

MAYA ANGELOU 1928-2014

Beloved writer lived full life, inspired millions

REPUTATION ESTABLISHED WITH 1969 AUTOBIOGRAPHY

By Emma Brown
 The Washington Post

Maya Angelou, a child of the Jim Crow South who rose to international prominence as a writer known for her frank chronicles of personal history and a performer instantly identified by her regal presence and rich, honeyed voice, died Wednesday at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was 86.

Ms. Angelou had heart ailments and had been in declining health.

She established her literary reputation in 1969 with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, a memoir detailing the racism and abuse she endured during her childhood.

From her desperate early years, Ms. An-

See ANGELOU, A2



MARY ALTAFFER | ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Maya Angelou died Wednesday at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C., at age 86. President Barack Obama called her "one of the brightest lights of our time."

'WHEN SHE WALKED IN THE ROOM, EVEN THE SILVERWARE GOT QUIET'



MERLENE DAVIS
 HERALD-LEADER COLUMNIST

I don't think many people my age, or nearing my age, heard the news of Maya Angelou's death without gasping.

The woman who transformed herself from an intentional mute into the voice of a people, a genera-

tion and a movement, was found dead in her Wake Forest, N.C., home Wednesday. She had been ill in recent days, forced to cancel a visit to the Major League Baseball Civil Rights Game ceremony, but, true to her desire for privacy, her illness was never revealed.

Angelou, born Marguerite Johnson and raised in Stamps, Ark., and San Francisco, was a rape victim at 7, a single mother at 17, a stripper, dancer, calypso singer, street car conductor

See DAVIS, A2

Ashland hospital to pay \$40.9M to settle claims of fraudulent bills

PROSECUTOR: PATIENTS VICTIMS OF NEEDLESS, RISKY PROCEDURES

By Bill Estep
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King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland has agreed to pay the government \$40.9 million to settle allegations that it fraudulently billed federally funded health care programs for hundreds of unnecessary heart procedures.

The payment is thought to be the largest ever involving suspected health care fraud in the federal court's Eastern District of Kentucky, which covers 67 counties in the eastern half of the state.

"The conduct alleged in this matter is unacceptable, victimizing both taxpayers and patients," said U.S. Attorney Kerry B. Harvey. "Treatment decisions motivated by financial gain undermine public confidence in our health care system and threaten vital federal programs upon which so many of our citizens rely."

The alleged fraud covered by the settlement occurred between January 2006 and December 2011.

With the deal, Harvey's office this year has arranged to collect more than \$75 million in cases in which providers stood accused of fraudulent billing to Medicare and Medicaid, according to a news release.

King's Daughters did not concede that it did anything wrong, though it agreed to

See ASHLAND, A2

FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Board approves budget, restoring some cutbacks



PHOTOS BY MARK CORNELISON | mcornelison@herald-leader.com

Fayette County Public Schools Superintendent Tom Shelton and members of the school board listened Wednesday to explanations about the \$20 million budget irregularity.

See photos, and a video at Kentucky.com

DISPUTE OVER \$20 MILLION

"I cannot completely disregard Ms. Mullins' 16 years of experience in the district budget and staffing office, particularly since she has absolutely no reason to fabricate these claims."

Amanda Ferguson
 Fayette school board member

MUST READS

Lexington's city government considers taking over management of Downtown Arts Center
 BLUEGRASS, A3

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 BLUEGRASS, A3

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Obama lays out a global strategy
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 KENTUCKY.COM/INFOCENTER

WAITING FOR AUDITOR'S REPORT

"We cannot support the passage of any budget until this audit is complete."

joint statement from the presidents of two Fayette County Public Schools employee groups

\$1.6 MILLION RESTORED TO DISTRICT'S 2014-15 SPENDING

By Valarie Honeycutt Spears
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The Fayette County school board restored some controversial cuts to the 2014-15 tentative budget before approving it 4-1 Wednesday night.

The tentative budget, now about \$428.4 million, has been the subject of debate for months among parents, students and teachers.

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week by the district's budget director that an irregularity in accounting led to a budget crisis.

The cuts to the budget now total about \$17.5 million instead of the \$19.1 million Superintendent Tom Shelton proposed in April. The adjustments the board made at Wednesday's meeting included:

- Restoring cuts to band and orchestra programs.



Rodney Jackson, Fayette schools' director of finance, explained how funds were recorded and stated that the \$20 million was never truly missing.

- Limiting reductions to the district's special schools and programs to 3 percent
- Changing the staffing reduction for classified employees — such as bus drivers and maintenance workers — from 5 percent to 3 percent.
- Restoring \$56,000 for trips and activities for students who receive free and reduced-price lunches and otherwise could not afford to participate.
- Increasing the reserves for the district's special education program from \$1 million to \$2 million. A proposal to cut 97 aides and add seven special education teachers remained.
- Limiting the number of paid

See FAYETTE, A12

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 Vol. 32 No. 147
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