acted quickly enough to serve beneficiaries who need help handling their benefits, according to the VA's Office of Inspector General.

The report concludes that the office is

taking too long to investigate allegations of misuse of beneficiary funds, which may lead to the VA having to pay almost \$1 million in restitution to a dozen beneficiaries, and is placing beneficiaries at risk because of a backlog in assessments of their situations. And the office is not processing mail quickly enough, which could affect veterans' benefits, according to the report issued this week.

The Department of Veterans Affairs said in comments included in the report that it is working to correct the problems.

The department noted that the review occurred only about a year after the VA consolidated 56 regional offices into six hubs — including the one in Indianapolis — to handle benefits paid to beneficiaries who can't manage their financial affairs because of injury, disease, infirmities of old age, or because they're under 18.

The report comes at a time when the VA is under heavy scrutiny for

USA TODAY

### INSIDE

Report says delays at VA run rampant, patient care is compromised, **Page 1B**

allegations that it is delaying medical care to veterans and that it manipulated records to make it seem that veterans were getting treatment much more quickly than they really were. Calls for the resignation of VA Secretary Eric

See VA INDY, Page A10

## Frankfort coach arrested

Police allege contact with 17-year-old female student

By Steven Porter  
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Thomas Weeks, a history teacher at Frankfort High School and the varsity boys basketball coach, was arrested Wednesday afternoon after police received allegations that he had sexual contact with a 17-year-old female student.



Thomas Weeks

Weeks, 46, was booked into Clinton County Jail on suspicion of child seduction as a Class D felony, according to jail staff and Frankfort Police Department Deputy Chief Glenn Talbot.

Talbot said Frankfort police received a report Monday alleging misconduct between Weeks and a juvenile victim.

Indiana law defines the crime of child seduction to include sexual contact between a teacher and student when the student is at least 16 years of

See ARREST, Page A10



## Stayin' alive

The Indiana Pacers stave off elimination with 93-90 win over Miami in Game 5. **Sports, D1**

## 'It went fast'

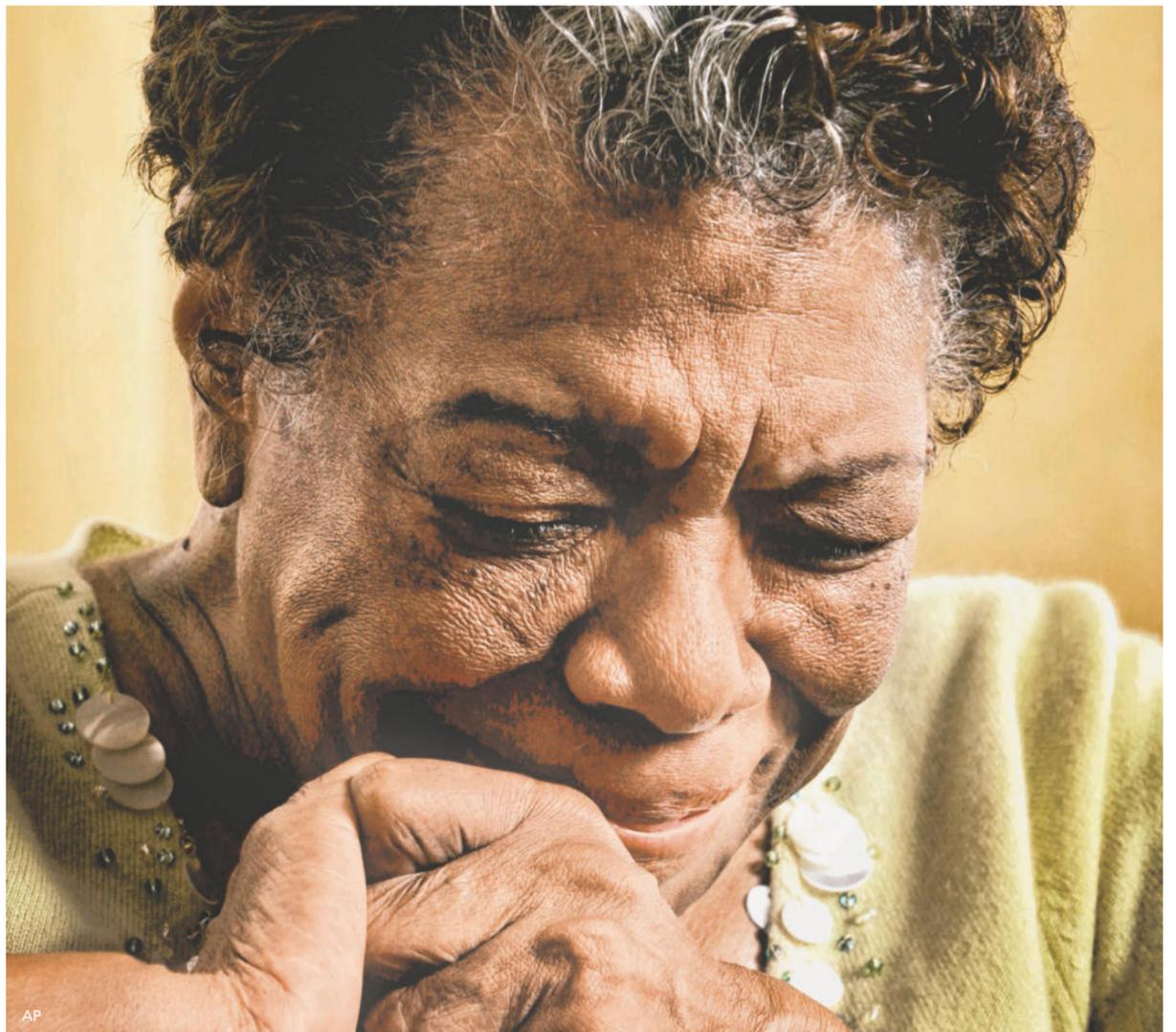
Well-wishers bid farewell to TSC assistant superintendent David Notary after 28 years. **Local, A3**

8 a.m. 66 | Noon 74 | 6 p.m. 79

Some sun. Clear tonight. Great weather ahead. DETAILS, PAGE C10.

MAYA ANGELOU: APRIL 1928 - MAY 2014

## A 'commanding voice'



From wire reports

Maya Angelou, a modern Renaissance woman who survived the harshest of childhoods to become a force on stage, screen, the printed page and the inaugural dais, died Wednesday. ¶ "Dr. Maya Angelou was a towering cultural figure — a woman of courage and strength," Motown founder Barry Gordy said. "She took the music of the heart and transformed it into words and imagery that moved my heart and the world's."

*"And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration. Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us. They existed. They existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed."*

— STANZA FROM "WHEN GREAT TREES FALL"

USA TODAY Read more about Maya Angelou, her life and literature on Pages 1-2B.

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