

# ONME NEWS

Central Valley's Urban News & Current Affairs Spot

Print Edition – Monday, August 21, 2017

Issue #011

## Monthly News Post



### Solar eclipse proves to be monumental for many Americans throughout the nation

August 21, 2017 | ONME Newswire



**FRESNO, CA** --As Americans all over the nation witnessed the awesomeness of the totality solar eclipse event, *The ONME Network* was able to capture a piece of monumental history in the Central Valley.

NASA previously described the "total solar eclipse" from its [NASA's Eclipse 2017 website](#) as "this path, where the moon will completely cover the sun and the sun's tenuous atmosphere - the corona - can be seen, will stretch from Lincoln Beach, Oregon to Charleston, South Carolina. Observers outside this path will still see a partial

solar eclipse where the moon covers part of the sun's disk."

Surely coast to coast, people witnessed the grand event outside of those areas, capturing the soulful event for their own personal experience.

The first point of contact began at Lincoln Beach, Oregon at 9:05 a.m. PDT, where the totality event began at 10:16 a.m. PDT. Over the next hour and a half, it crossed through Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and, ending near Charleston, South Carolina.

The only other total solar eclipse that has touched U.S. soil across several states in the last hundred years was June 8, 1918.

**See exclusive eclipse footage [here](#) by The ONME Network!**

### VBTalk Radio Summer Report recaps on racial divide in national news items

August 21, 2017 | ONME Newswire

**FRESNO, CA** - As Valley Black Talk Radio (VBTalk Radio) has continued during its summer break to report on local and national news items every third Sunday, the hosts Jewell Riversmith, Mel Sanders and Julia Dudley Najieb delved into taboo topics centering around America's racial divide, the NFL blackout initiated in the black community

on behalf of Colin Kaepernick, the passing of Civil Rights activist Dick Gregory and the recent Charlottesville, VA clash of protesters last week initiated by white supremacists protestors.

After the third week of September, VBTRadio will continue its weekly show every Sunday, from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on the ONME Network.

**Watch the show below to get the hosts detailed comments and opinions on the various topics discussed Sunday.**



## Wells Fargo presents FMBCC with a \$15,000.00 check



**Wells Fargo representatives present the \$15,000 at the FAACE breakfast. [See above video.](#)**

**FRESNO, CA --** The Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce's (FMBCC) monthly FAACE breakfast this past Wednesday featured Wells Fargo Bank representatives presenting \$15,000.00 to FMBCC's Central Valley Women's Economic Impact Center (CVWEIC) – the only women's entrepreneurship support center between Sacramento and Los Angeles accessible to women business owners in the greater Fresno metropolitan area.

"FMBCC is committed to entrepreneurship as a pathway to prosperity for women and people of color," said Tara Lynn Gray, FMBCC's Chief Executive Officer. "To that end we are establishing this Center to mobilize significant financial resources to advance the education and economic security of women entrepreneurs, especially women of color, low-income women and girls. We expect these resources will help them succeed as entrepreneurs: We are very pleased to have Wells Fargo's financial support for the Center."

FMBCC's Central Valley Women's Economic Impact Center will act as a gateway for women to gain access to capital, core technical expertise on business management, and build sales and marketing strategies to increase revenue. It will integrate FMBCC's successful Women Entrepreneurship Network signature events

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September 19th, 2017  
5:30-8:00 pm

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including Empowering Women of Color in Business Symposium and Get F.I.T. into one comprehensive program. CVWEIC will package training, assessments, one-on-one technical assistance, mentoring, pitch events, and the annual symposium with workshops, all targeting under-served women entrepreneurs

FMBCC expects to launch Central Valley Women's Economic Impact Center on November 3, 2017, at its annual Empowering Women of Color in Business Symposium.

## TCCP reps appeal to small business owners who question the feasibility of the proposal process

August 11, 2017 | ONME Newswire



*Business owners get clarity on submitting a proposal for the Transformative Climate Communities Program. [See full video above.](#)*

**Fresno, CA--** As citizens of Fresno are trying to understand the tedious, confusing proposal process for the current \$70 million allocated to Fresno, Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCCP) representatives are scrambling to different sectors of the community against an approaching state deadline that cannot be changed.

As the entire ordeal has been turned to the open hands of the community, some are still trying to figure out if they truly have ownership in the funding process that began in 2016, but has recently changed to involve its citizens--representatives have said that Fresno's strategy is not the norm.

Upon such a change, TCCP reps are learning and addressing issues regarding changing guidelines as they present one day to the next, not knowing what to expect from newly informed community audiences.

At the monthly FAACE breakfast hosted by the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce, business owners and professionals commented on the current proposal process which appeared to be too broad and unobtainable in the short window of time: come up with a project under the TCCP mandatory criteria, see if it fits under the three Fresno plans currently presented, also find an agency that will match the grant, and be prepared to have your own upfront funding.

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## Editorial: Immigration activists and President Trump: The pot calling the kettle black

August 10, 2017 | By Jasmyne A. Cannick| Special to CBM



*The above video features Civil Rights activist Ted Hayes with RT News several months ago on his views regarding illegal immigration and how it affects African-Americans; his views directly relate to Jasmyne Cannick's editorial below.*

*The below editorial is based on The RAISE Act President Donald Trump passed last week where according to the White House, it replaces the current permanent employment-visa framework with a skills-based system that rewards applicants based on their individual merits.*

***After reading this, we welcome your comments on this perspective.***

**LOS ANGELES, CA -Editorial--**Last week immigrant rights activists decried the Republican-backed proposal known as the RAISE Act or Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment Act, that would highly favor people between the ages of 26 and 30 with a doctorate, high English proficiency and a job offer with a high salary. Applicants with the highest number of points would go to the front of the line to receive visas.

The Los Angeles area is home to nearly 3.5 million immigrants with approximately one million of them undocumented. Here, public officials are quick to proudly tout the dozens of languages that are spoken by Angelenos and how much immigrants--regardless of their citizenship status--contribute to the city's economy and culture. In theory, Democratic politicians and immigrant right activists will tell you that all immigrants matter but

in practice only one immigrant's voice is only ever represented, celebrated or invited to the table.

Mass deportation and ICE raids under the Trump administration are not exclusive to Latinos. Under Trump, more and more Africans and Caribbeans are finding it difficult to qualify for asylum or refugee status when they arrive at U.S. ports of entries--one of the primary ways that they are able to successfully stay in the country.

An estimated 575,000 Black immigrants were living in the U.S. without authorization in 2013, according to the Pew Research Center study, making up 16% of all Black immigrants population. Among Black immigrants from the Caribbean, 16% are undocumented immigrants as are 13% of Black immigrants from Africa.

The Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI) and New York University Law School's Immigrants Rights Clinic 2016 The State of Black Immigrants report found that Black immigrants maintain higher rates of employment in service and sales positions than their counterparts of other immigrant backgrounds.

According to the BAJI, immigrants from African and Caribbean countries comprise the majority of the foreign-born Black population. Jamaica was the top country of origin in 2014 with 665,628 Black immigrants in the U.S., accounting for 18% of the national total. Haiti seconds the list with 598,000 Black immigrants, making up 16% of the U.S. Black immigrant population. Although half of Black immigrants are from the Caribbean region alone, African immigrants drove much of the recent growth of the Black immigrant population and made up 39% of the total foreign-born Black population in 2014. The number of African immigrants in the U.S. increased 153%, from 574,000 in 2000 to 1.5 million in 2014, with Nigeria and Ethiopia as the two leading countries of origin.

Los Angeles has a large and vibrant community of Black immigrants that but you'd never know because they are seldom reported on or heard from in the fight for immigrant rights--a fight that is led and dominated by Latinos. And while I expect Republicans to overlook Blacks until it's politically convenient to pit us against one another, I do not expect the party of coalition building, solidarity and 'we're stronger together' to do the same.

Let me put this into the right perspective for you. The party that calls out people, organizations and Republicans for their exclusion of women, transgenders, the LGBT community, people with disabilities, members of the Asian/Pacific Islander community, Latinos, Blacks, veterans, seniors and I could go on and on does not itself ( or very rarely) include Black immigrants.

Seldom discussed in mixed company is the fact that African-Americans privately agree with Trump's assertion that "illegal immigration" has harmed the Black community economically. And even though Trump has no problem throwing African-Americans into the mix when it bolsters his immigration agenda, immigrant rights activists haven't been as willing to include Black voices in their shared fight.

I look at the fight for the undocumented in America and think--strategically--Latino immigrant rights groups would do good to include the voices and images of Black immigrants as a way to gain support from an already apprehensive and on the fence nation of African-Americans who may need more convincing that the fight for immigrant rights affects Blacks. Despite HUD Secretary Ben Carson's belief that slaves were immigrants--most African-Americans do not see themselves as immigrants and many are wary of and oppose the Democratic Party's insistence that "illegal immigration" doesn't harm Black employment. Similar to white gay rights advocates and the Black community--it wasn't until the visibility and voices of Black LGBT folks increased that real advances were made on LGBT issues with Blacks who mainly say gay rights as affecting and benefiting wealthy white gays.

Trump and the Republican Party are not going to stop pushing their anti-immigration narrative that "illegal immigration" threatens the jobs of poor Black people. Many African-Americans already believe that there's a prevailing attitude among Latinos that they don't need anything from us except for the blueprint from our fight for our civil rights.

The pathway to victory for Democrats on comprehensive immigration reform needs both Black immigrants and African-Americans in order to succeed. While Latinos may outnumber African-Americans in cities like Los Angeles the reality is that our vote still matters and neither immigrant rights activists nor the Democratic Party as a whole can afford for African-Americans to remain on the fence about immigration reform. We win

elections by bringing people together and working together.

### **New black president to head FPU greets the community with a realistic approach to partnerships and 'keeping your word'**

August 9, 2017 | ONME Newswire



**FRESNO, CA--**Dr. Joseph Jones, the new president of Fresno Pacific University, was welcomed by a host of community organizations and citizens from throughout the Central Valley last night at the headquarters of the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce (FMBCC.)

Local community organizations who helped to sponsor last night's event included hosting sponsor BAPAC Fresno along with groups: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Fresno Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Fresno Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. San Joaquin Valley Chapter, Fresno NAACP, BWOPA, WFFRC, Black Nurses, Black Social Workers, the African-American Museum of the SJV, Valley PBS, and the FMBCC.

Dr. Joseph Jones, Ph.D., came from Forman Christian College (FCC), a chartered university in Lahore, Pakistan, where he was vice rector (provost) starting in 2015. In addition to being chief academic officer, his responsibilities included academic

administration, marketing communications and enrollment management.

Prior to FCC, Jones spent more than two decades at colleges and universities in the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, a group of faith based Christ-centered educational institutions.

An ordained, licensed minister, Jones graduated with a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice with cognates in planned change, restorative justice and administration from the University at Albany, part of the State University of New York system. His M.S. in Psychology is from Oklahoma State University and his B.A. in Psychology is from Colby College. Jones and wife Yvette have two adult daughters.

***Hear what President Jones said in regards to the black community meeting him halfway [here](#).***

## **Senator Vidak says cap-and-trade fund steals from the poor to give to the rich**

August 8, 2017 | By Manny Otiko California Black Media



**FRESNO, CA** --Cap-and-trade is now the law of the land: Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed legislation extending it until 2030. The legislation, first signed under Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration, charges industries emission fines, and uses the money to fund green projects. It also sets a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, and if companies go over the cap, the law gets more restrictive each year. The trade

portion allows companies to seek allowances that permit them to emit only certain amounts of pollutants.

The state plans to spend millions in cap-and-trade funds over the next three years. The project will be overseen by the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCCP), which plans to spend at least \$70 million in Fresno, \$35 million in Los Angeles and \$35 million in a third location.

However, there has been some debate over where and how the money will be spent in Fresno, which has been ranked as California's most polluted city. Several Fresno residents voiced their opinions at a recent town hall meeting.

Many of the residents who attended the meeting felt the money needed to be spent in Southwest Fresno, which has historically been a disadvantaged area.

Veronica Garibay, co-founder and co-director of the Leadership Counsel for Justice, said the funding could change the direction of Southwest Fresno.

"This is an opportunity to use up to \$70 million to have a catalytic impact on Southwest Fresno," said Garibay.

Although there are a lot of suggestions on how the money should be spent, such as affordable housing, parks and mass transit projects, Randall Winston, executive director of the Strategic Growth Council, said any project has to be designed around the goal of reducing greenhouse emissions. Currently any project funded by cap-and-trade money has to be within one mile of a high-speed rail station, he said.

Chris Finley, a lifelong Fresno resident, has watched the city grow to a population of 500,000. But Southwest Fresno has a history of neglect. According to Finley, the area suffers from several problems such as poverty, unemployment and crime.

Finley said that even when the federal government tried to improve the area with block grants, the money ended up being diverted to other areas. According to several news reports, the city has a history of corruption with a local developer and city council men indicted for bribery. San Francisco Gate reported that



developer John Bonadelle pled guilty to mail fraud and had to pay \$300,000 in fines and restitution. He also served nine months in a halfway house.

Finley has the same fears about the cap-and-trade money.

“That’s the fear, that it’s going to be misdirected,” said Finley. “Southwest Fresno is also faced with another problem, lack of political involvement.”

Finley says the area has the lowest voter turnout in the county.

He added that politicians tend to pay attention to people who vote, and if the people of Southwest Fresno don’t get involved in the process, they won’t benefit when state money is distributed.

State Sen. Andy Vidak (R-Hanford) represents the Fresno area. He was not available for comment but in a video posted on his website, he argued against AB 398, which extended cap-and-trade.

“I cannot, in good conscience, vote for yet another bill that will raise gasoline and electricity rates on the poorest of the poor,” said Vidak. “Let’s be honest, this is a tax – and a regressive one at that! Then where does the money go? It goes to rebates for rich folks who buy a Tesla. Billions go to the boondoggle that is High-Speed Rail, which is a gross polluter, now and for decades to come – again, off of the backs of the poor who currently live in energy poverty.”

Dave Clegern, public information officer, for the California Air Resources Board, said he was not aware of Fresno’s past corruption issues, but he was confident that the cap-and-trade money will be carefully overseen.

“Money for California Climate Investments (cap-and-trade proceeds) is appropriated by the legislature for projects approved by state agencies,” he said. “But that money is paid out on a reimbursement basis, in other words no money goes out until the administering agency and the state Controller’s Office have seen the local invoices for work done, materials used, etc. There are no blank checks for incomplete or speculative projects.”

## **Round 3 of the TCCP Steering Community Meeting brings clarity and understanding**

August 3, 2017 | ONME News Wire



**FRESNO, CA --** What started off as a firestorm of frustrated words and emotions at the last meeting, is now a civil heated debate among the meeting of minds, as citizens were not only in a cooler temped room with microphones, but the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCCP) organizers had a better grasp of the information and a PowerPoint presentation to further explain the \$70 million allocation process.

Organizers made it clear that now that the community is involved, everyone has a vote, as long as one resides or owns a business in the specified area codes (such as 93706 and 93721) and attends a majority of the meetings.

Although the chairman, District 3 City of Fresno Councilman Oliver Baines was not present at the meeting, the chairman of the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) made it clear that everyone's voice would be heard and not ignored, and that projects will be reviewed for compliance according to the guidelines of the allocation.

**ONME News was able to stream it live from the meeting; see full video above to get a better understanding of the grant guidelines and deadlines.**

## Round 2 of TCCP \$70 million allocation process to be presented to the community this Wednesday



**FRESNO, CA** --Fresno citizens affected by the 5-mile radius of the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCCP) \$70 million allocation will be attending the second steering committee community meeting at the **Westside Church of God, Wednesday, August 2nd** to get more clarity on the proposal requirements, deadlines, and information on the revised guidelines.

As program guidelines for the fourth draft of the TCCP Guidelines were released by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) July 26th, the deadline for written comments from the community to be considered was moved to August 2nd, 5:00 PM, where they can be submitted via email: [daniela.simunovic@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:daniela.simunovic@sgc.ca.gov)

According to organizers, the meeting on Wednesday will focus on clarifying the roles and responsibilities for the Community Steering Committee, the process for project selection, how projects can be developed for consideration, and who is eligible to propose projects.

Organizers are assuring the public that at this next meeting they are more prepared:

Not only was it hot, with limited seating and no sound system, Thursday's July 20th fiery meeting held at the unventilated California Hotel Ballroom

downtown featured concerned West Fresno citizens who found information to confirm that data was used from their area to obtain the Cap-and-Trade funds from the state of California, yet they are not being considered for the 5-mile radius. **Watch video clip below:**



Residents said they were not informed of any meetings starting in February 2016 to be included in the process of deciding of where funds should go or of the general guidelines. Citizens also expressed the continual disregard for their disenfranchised neighborhoods and economically disadvantaged communities.

The City of Fresno, along with the SGC and non-profit Central Valley Community Foundation, who is in charge of disseminating information and organizing the community meetings, attempted to bring more clarity to the process of the \$70 million allocation which was flawed from its initial entrance into the local political landscape. Proponents still stand that the funds will be directed to the downtown area of Fresno and within that 5-mile radius thereof, thus excluding a majority residents located in the West Fresno area.

According to organizers, anyone who lives, works, or owns property in southwest, Chinatown, or downtown Fresno is eligible to join the Community Steering Committee.

Interested citizens can visit the website for more information about the [TCC Program](#) and for more information on the updated timeline.



Committee members must commit to attending a minimum of 3-4 meetings throughout August, September, and October in order to maintain membership.

Also a series of Proposal Kickoff Workshops will be held in mid to late August. People can visit the [website](#) for updates on specific dates, times, and locations.

The [ONME Network](#) will stream excerpts live of the meeting; however, please note that interested parties must be in attendance for their projects to be considered.

**What:** TCCP Meeting #2

**Where:** Westside Church of God, located at 1422 West California Avenue, Fresno CA 93706.

**When:** Wednesday, August 2nd, 5:30-7:30pm.

**Notes:** Registration and refreshments will begin at 5:00 PM. Spanish and Hmong interpretation provided along with childcare, working air conditioning, free parking, and seating for up to 425.

Residents who attended the first TCCP meeting were trying to grasp where they fit in to the process and allocation.

**Here is video from a TCCP meeting in June, where the SGC addressed the local community about the specifics of the proposal.**



## [Community colleges launch campaign to educate Californians about career training programs](#)

July 31, 2017 | Manny Otiko



California Community Colleges have kicked off a new campaign to inform underserved populations about the good-paying jobs available through career education.

According to a press release, there is a skill and an information gap in California, as many high-paying jobs go unfilled because employers can't find employees with the right training. This includes jobs in the information technology, healthcare, biotechnology and digital media fields.

Many people are put off by the cost of college education, but advocates say community colleges offer a low-cost alternative to career education programs and are expanding new efforts to ensure people are aware.

"Both adults and high school students hesitate to pursue higher education to gain new skills and refresh existing ones because they worry about student debt," said Van Ton-Quinlivan, vice chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. "Career education offers a great pathway to increase earnings and make a living wage without that type of debt burden."

She added that the legislature had allocated money specifically targeted for students interested in training for new careers.

The campaign will target potential students through ads on traditional and digital media, a website and an app. The promotional campaign is part of a \$200 million recurring investment made by Gov. Jerry Brown and the California legislature, according to a news release.

Ton-Quinlivan also said community colleges would work with local organizations to spread the message.

"We will get the advice of community leaders on how to get the word out," she said.

Cassandra Jennings, president of the Greater Sacramento Urban League, said working alongside community organizations was an important part of spreading the word in the Black community.

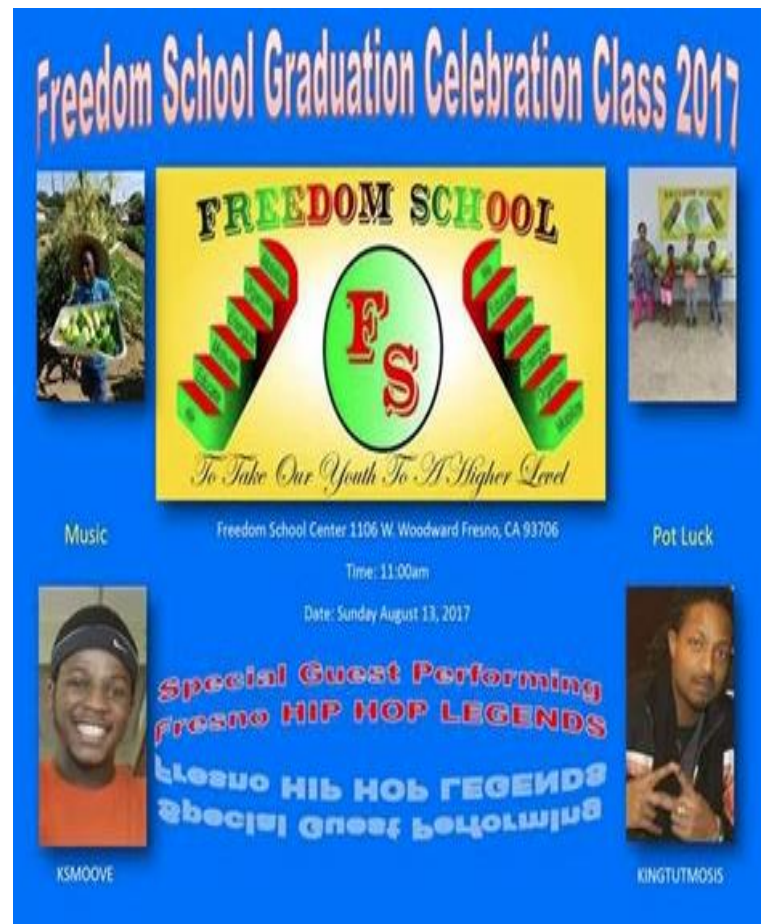
"What's going to be critical to their success is working with non-profit organizations, community-led organizations to really do a targeted outreach to reach certain populations," said Jennings.

The California Community College system has 114 campuses and educates more than 2 million students. It is the largest provider of workforce training in the nation.

African-American students make up 6.5 percent of the students at community colleges. About 5 percent of the more than 6 million students in the K-12 system are Black. Black students make up 6 percent of students enrolled in four-year colleges.

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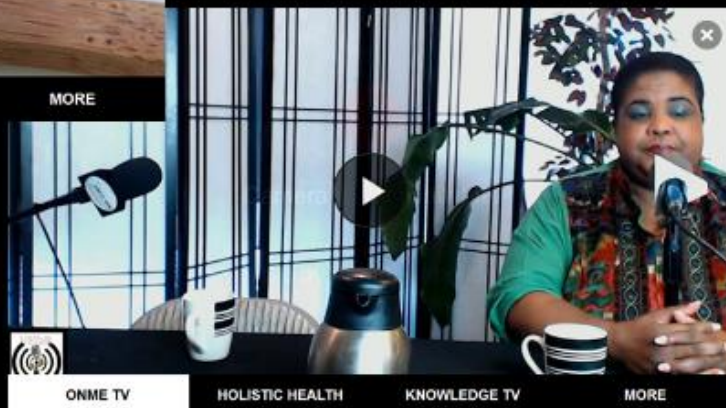
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