

GET OUT! WEEKEND

Concerts, fairs, baseball and more promise plenty of fun

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7 WOMEN ARE FINALISTS FOR ATHENA AWARD

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DEVILS END IT BEFORE THE RAIN

Richmond's girls tennis team clinches regional championship
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LOCAL: RCS expects \$1.2 million loss in tax revenue. A3

Palladium-Item

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014

A GANNETT COMPANY

RICHMOND, IND.

Cleanup nearly done at former Dana plant

By Bill Engle
Staff Writer

Work is nearing its end on the cleanup of the former Dana Corporation foundry plant on Richmond's northwest side.

The city has owned the property since 2009 when it acquired the 44-acre site at 2153 and 2175 Williamsburg Pike from Wayne County at the suggestion of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

The county acquired the property after Dana declared bankruptcy and stopped paying property taxes. It went unsold through a county tax sale in October 2008.

Dana owes more than

\$28,000 in back taxes.

Officials at IDEM asked the city to acquire it and agreed to pay for testing and cleanup. Once it is clean — probably two to three weeks away — the city can begin marketing the property.

If it is sold, the city will split any profits with the county to cover unpaid taxes.

"It has been a very good project," said Tony Foster, city director of Metropolitan Development, who has overseen the work. "Both the contractor and the subcontractor have come in and taken care of things a lot quicker than we expected."

AMEC of Indianapolis is the general contractor and Alliance

AT A GLANCE

The former Dana Corporation foundry is two parcels at 2153 and 2175 Williamsburg Pike. One parcel is 32.6 acres and had an assessed value of \$262,400. The other is 11.8 acres and is assessed at \$223,700.

Service Group of Grove City, Ohio, is doing the cleanup.

Consultant Stephen Zins of AMEC said the work "was basically a demolition project."

"We found very little contamination on the site. Most of it was just taking down the building and cleaning up the piles of

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Workers from Alliance Service Group of Grove City, Ohio, use skid loaders Wednesday to fill pits in the yard at the former Dana Corporation foundry site. BILL ENGLE/PALLADIUM-ITEM

Locals recall Angelou's visit

Poet, author dies at age 86

Associated Press

Maya Angelou, a poet and author who rose from poverty, segregation and the harshest of childhoods to become a force on stage, screen and the printed page, has died. She was 86.

Angelou died Wednesday morning at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C., her son, Guy B. Johnson, said in a statement. The 86-year-old had been a professor of American studies at Wake Forest University since 1982.

"She lived a life as a teacher, activist, artist and human being. She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace," Johnson said.

Tall and regal, with a deep, majestic voice, Angelou defied all probability and category, becoming one of the first black women to enjoy mainstream success as an author and thriving in virtually every artistic medium. The young single mother who performed at strip clubs to earn a living later wrote and recited the most popular presidential inaugural poem in history. The childhood victim of rape wrote a million-selling memoir, befriended Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and performed on stages around the world.

An actress, singer and dancer in the 1950s and 1960s, she broke through as an author in 1969 with "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," a best-seller that became standard (and occasionally censored) reading, and was the first of a multipart autobiography that continued through the decades. In 1993, she was a sensation reading her cautiously hopeful "On the Pulse of the Morning" at former President Bill Clin-

RELATED VIDEO

See a video featuring Maya Angelou at www.pal-item.com.

ton's first inauguration. Her confident performance openly delighted Clinton and made the poem a best-seller, if not a critical favorite. For former President George W. Bush, she read another poem, "Amazing Peace," at the 2005 Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the White House.

She remained close enough to the Clintons that in 2008 she supported Hillary Rodham Clinton's candidacy over the ultimately successful run of the country's first black president, Barack Obama. But a few days before Obama's inauguration, she was clearly overjoyed. She told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette she would be watching it on television "somewhere between crying and praying and being grateful and laughing when I see faces I know."

Angelou wrote when Mandela died: "No sun outlasts its sunset, but will rise again, and bring the dawn." Obama used those words to remember Angelou as "one of the brightest lights of our time — a brilliant writer, a fierce friend, and a truly phenomenal woman." He added: "a childhood of suffering and abuse actually drove her to stop speaking, but the voice she found helped generations of Americans find their rainbow amidst the clouds, and inspired the rest of us to be our best selves."

Angelou was a mentor to Oprah Winfrey, whom she befriended when Winfrey was

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Dr. Maya Angelou spoke to a packed house at Earlham College on Sept. 24, 2011. PALLADIUM-ITEM FILE PHOTO

2,000-plus heard her speak at Earlham College in 2011

By Louise Ronald
Staff Writer

On Sept. 24, 2011, Maya Angelou spoke at Earlham College in Richmond.

More than 2,000 people came to listen.

Among them was Kari Kinsey, an administrative assistant at Earlham's Wellness Center, where the speech took place. As a member of the staff, Kinsey stood next to the stage, nearly close enough to touch the famed poet, educator and civil rights activist.

Kinsey remembered that night after hearing of Angelou's death Wednesday at age 86.

"I don't think we could have packed one more chair in there," Kinsey said.

"We filled (the performance gymnasium in the Wellness Center) and we could have sold more tickets because of who she was and what she meant to people," said Avis Stewart, Earlham's vice president of community relations.

"It's amazing how broad her

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SIMPLE, UPLIFTING ADVICE

Maya Angelou told her audience in Richmond:

- » Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud;
- » Always have a sincere thank you "ready on the tip of your tongue";
- » Be humble. "It comes from the inside out"; and
- » A sincere apology is a "wonderful gesture. It shows that you are human."

Coming Sunday

Locked doors and school resource officers once were found only in city schools, but the escalation of school violence nationwide has ru-

ral Indiana districts taking steps to keep students and staff safe at school. Wayne County's public schools are involved in this effort. Find out who is doing

what to improve school safety when you read a special report in P-I Sunday and at www.pal-item.com.

The Bottom Line

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Today's weather, Page A4

Partly cloudy, with chance of an afternoon shower. High 79. Low 63. Find a five-day forecast on Page A4, or go online to www.pal-item.com for weather updates.



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Richmond, Indiana

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