



The Issue of Justice



Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Issue of Justice by Alice Huffman

= NAACP (California State Conference) Mentioned

Top Story

County declares Black History Month

By Tammy Murga

The Lake County Board of Supervisors designated the month of February as Black History Month and a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Supervisor Moke Simon presented the proclamation to the president and founder of the Lake County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Rick Mayo, who was present on behalf of the organization. In the proclamation, Simon read that the NAACP is “commended on the vital role it has played in improving the quality of life in our local community, and that the Branch be extended best wishes and continued success.” [Lake County Record-Bee](#)



State/Local

Berkeley could rebuff feds with sanctuary law for cannabis

By Annie Ma

Berkeley’s cannabis industry could soon be protected by an unprecedented new law that takes a cue from California’s efforts to protect undocumented immigrants. The City Council on Tuesday will vote on a resolution to declare Berkeley a sanctuary for legal adult-use cannabis and properly licensed business operations. The municipal measure — believed to be the first of its kind in any state where cannabis is legal — is modeled after California’s sanctuary law, which bars state agencies from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement in the absence of a court order. [San Francisco Chronicle](#)



World/National

Food stamps may become like Blue Apron. In the Great Depression, they started with blue coupons.

By Ian Shapira

On a spring morning nearly 80 years ago, Ralston Thayer, an unemployed machinist, queued up inside the old post office building in Rochester, New York, for the nation’s inaugural batch of food stamps. The World War I veteran was first in line on May 16, 1939, and would soon become the nation’s first-ever food stamp recipient, according to news stories at the time. “He was besieged by reporters and photographers, but never quailed,” wrote the New York Times. Thayer told the journalists: “I never got surplus foods before, but I certainly will now. The plan seems simple enough.” [Washington Post](#)



Mother of Man Killed by BART Officer Demands Criminal Charges

By Alex Emslie

A legal claim filed Tuesday against BART by the mother and two young children of a man killed by a transit police officer in January acknowledges that Sahleem Tindle had shot another man in the leg just before he was killed. But the claim, generally seen as a precursor to a federal lawsuit, says Tindle had been struggling with the other man and had been disarmed by the time BART Police Officer Joseph Mateu arrived on the scene. The claim cites video from Mateu’s body camera. “The other man who had been involved in the altercation with Mr. Tindle had been shot in the leg by Mr. Tindle and had



Bronx Middle School Teacher Accused of Blocking Black History Lesson Is at It Again: Report

By Anne Branigin

All eyes are on Bronx middle school principal Patricia Catania after a report came out last weekend that she had barred an English teacher from delivering a Black History Month lesson on the Harlem Renaissance. The news sparked outrage and a rally by the National Action Network on Monday to protest Catania’s actions. With the spotlight on her, more dirt is being uncovered. The New York Daily News writes that the embattled principal, who’s still at her post at Intermediate School 224 in the Bronx, has deepened a rift between her and students and staff after confiscating a student poster of Lena Horne. [The Root](#)



disarmed Mr. Tindle of the handgun prior to Officer Mateu's arrival," the claim says. [KQED Radio](#)

16 former employees sue Taylor Farms for racial discrimination

By Justin Phillips

Former employees of Taylor Farms, one of the state's largest producers of bagged salads and fresh-cut vegetables, filed a lawsuit Monday against the company in San Francisco federal court, alleging African American workers faced rampant racist and discriminatory behavior at the farm's manufacturing plant in Tracy. The 16 employees named in the lawsuit, all of whom are African American, described incidents in which co-workers called them "n—," "monkey" or Spanish-language racial epithets like "congo" and "mayate." The plaintiffs also claim they were denied promotions because of their skin color and were often forced to work in unfavorable conditions. [San Francisco Chronicle](#)



Ava DuVernay and Los Angeles Mayor Create \$5,000,000 Program to Diversify Lily-White Hollywood

By Angela Helm

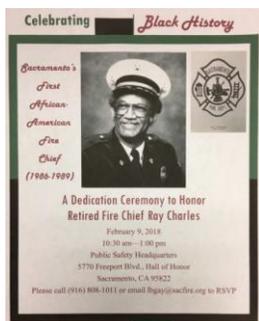
Flourishing filmmaker Ava DuVernay teamed up with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and launched a \$5 million diversity program on Monday that will hopefully bring some much-needed color to the lily-white business of Hollywood. The new program, called the Evolve Entertainment Fund, is set to begin this summer and will initially assist 150 interns for the coming summer, with the goal to increase the number to 500 by 2020. The money will not use tax dollars but will be financed through fundraising. [The Root](#)



Sacramento's first Black fire chief, Raymond Charles to be honored

By Genoa Barrow

Retired Raymond "Ray" Charles, the first African American fire chief for the City of Sacramento, will be honored in a dedication ceremony on Friday, Feb. 9, at the Public Safety Center, located at 5770 Freepoint Boulevard. In celebration of Black History Month, the event will run from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Charles, who served in the position from 1986 to 1989, will be inducted into the Sacramento Fire Department's Hall of Honor for his service in the public sector. Charles graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School and studied fire science at American River College, where he earned an A.A. degree. [Sacramento Observer](#)



Court Rules Alabama Town's School Segregation Too Racist ... Even for Alabama

By Michael Harriot

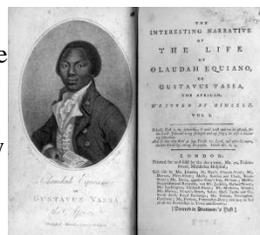
A federal appeals court on Tuesday struck down a lower court ruling that allowed an Alabama town to essentially segregate its schools, finding that the new school district's intentions to split from Jefferson County schools were racially motivated and typical of how white people will do whatever it takes when black people get too close. OK ... I may have made up the last part of that sentence. AL.com reports that a three-judge panel on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals rescinded the U.S. District Court's April 2017 decision to allow the 88 percent white town of Gardendale, Ala., to pull out of Jefferson County's 74 percent black schools and form its own district. [The Root](#)



What We Thought We Knew About Africa and Slavery Might Not Be Right

By Richard Prince

Africans sold other Africans into slavery, a complicity that has shamed black people on both sides of the Atlantic. But did the Africans know that the slavery to which they were accustomed was not the slavery that the Europeans had in store? Could the situation have been more complex? Historian Marcus Rediker of the University of Pittsburgh says it was. "Slavery was relatively widespread in West Africa during the era of the Atlantic slave trade, but it was a fundamentally different institution than the chattel slavery of the plantations in the Americas," Rediker told Journal-isms Monday by email. [The Root](#)



'Black Panther' Is Ready To Take Dark-Skinned Actresses (And Colorism) Seriously

By Clarkisha Kent

We're days away from the release of "Black Panther," and all I can think about is how emotionally unprepared I am for it. Common reasons for this include not having seen a movie with a black superhero lead in about 20 years (no, I am not counting "Catwoman" and "Hancock") and the fact that my simultaneously Nigerian-American and black American self is not ready to have my complex experience validated on screen. Another really big reason "Black Panther" is going to be an emotional roller coaster is the number of dark-skinned black women who were cast front and center for this film. It doesn't seem like it would be a big deal, but it is, especially considering the uncomfortable relationship that we — black people both here and abroad, even in the motherland — have with the insidious force known as colorism. [BLACKVOICES](#)

