

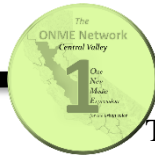
ONME NEWS

Central Valley's Urban News & Current Affairs Spot

Print Edition – Monday, February 20, 2017

Issue #005

Monthly News Post



VBT Radio gives viewers a 'Credit Pulse' in State of Black Central Valley Series on Economics Part 2

February 20, 2017 |ONME Newswire



Credit experts Thomari Story-Harden and Reggie Burns bring awareness about the different levels of credit and how to boost or fix it.

FRESNO, CA--It is shockingly real that minorities are more likely to have insufficient credit histories to generate a credit score according to a report released in 2015 by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau which looked at the number of Americans who were “credit invisible,” meaning they had no records with credit reporting agencies, and the percentage who were unscorable, meaning they had insufficient records to generate a credit score.

The report continued with finding that one reason for the lack of credit confidence among minorities could be that minorities tend to have lower credit scores than white Americans: In 2013, more than 64 percent of white American borrowers had a FICO score of 720 or higher compared with 41 percent of Latino borrowers and 33 percent of African-American borrowers.

Although it may seem easy to push all those statistics to the side, the reality is that society's instrument of evaluating "stable citizens" is based on "credit worthiness."



Thomari Story Harden and Reggie Burns of [Credit Pulse](#) know all too well the staggering statics; however, they are determined to educate the Central Valley community on ways to improve and boost credit as well as avoiding any pitfalls that can disrupt one's credit history or FICO score.

Valley Black Talk Radio has been decoding key issues in the black community through



its several-week series: *State of Black Central Valley*, beginning with education, by including such guest educators as Chris Finley and Atiya Cruise who tackled key issues in the public school system along with possible solutions. ([Click here it see past show.](#))

But it was the next topic for discussion in which VBTalk hosts knew there had to be immediate solutions and remedies: *Economics*.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, in 2015, 50 percent of African-Americans, compared with 49 percent of the general U.S. population, said reducing personal debt was an important financial priority. Forty-nine percent of African-Americans said in 2015 that they had some credit card debt compared with 49 percent of the general population.

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In its Economics Part 1, financial expert [Marshaw Govan of MKG Insurance Agency](#) explained how to get started in budgeting, the importance of being health and life insured and the ABCs' to understanding one's finances and priorities. ([See video here: www.vbtalkradio.onmetv.com.](#))

Harden and Burns finalized the Economics Part 2 of VBTalk Radio's series, educating viewers on all aspects of credit, FICO scores and collection agencies--and what to do about it all.

Watch more to get insight on how to get one's credit up to par in just a few months. :

www.vbtalkradio.onmetv.com

Black History Month 2017
Celebrating the African Diaspora
FRESNOSTATE
Cross Cultural and Gender Center

- 17 (7 to 10 p.m.) at the Satellite Student Union: Africana Culture Night is sponsored by Black Students United.
- 23 (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.) at North Gym (Room 118): Rev James Lawson lecture and book signing, sponsored by the Cross Cultural and Gender Center and the Black Faculty and Staff Association.
- 27 (6 to 8 p.m.) at the Peters Education Center: The "Martin Luther King Jr. and Gunnar Myrdal Lecture" is sponsored by Africana Studies and the MLK Jr. Gunnar Myrdal Committee.

Mobile ‘Red Tail’ exhibit at African-American Museum to finish March 4th

February 16, 2017 | ONME Newswire



Tuskegee Airmen showcases the black fighter pilots from World War II

(Fresno, Calif.) –The African-American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley’s (AAHCMSJV) successful Red Tail Exhibit: “The Mobile Showcase Exhibit” has brought in tours of diverse audiences from throughout the Central Valley.



By obtaining funding through The California Arts Council grant, Cultural Pathways, where the AAHCMSJV was awarded \$10,000 out of 28 other grantees statewide (\$5,000 per year for two years to

bring in artists’ exhibits,) artist, Leroy “Buddy” Gibson shared his knowledge and history of the Tuskegee Airmen’s contributions as African Americans in World War II; the exhibit is based upon the heroics of the 99th Fighter Squadron and 332nd Fighter Group, and their support staff, commonly known as the Tuskegee Airmen.



The closing reception featuring the artist commentary, and historical background will be:

Saturday, March 4th

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

at the

AAHCMSJV

located at

1857 Fulton St.

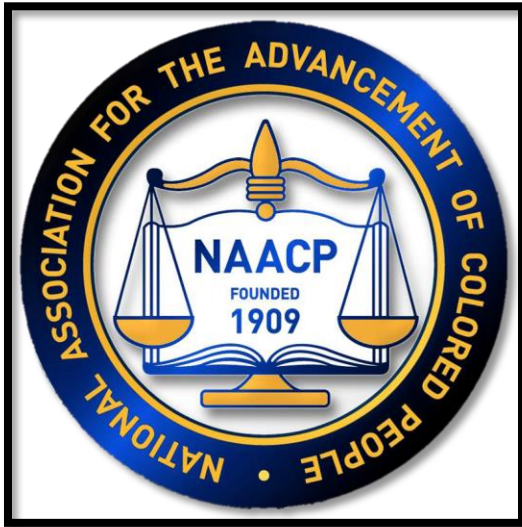
Fresno, CA 93721

Groups are still welcome to book guided tours before the closing reception by calling the museum office Tuesday thru Friday from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, 559-544-1857 or request tour dates via email: aahcmsjv@gmail.com

For media inquiries call: 559-544-1857 -or- visit:
<http://www.aahcmsjv.org/>

NAACP says 'medical marijuana czar' is ignoring input from minority groups

February 7, 2017| ONME News Staff



The California State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has raised some concerns about Lori Ajax, Gov. Jerry Brown's nominee for chief of the Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation. Media reports have called Ajax California's first medical marijuana "czar." The Bureau, which oversees the regulation and sale of marijuana, is a division of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Medical marijuana has been legal for a while in California, but last November voters approved the use of recreational marijuana. This move is expected to reap the state up to \$1 billion in sales tax. But as the state hopes to cash in on the marijuana industry, Black Americans feel they are being shut out of a business that they were criminalized for participating in when it was illegal.

In a letter addressed to Brown, NAACP State President Alice Huffman, said Ajax had largely ignored minority communities in her information sessions discussing the process of implementing legalized marijuana. The NAACP letter also accused Ajax of avoiding meeting with the organization.

However, she had scheduled meetings with law enforcement organizations and local governments.

Huffman also stated that it was important to hear the input from the Black community because minorities had been harshly impacted by tough drug laws.

"The prejudicial treatment of people of color who commit Cannabis-related crimes has resulted in the devastation of families and destruction of individuals' lives," said Huffman in the letter.

The NAACP letter also called on Brown to reject confirming Ajax to the post. Ajax is currently on the schedule to appear in front of a Senate committee hearing on Feb. 15.

California Black Media reached out to the Department of Consumer Affairs' Public Affairs Office for more information. They said that any Public Records request for information about the number of minority groups Ajax had addressed had to be issued via email. It would take up to 10 days for them to respond to that request.

About ONME News Print Edition:

The ONME News Print Edition is a monthly culmination of the online news stories printed daily throughout the month.

Keep up-to-date with news from throughout the Valley:

www.onmenews.com.

If you are a news outlet who would like to be listed and included as one of our media partners, please send an email: news@myonme.com

NOTE: Links are active in the PDF online version.

Black charter advocates rally at State Capitol Margaret Fortune: Black middle-class students are being failed too

February 6, 2017| CBM Newswire



Education advocates rally on steps of the capitol advocating for more choice.

SACRAMENTO, CA --Hundreds of African American charter public school advocates, teachers, parents, and students rallied the State Capitol on the first day of Black History Month to shine a light on funding and education disparities facing Black students in the public school system.

Margaret Fortune, CEO of Fortune School of Education, co-hosted the rally with the California Charter School Association and shared her concerns about the current state of education.

"Today we are focused on advocating for charter schools that are focused on closing the African American achievement gap," said Fortune. "We are asking the legislature for more funding and more choice."

Fortune described choice by better aligning policies to work with charter authorizers who are working collaboratively with charter schools that are focused on closing the African American achievement gap. She pointed to 100,000 African American middle-class students in traditional public schools

that are lagging behind their white peers in reading in math which advocates say these students are being failed by the system by not being identified in law to receive additional resources through the Local Control Formula Funding (LCFF).

According to the California Department of the Education's web site, LCFF was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2014, and replaced the previous K-12 finance system. The law established a base, supplemental, and concentration grants in place of multiple funding streams. In California, there are over 1,200 charter schools with a student population over 500,000, and it's estimated that over 47,000 are African American.

While LCFF targets additional resources to students classified as English learners, foster youth, or students that qualify for free and reduced lunch, Fortune says African American students should have been included in the law to help reduce the achievement gap.

"There are over 100,000 Black students that receive no extra funding from the State of California in school funding because they are not acknowledged as high-need students, and that's despite the fact that our public schools are failing them too," said Fortune.

Assembly Member Sebastian Ridley -Thomas, Los Angeles lawmaker, said, "I can think of no better way than to start Black History month than talking about choice, educational access, quality programs, I am talking about dual immersion language immersion, internship opportunities, workforce development and college and careers."

Speakers also address their outrage many advocates had when the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Executive Board voted to support a moratorium on charter schools, a policy that originated from California. The NAACP received backlash to their policy position prompting legislative and community leaders to write letters of opposition and

resulted in the National Board conducting a listening tour nationwide.

As for Nailah Dubose, an eighth grader at Ephraim Williams College Prep said she was in attendance "to represent all Fortune Schools" and said, "the NAACP needs to keep its hands off our charter schools we are important too."

The African-American Museum Black History Month celebration dazzled its trailblazers

February 6, 2017| CBM Newswire



Patrons entered through a red-carpet experience before entering the ballroom of 350 seated attendees

(Fresno, Calif.) –Saturday, Feb. 4th, the (AAHCMSJV) hosted its annual ***Black History Month Celebration Banquet*** to honor the unsung voices of African-Americans from throughout the Valley at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Fresno Convention Center located at 2233 Ventura St, Fresno, CA 93721.

The celebration began with a dazzling red-carpet experience hosted by Ahjah Cruise, followed



by a professionally emceed event by veteran comedian Feather Da-Wyz and KSEE 24's morning news



journalist, Jessica Porter to a ballroom of more than 350 people from throughout the Central Valley. *The Black History Month Banquet* commemorated local and national black history and celebrates black culture and contributions from throughout the Valley. AAHCMSJV always begins the celebration by honoring icons from the Valley who have strived to make a difference in their communities while surpassing roadblocks, challenges or other personal hurdles that usually interfere with one's greater achievements.

In honoring their legacy, the term "Trailblazer" designates the accomplishments of a community leader who has helped any members of the community through service and/or leadership against all odds.

This year's 2017 Trailblazers who were honored were **Dezie Woods-Jones, Phd, Pastor Donahue Green, Gloria Smith, Fannie Hayes, Dr. Jerome Jackson, Michael McGough, Sam Lane, Dorothy "Dottie" Smith, Earl Myers, Rev. Dr. Henry I. Oputa, Rev. Paul McCoy** and posthumously **Rev. Julius Blaine Brooks**.

Trailblazer awards were followed by two distinguished accolades; the *Passing the Torch Award* and the *Shining Star Award*. This year's recipient of the *Passing the Torch Award* was **Ozeme Bonette Cooley**; the award was established to honor younger Trailblazers who lead their community and are on the path to becoming legendary trailblazers.

This year's 2017 *Shining Star Award*,



given to Central Valley-grown recipients recognized for their upstanding talents in entertainment and the performing arts, honored **Salisha Thomas**.

Pictures and video will be available for purchase on the AAHCMSJV's website by the end of February.

RAPID ALERT
Fresno Unified's Emergency Notification System

Make sure your emergency cell phone numbers are current with the school office.
Don't miss an important safety message like this:

FUSD Rapid Alert: Due to district-wide power outage all schools/programs/activities are cancelled today 1-20-17. District office open. Expect afternoon update.

Fresno Unified Parents & Legal Guardians:
Please don't forget to opt in!

621-5480 | WATERCONSERVATION@FRESNO.GOV

1
DAY

PER WEEK IS HERE

REMEMBER TO TURN OFF YOUR SPRINKLERS

if it has rained or is expected to rain.

City of
FRESNO

WINTER WATERING SCHEDULE DECEMBER 1 - APRIL 30

ODD

Numbered Addresses: **Saturdays Only**

(Ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)

EVEN

Numbered Addresses: **Sundays Only**

(Ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8)

NO WATERING BETWEEN 9AM - 6PM

It's my Imagination
Fresno's

Red Tail

World War II

Tuskegee Airmen

MOBILE SHOW CASE EXHIBIT of

- BLACK
- FIGHTER
- PILOTS

Saturday, March 4, 2017
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

African-American Museum
1857 Fulton St.
Fresno, CA 93721

BLACK HISTORY COMMITTEE

AWARDS DINNER

BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM /DINNER AT 6PM / NO HOST BAR

HANFORD CIVIC AUDITORIUM. /400 N. DOUTY STREET

\$30 PER PERSON/ \$210 PER TABLE (TABLE SEATS 8)

For more information, Contact Paula Massey 559-761-4690

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