

The Nubian News

Loving the Black Perspective

Stand Against Racism



At the Stand Against Racism conference in downtown Trenton, Kelly Ganges - Chief of Staff, Mercer County, Verlina Reynolds Jackson- Assemblywoman, 15th Legislative District and Kamau Kugichagulia, Publisher of The Nubian News. Stand Against Racism conference at the McDade Administration Building on South Broad St. in Trenton NJ, 5/26/2019.

The Stand Against Racism event stands for all citizens regardless of race, creed or ethnicity and says each deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and each act of racism is one too many.

El Latino News

En Contacto con la Comunidad

Trenton - Mercer County

Go to page 6 - Edited by Carlos Avila



Author Sylvia Brown-Roberts's first book, Behind Church Doors, is being made into a movie. Pictured is Sylvia at her Trailer Viewing Event at North Clinton Avenue Church of Christ on 4/20/19 - Photo by Karen Kaptures



See Page 10



Jakub Sowirko of Trenton, NJ vs. Charles Johnson of Washington D.C. square off in a light-heavyweight bout at the PRAC in Morrisville, PA on April 27. Sowirko won by decision. Story on Page 9

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Senator Kamala Harris Rolls Out Gun Policy

BY AL ALATUNJI

In 2017, nearly 40,000 people were killed by guns in America. Gun violence is a national epidemic and a public health emergency.

Black children faced the highest rates of gun-related homicides, at 3.5 for every 100,000, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's nearly 10 times the rate for white children.

Of all firearm homicides in the world, 82 percent occur in the United States. An American is 25 times more likely



to be fatally shot than a resident of other high-income nations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data also show that within America's cities, Blacks are, on average, eight times more likely to be killed by firearms than whites. The rate of death by gun homicide for Blacks exceeds those among whites in all 50 states.

In 2018, according to Homicide Watch Trenton, of the 21 people killed in Trenton 15 were gun deaths. Blacks accounted for 15 of the homicide deaths and the other 6 were Latinos. There were no deaths reported for whites in 2018. Four of the 21 deaths were of teens.

According to the 2010 Census, the last full census by the US Census Bureau, the population of Trenton is 84,913. Blacks are 52% (44,160) of the population. Hispanics/Latinos make up 33.71% (28,621) of the population. Whites are 26.56% (22,549) of the population. There are 23,582 individuals 19 or younger in Trenton.

Senator Kamala Harris (D-Ca), a presidential candidate, says enough is enough and "We cannot wait any longer for Congress to act." After becoming President she plans to give Congress one hundred days to pass comprehensive gun safety legislation,

including universal background checks, an assault weapons ban, and the repeal of the NRA's corporate gun manufacturer and dealer immunity bill. She will take executive action to "keep our kids and communities safe."

According to Senator Harris, an estimated 1 in 5 gun purchases occur without a background check because under federal law, only "gun dealers" are required to perform background checks, and the definition of "gun dealer" has been up for debate. While Congress debates, children and adults

are dying.

In addition, Senator Harris wants Congress to pass legislation that: revokes the licenses of gun manufacturers and dealers that break the law and take the most egregious offenders to court, regardless of whether they're protected by the Protection of Commerce in Arms Act; reverses Donald Trump's dangerous change to the definition of "fugitive from justice," which has allowed thousands of fugitives with outstanding arrest warrants to buy guns, and closes the "boyfriend loophole" to prevent dating partners convicted of domestic violence from purchasing guns.

If Congress fails to pass these measures, Senator Harris has vowed to take executive action to address gun safety. Furthermore, Senator Harris is seeking legislative action to make gun trafficking a federal crime, ban high capacity magazines, and prohibit those convicted of a federal hate crime from buying guns.

"We need reasonable gun safety laws in this country, starting with universal background checks and a renewal of the assault weapon ban, but they have failed to have the courage to act," Senator Harris said, referring to Congress.

Letters To The Editor

Helping small businesses succeed

Small-business owners are the backbone of Mercer County's economy. In fact, Mercer County is home to more than 15,000 small-business firms, according to the County Office of Economic Development. Last summer, the Board of Chosen Freeholders passed Ordinance No. 2018-5 establishing a "Set-Aside Program" for qualified Mercer County minority-, women-, veteran-owned businesses or small businesses. The ordinance makes it easier for qualified businesses to contract with the County. In recognition of National Small Business Week, May 5-11, 2019, I want to ensure that businesses that may be eligible to participate take full advantage of Mercer County's Set-Aside Program.

The Set-Aside Program reserves 10 percent of the dollar value of all the County's goods, which total more than \$70 million in professional services and construction contracts each year. The program allocates 30 percent for qualified minority-owned businesses; 30 percent for qualified women-owned businesses; 30 percent for qualified veteran-owned businesses; and 10 percent for small businesses, with an estimated \$7 million worth of contracts made available to eligible businesses as part of the program.

Legal restrictions do apply for government competitive contracts,

and vendors who are interested must hold a valid Business Registration Certificate from the Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services, and be registered with the Selective Assistance Vendor Information database prior to conducting business in the State of New Jersey and prior to the award of contract from the County of Mercer. Other set-aside programs have proved to be successful in New Jersey, such as those of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New Jersey Transit, and Bergen, Essex and Hudson counties. Opening doors for businesses in Mercer County that may not have the capacity to bid for large contracts, but that do have the qualifications, expertise and means to provide County departments and agencies with much-needed goods, services and construction, presents a tremendous new opportunity for those business owners.

Any business that wishes to learn more about Mercer County Set-Aside Program, or needs help registering, should contact James Chambers Jr., the Coordinator of Business Outreach for Mercer County, at 609-989-6212 or jchambers@mercercounty.org, or visit the Mercer County website Purchasing section for assistance.

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The Nubian News welcomes letters to the editor of reasonable length. Writers should include name, address and phone number, which will not be published. Opinions and positions taken in articles with bylines are those of the writers. The views expressed in bylined opinion pieces do not necessarily indicate endorsement or support.

The Nubian News prints 10,000 copies which are mailed, hand and bulk delivered to each home and business in Trenton, Nj.

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Latina Head Of Agency Rebuilding Trenton Central High School Ousted

By AL ALATUNJI

The woman of color selected by Governor Phil Murphy to lead the New Jersey Schools Development Authority has been forced to resign. Lizette Delgado-Polanco a close political ally of Governor Murphy has resigned her position as the CEO of the state Schools Development Authority (SDA). She has been head of the SDA since August 2018. The SDA is responsible for building and rebuilding schools in poor districts. The construction project to build a new state of the art high school in Trenton is under the management of the SDA. The SDA has run out of



New Jersey Schools Development Authority Chairwoman Lizette Delgado-Polanco

money and Delgado-Polanco was seeking billions in new state funding. The State's schools construction program for the past two decades and from its outset has been plagued by incompetence and gross mismanagement. Delgado-Polanco is the first woman and only the third person of color to run the agency. Delgado-Polanco had come under attack in the last few months by members of the State Legislature, in particular State Senate President Steve Sweeney, amid a hiring scandal. Delgado-Polanco allegedly fired longtime employees and replaced them with about three dozen friends, family and business associates, many of whom were placed in jobs paying more than \$100,000 annually and some of whom did not have the required qualifications for the positions. "The notion that Lizette was involved in a hiring scandal is just a smoke-screen. Lizette just got caught between the ongoing battle between

[Governor] Murphy and [State Senate President] Sweeney," stated a close friend and supporter of Delgado-Polanco. Both Murphy and Sweeney are Democrats.

"Within the first few weeks after Lizette took office she made it a point to visit various schools in several districts so she could get a first hand assessment of the challenge she and the SDA faced. She saw upfront and personal the horrible conditions too many of our urban schools are in. Some of the schools are so bad that students and teachers are forced to hold themselves until they reach home refusing to use the disgusting

bathroom facilities. Lizette got it and started making a difference," continued the friend.

"In addition, Lizette was trying to bring greater diversity to the SDA as well as get rid of the gender pay gap that existed inside of the SDA. She deserved better," the friend added.

The ongoing rivalry in the state Democratic party between that part of the establishment otherwise identified as the South Jersey Brain Trust affiliated with Sweeney, and on the other side Governor Murphy, has featured several high

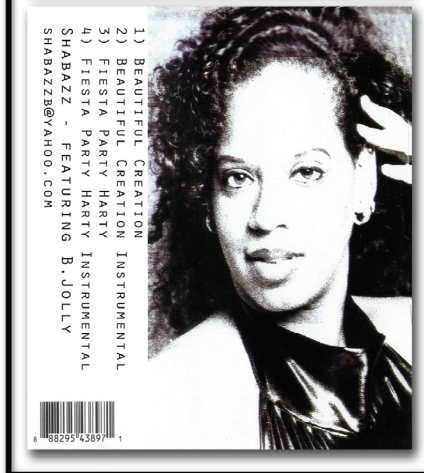
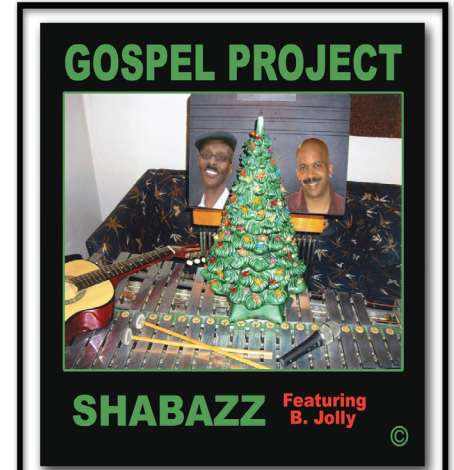
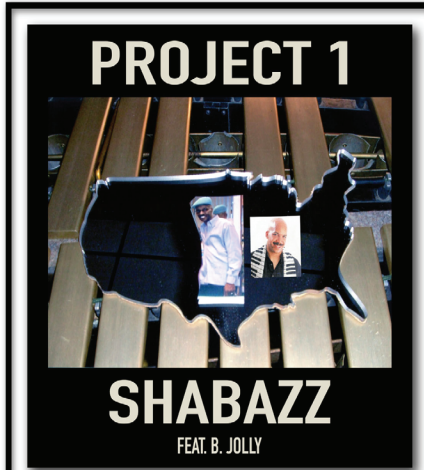
powered battles being fought between the two competing forces. A day after Delgado-Polanco resigned as CEO of the SDA, she also resigned as Vice Chair of the Democratic State Committee.

Sweeney and allies were decidedly disturbed last year when the State Democratic Committee actively mobilized behind Governor Murphy against State Senate President Sweeney during a highly contested and contentious state budget battle.

"Delgado-Polanco found herself on the wrong side of the battle between the governor and Sweeney. It was not personal or policy just politics and power. Sweeney was able to get some revenge for the role the Democratic State Committee and Delgado-Polanco played in opposing him during last year's state budget battle," added a long time State House observer.

It remains to be seen what impact this latest incident will have on rebuilding efforts at Trenton Central High School or other urban schools in vast need of repair and rebuilding.

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Keynote Speaker

Hester Agudosi, New Jersey Chief Diversity Officer
 Ms. Agudosi oversees the state Office of Diversity and Inclusion which has been established to ensure diversity in appointments, recruitment and the execution of diversity and inclusion strategies targeted toward greater utilization of minority, women, veteran and LGBT owned businesses.



Event Chair
 Tony Simmons,
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Event Co-Chair
 Elizabeth Williams-Riley,
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 American Conference on Diversity

The vision of the Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce is to support the development and success of minority businesses that include, but are not limited to those belonging to under-represented ethnic groups, businesses owned primarily by women, LGBT individuals, veterans, persons with disabilities, and all small businesses.

El Latino News

En Contacto con la Comunidad

Trenton – Mercer County

La Banda Punta de Lanza es ahora Latinoamericana en Trenton.

Banda invita a jóvenes que deseen desarrollar su talento musical
TRENTON-Los directivos de la Banda Punta de Lanza abren las puertas para jóvenes de diferentes comunidades que deseen integrar el grupo, se inscriban y vengan a aprender a tocar diferentes instrumentos musicales tales como: Trompeta, Güiros, Liras, Platos, Bombos, Redobles de Tambores, etc. También invitan a todas las simpáticas señoritas de la comunidad Latina

la comunidad guatemalteca, hoy en día se abre la posibilidad para todos los jóvenes de distintos países latinoamericanos, esto sin duda le dará mayor colorido y fuerza a este grupo que labora sin fines de lucro, pero que ya han recibido reconocimientos a nivel de otros estados de la Unión Americana.

Una de las primeras presentaciones que realice la Banda Punta de Lanza este año será el próximo sábado 8 de junio, en el estadio de baseball



entre 15 a 20 años de edad, que deseen formar parte del grupo de bastoneras para con su belleza y donaire sean parte de esta banda que ya es un icono en la comunidad hispana de la capital del Estado Jardín. Durante el mes de Mayo los días miércoles y sábados a partir de las 6 de la tarde hasta las 8 de la noche habrá ensayo de la banda y ahí los padres de familia, podrán llevar a sus hijos e hijas para que se inscriban y reciban las instrucciones necesarias para ingresar al grupo. La Banda Punta de Lanza en sus inicios solo integraban jóvenes de

“Trenton Thunder” que celebra la diversidad por lo que se espera haya una gran concurrencia en una celebración típica Latinoamericana. Sin duda habrá cobertura de varios medio de comunicación.

Los organizadores del evento y los directivos de la banda coinciden con la intención de apoyar el talento de los jóvenes hombres y mujeres de la comunidad hispana. del Área de Trenton. Para quienes se interesen en integrar la banda pueden llamar a los siguientes números 609-775-3861 o al 609-227-0975.



Foto: Cortesía Nickelodeon/ Laura Rosguer, Jonathan Jose Quintana y Simone Marval.

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INVITACION ESPECIAL PARA ESCUCHAR LA PALABRA DEL PASTOR EDWIN AGUILAR

TRENTON-La Iglesia de Cristo Rescate Internacional Inc. A través de su Pastora Amanda Villatoro invita cordialmente a todos los miembros de la comunidad para que vengan y escuchen la palabra del reconocido Pastor Edwin Aguilar que viene directamente desde Los Ángeles, California el viernes 10 de mayo a partir de las 7PM. La cita es en local ubicado en 140 Genesee Street, Trenton, NJ 08611. Tel. 609-783-3849

‘CLUB 57’ SE ESTRENA EN LATINOAMÉRICA

MIAMI-El joven venezolano Jonathan José Quintana, también conocido como John Freudman, continúa su exitosa carrera como actor con su personaje en la muy anticipada serie de Nickelodeon, “Club 57”, que se estrena en Latinoamérica este 6 de Mayo.

La serie de 60 capítulos es una telenovela musical que se desarrolla entre el presente y el año 1957, fue creada por Catharina Ledebuer en co-producción de Nickelodeon Latinoamérica (compañía de Viacom International Studios) y la casa productora italiana Rainbow Group. La música del proyecto ha sido compuesta y producida por el cantautor Ricardo Montaner junto a los

autores y productores Mau y Ricky y el cantautor colombiano Camilo Echeverri.

La serie, que estrenó en Italia el pasado 15 de abril por la cadena RAI, es protagonizada por la venezolana Evaluna Montaner y el italiano Riccardo Frascari, acompañados de un gran elenco pan-regional que además de Jonathan José Quintana de Venezuela, incluye a los colombianos Sebastián Silva y Andrés Mercado, el mexicano Martín Barba, la venezolana Ángela Rincón, la chilena Carolina Mestrovic, y la cubano-americana Isabella Castillo.

EXTENDERAN AYUDA A PERSONAS SIN HOGAR

TRENTON - El Gobernador Phil Murphy firmó una ley patrocinada por el Presidente del Senado, Steve Sweeney, para ayudar a las personas sin hogar y a quienes están amenazados con la falta de vivienda. La ley, S-3586, extenderá la asistencia de

amenaza de ser expulsados de sus hogares e ir a la calle”, dijo el Senador Sweeney (D-Gloucester/Salem/Cumberland).

La ley anula el límite actual de por vida de los beneficios de Asistencia de Emergencia para los desamparados y



emergencia para aquellos que están “viviendo al límite” para ayudar con necesidades básicas de la vida tales como alimentos, vivienda y utilidades.

Una medida complementaria, la S-3585, patrocinada por la Senadora Dawn Addiego y el Senador Sweeney que creará una nueva Oficina para la Prevención de Falta de Vivienda, también fue promulgada por el Gobernador Murphy.

“El límite absoluto de asistencia de emergencia para las personas sin hogar es innecesariamente duro. Tenemos la responsabilidad moral de ayudar a quienes encaran la terrible

para las personas amenazadas con quedarse sin techo. Cualquier mes de asistencia acumulada más de siete años antes no contaría para el límite de 12 meses.

Los defensores de los servicios sociales argumentan que la ayuda es necesaria porque la población más vulnerable - incluyendo a los que sufren abuso, adicción, trastorno por estrés postraumático, enfermedades mentales u otras discapacidades, y los desempleados crónicos - pueden pasar por ciclos de estar sin un techo a lo largo de los años, no importa cuánto luchen para cubrir las necesidades básicas.

¿Golpe de Estado fallido?

POR LAURA LUCIA RODRÍGUEZ PEÑA

Venezuela ha tenido un año 2019 lleno de cambios radicales, uno de los más importantes (sino el más importante) es que desde el 23 de enero Venezuela cuenta con dos presidentes, Nicolás Maduro, y además Juan Guaidó (presidente de la Asamblea Nacional) quien se autoproclamó presidente encargado haciendo alusión a diferentes artículos de la constitución venezolana.

La intención de Juan Guaidó es la de representar a los venezolanos que no se sienten identificados con el gobierno de Maduro (Que son la mayoría) y que además están sufriendo la crisis económica, social, eléctrica y alimentaria que está atravesando el país de suramérica. No obstante, aunque Guaidó cuenta con el apoyo de algunos de los países de la región y de países como Estados Unidos, Francia, España y en general la Unión Europea, no ha logrado consolidar su gobierno ni realizar acciones contundentes que puedan significar un cambio positivo para solucionar la crisis venezolana.

De hecho, la crisis se ha incrementado desde el 8 de marzo con distintos apagones en las principales ciudades, dejando a la población sin acceso a electricidad, pero además causando la muerte de cientos de personas en hospitales cuyo tratamiento depende de equipos y maquinaria médica conectada a fuentes de energía.

Al tener un accionar limitado, muchos gobiernos y personas han criticado a Juan Guaidó y se han cuestionado si en realidad es la persona que pueda ayudar a Venezuela a mejorar su situación. Sin embargo, hay que tener en cuenta que los cambios no son fáciles al haber otro primer mandatario, que además ha amenazado al presidente encargado Juan Guaidó. Lo que se viene gestando desde hace unas semanas es un voz a voz de una gran movilización el 1 de mayo, convocada por Juan Guaidó y la oposición, donde se creía que este día sería decisivo para consolidar su gobierno por encima de Nicolás Maduro.

Empero de este anuncio y para sorpresa de todos la movilización comenzó el 29 de abril en compañía del reconocido líder de la oposición, Leopoldo López, quien estuvo privado de su libertad por el régimen de Maduro desde el 2014 y desde el 2017 tiene casa por cárcel. Con esta movilización Juan Guaidó se dirigió

a los militares para solicitar su apoyo, esto fue catalogado como intento de golpe de estado por parte del gobierno de Maduro. A pesar de los esfuerzos de la oposición la mayor parte de las fuerzas militares permanece leal al régimen de Maduro, por lo que la movilización no logró su principal cometido pero sirvió para que diferentes países reafirmaran su apoyo a Guaidó. Este fue el caso de Estados Unidos:

“El vicepresidente de Estados Unidos, **Mike Pence**, se mostró hoy “alentado” por las protestas en Venezuela y prometió que Washington seguirá respaldando al líder opositor Juan Guaidó hasta que haya un relevo de poder.” (El confidencial, 2019)

En respuesta a las manifestaciones, miles de personas marcharon el primero de mayo no sólo para conmemorar el

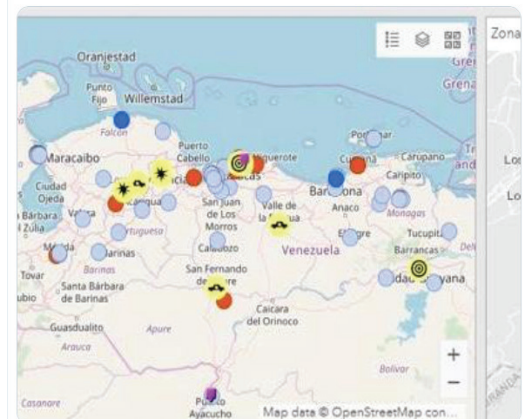


Juan Guaidó @jguaido

#1M 397 manifestaciones en toda Venezuela, 97 puntos de concentración, 23 de ellos brutalmente reprimidos, arrojando 32 detenidos y 25 heridos.

Estamos ante un régimen que perdió el control. Mientras más somos en las calles, más cerca estamos.

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día del trabajo sino también, algunos de ellos, para apoyar al presidente Nicolás Maduro, quien también cuenta con el apoyo de Rusia, Irán, Siria, entre otros. En paralelo marchó la oposición, la cual sufrió de respuestas violentas por parte de las fuerzas militares.

El resumen de la jornada es que las intenciones de la oposición de contar con el grueso militar no funcionaron, pero nuevamente demostraron contar la mayoría de venezolanos al interior y exterior del país, comprobando como casi el país entero está a favor del fin del régimen de Nicolás Maduro.

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A Night of fights at The PRAC in Morrisville Pa.

Headlined by Salem and Trenton's own Morales victories!!

BY MICHAEL HARMON

A night at the fights in Morrisville Pa, was a night to remember. The venue was the PRAC, Pennsbury Racquet-



Elijah Morales (l) of Trenton vs. Steve Moore from Orange, NJ

ball and Athletic Center and it was packed with anxious fans wanting to see action, solid punches, showmanship and excitement. The night did not disappoint.

The headline was a fight of 2 Super Middleweights in an 8-round battle. In the red corner was undefeated at 9-0, 4 KOs, Omar Salem of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn NYC and the blue corner, from Quito Ecuador, 10-7-1 Antonio Ocles with his amazing Platinum mo-hawk and chiseled physique.

Omar brought the crowd with him from NYC, as his crowd cheered loudly for their champion. Omar lived up to the hype too. Antonio came out swinging and was the more experienced boxer but, Omar's skill, quick feet and rock solid punches were not to be overcome this night. Prince Salem, as some called him, had to much speed and desire. The Prince constantly rocked Antonio with hard right after hard right, followed many times with left hooks that knocked the mouthpiece out of Ocles mouth in the 3rd round. Those connects had Antonio's corner asking repeatedly if the fighter had had enough. Like a soldier though, Antonio never quit and showed signs of life, that could not overcome the onslaught of Prince Salem.

After 8 exhilarating rounds Omar Salem was ahead on each of the 3 judges scorecards 80-72, 79-73 and

78-74, winning the Super Middleweight Title in unanimous fashion. Omar was too much for Antonio on Saturday night at the PRAC. Fighting out of Brooklyn NYC, Omar was as tough as his city, with a future just as bright. Congratulations Prince

Omar Salem and much respect to Antonio Ocles for putting his best foot forward, staying in the fight and just being the warrior one has to be to step into the ring for a big fight.

Trenton was well represented at the PRAC on Saturday night with 4 fighters having ties to our great city. The best of them, or at least on this night was Elijah Morales 3-0, cousin of former Mercer County Sheriffs Officer Pablo Santiago, who was killed while on duty at Trenton's McDade Planning building on South Broad Street. Donned in red, white, blue robe and trunks, representing the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, it was easy to see that Morales had something he was fighting for. His opponent, Steve Moore 1-7, of Orange NJ was game and ready to fight.

This fight was the co-headline of the night as Elijah Morales and all he represented took center stage at the PRAC. This was a tough win for Morales after being hit hard in the first round by Moore, forcing the referee to call an automatic knockdown on Morales. Morales fought back and came back swinging the rest of the fight. Morales was extremely effective coming out of clinches he and Moore had gotten themselves into. Morales often pushed off those clinches with his shoulders and fired hard straights that were very effective in punishing Moore. Besides the automatic knockdown, Morales really controlled the

fight with his energy that was obvious and tough for Moore to contain. Moore did connect a left hook to Morales' chin in the 4th round but, Elijah quickly shook that off to connect on several left hooks of his own to secure the well fought victory. Elijah Morales, nickname needed, won unanimously with 2 judges scoring it 38-37 and one judge having it 39-37 to secure the win over a much "Moore" experienced fighter. Morales showed grit, toughness and the ability to fight adversity.

Also from Trenton were fighters Jakub Sowirko, Cruiserweight, Shinard "Sugar" Bunch, Welterweight and Quadeer "The sledge Hammer" Jenkins, Middleweight. Sowirko won a 4 round battle with Charles Johnson of Washington DC 40-36, 39-37, 38-38 to secure the win in his first professional fight. Sowirko is a hard hitting conventional with power in that devastating right hand. Keep that left hand up though Jakub. Shinard "Sugar" Bunch, also in his professional debut scored a quick 35 second KO of Cortland Woodard, out of Pittsburgh PA. Shinard was a whirlwind in the ring. With 35

anywhere. Tyrone "Sweet Pea" Jones kept coming forward all night, hands up and tight but, Nahir let loose so many upper-cuts that connected and left Jones' white trunks bloodied. Much respect goes to "Sweet Pea" Jones because he took punishment, a lot of it and did not back down but, kept his hands up and stalked Albright all night. Jones took the "L" but, he proved how much of a warrior he was in defeat. Tahir Albright was just the better fighter, took some punishment himself and used great footwork, defense, hand speed and determination to earn this hard fought "W".

The 4th Trenton fighter to take the ring was Quadeer "the Sledge Hammer" Jenkins making his professional debut against Wayne "The Priest" Williams from Philadelphia PA, in his first fight as a professional also. This one was all about the prayers of "The Priest" as Williams knocked the hammer from Jenkins and ended the fight at 2:11 of the first round.

Shout out to Promoters Nedal Abuhumoud of Nedal Promotions and Debra LaManna of Rising Star Promotions, with Renee Aiken as the matchmaker



Shinard "Sugar" Bunch (r) of Trenton, NJ vs. Cortland Woodard of Pittsburgh, PA. Sugar Bunch won in a 35 second knockout.

second KO power, quickness and a great smile to match. Watch out for the future of Shinard Bunch, who stuck around for the entirety of the card to look at possible future boxers he may need to fight to get to where he is going.

Also on the card was a title fight for the USBF Silver Lightweight Championship with Nahir Albright 7-1 2 KOs of Philadelphia PA taking on Tyrone Jones 4-5-1 from South Bend IN. In possibly the best fight of the night, Nahir from Philly beat Jones in 6 rounds 60-54 on 2 judges scorecards, 59-55 on the other. Albright hit Jones hard continually, even bloodying Jones' face but, Jones wasn't going

for this 7 card fight night. The PRAC-Pennsbury Racquetball and Athletic Center deserves a Shout-Out for hosting the fights and providing an excellent venue for this great night of professional boxing.

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PEOPLE**

-DR JOHN HENRIK CLARKE

Nubian News Book Review

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

“We Speak for Ourselves:

A Word from Forgotten Black America”

BY D. WATKINS

c.2019, Atria \$26.00/\$35.00
Canada 208 pages

You could be rich someday.

That’s what they say: you could have a great job, a nice car, and a crib on the beach, if you want them. They say it could happen, if you seize opportunities that come your way. They say it’s possible to be successful if you just pull yourself up by some imaginary bootstraps. And according to D. Watkins in his new book “We Speak

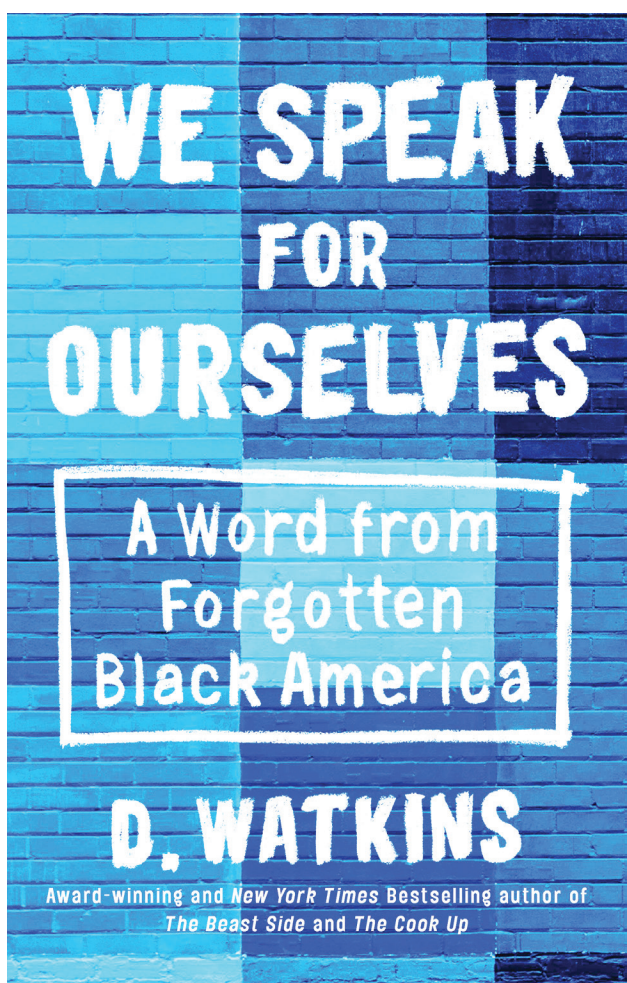
they see? Kids on the street are not “dumb,” he says, but a “street hustler mentality” is given to them as a sort of heritage because there aren’t a lot of choices, opportunities are few, and the need for money is powerful. It doesn’t help that education for black students is often underfunded, proper nourishment is sometimes lacking, housing may be sub-par, “open-air drug markets are real,” cops can be “more crooked than the crooks,” and “Black Taxes” exist.

And yet – Watkins is proof that success is possible, but it’ll take action: promote literacy. Teach a child something. Get to know people who are different than you. “Be the person you needed growing up.” Speak up, but remember that your voice won’t mean a thing “if action is not added to those words.”

Sometimes it happens: your eyes are open but you can’t see. When author D. Watkins writes, though, you’re smacked with the very thing you’re missing. Watkins, who starts “We Speak for Ourselves” with a cocktail party attended by elite blacks, turns his attention quickly to the majority of black people he knows, none of whom are rich or famous. This tour, if you will, takes readers into his neighborhood through a voice that quietly hammers home the realities of privilege, inequality, poverty, and feelings of helplessness, but Watkins doesn’t let us linger there.

Observant readers will find simple actions for change-making, and reminders that we always hold the power to act. There’s quiet advice for keeping a cool head when wrongs are presented, and a gently-urgent plea that differently-backgrounded people spend time together. There’s also one hilariously subtle thread of humor, so look for it.

No matter which part of the sidewalk you occupy, this short, quick book is a must-read if you worry about our future. “We Speak for Ourselves” offers the beginnings of a map forward, and in thought-provoking ideas, it’s rich.



for Ourselves,” they are lying. Oprah, Jay-Z, Beyonce, Kanye. Of course, you know who they are but did you ever notice that they aren’t like most black people?

That’s something D. Watkins sees in the books he reads on race, in the TV he watches, and events he attends: there are “different types of black people” and when it comes to news and “maybe even in society.... People from the street are absent...”

In Watkins’ world – “Down Bottom” in Baltimore – gunshot is a common background noise. It’s also common for multiple generations of black men to die by bullets, for girls to get pregnant early, and for boys to sling drugs.

What else do they know, except what



On Monday, April 22, 2019 the City of Trenton officially memorialized Brinton Ave as ‘Brinson Memorial Drive’ honoring the life long work of Mr. Tardy Brinson and Eldest Charles Brinson, father and mother of Bishop Charles Berry Brinson. Pastor Brinson, shown in the above picture

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TerraCycle Presents The Art Of Spray

BY TANGELA WRIGHT

On April 20th the first session of the Art of Spray took place in two locations. One on New York Avenue at the TerraCycle building and the other location at 1509 Parkway Avenue known as “Brand New Tattoo & Gallery”.

There is one instructor Dave Klama and the organizer is Leon Rainbow. I had a chance to sit and talk with them about the classes and the set-up of the instruction for the class. Classes have been going on for 5 years for pre-teens to seniors who would like to learn more about street art and graffiti.

wall that can be seen at the Cure Center in Trenton as well as had his art displayed on panels at the Princeton Museum.

When I asked Leon what he hopes that everyone will take away from these sessions he replied, “I would like for TerraCycle’s many art classes change according to theme, along with monthly art displays as well as annual projects.

TerraCycle offers a range of free programs that are funded by conscientious companies, as well as recycling solutions available for purchase for almost every form of waste. The free recycling programs



Some students that attend these sessions are art majors and have gone to prestigious art schools but still hold a precious space in their heart to learn the new techniques

funded by brands, manufacturers, and retailers around the world help you collect and recycle your hard-to-recycle waste. Choose the programs you’d like to join; start

ART OF THE SPRAY



**Classes Start April 13, 2019 in Trenton, NJ
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and skills of the art of spray. Leon Rainbow lived in California where his love and growth in knowledge of subway art was influenced by movies like Beat Street, Style wars and Subway art. He moved to Trenton, NJ where he began to meet other artists that shared his love and passion for the art. Leon has completed many projects such as a 235 x 12

collecting in your home, school, or office; download free shipping labels; and send your waste to be recycled. You can even earn rewards for your school or favorite non-profit!

Check out TerraCycle website at <https://www.terracycle.com>



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Congress To IRS: Respect Taxpayers Rights

BY AL ALATUNJI

Like a thief in the night, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has been robbing innocent American citizens by seizing money and property without any due process. However, Congress has introduced bipartisan legislation to respect taxpayers rights and rein in the IRS.

Right now the IRS can legally seize an individual’s or business’s property, and it does not even have to meet any burden of proof of wrongdoing. Federal forfeiture laws allow the IRS to seize assets from people on the mere suspicion of malfeasance. If the IRS believes a citizen is structuring deposits to avoid reporting requirements, the agency can seize the individual’s money or property. According to data analyzed by the Institute for Justice, in 2017 alone, the Justice and Treasury departments deposited nearly \$4.2 billion dollars in forfeited funds into federal accounts. A significant portion of the forfeited funds came from taxpayers for whom such seizure is believed to have been inappropriate.

To combat and prevent the IRS from being able to seize property without first showing due cause, Senator Tim

Scott (R-SC), who is Black, and Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), have introduced bipartisan legislation entitled the Restraining Excessive Seizure of Property through Exploitation of Civil Asset Forfeiture Tools Act. or the RESPECT Act for short. The RESPECT Act ensures that the IRS explicitly demonstrates probable cause prior to seizing assets. It generates more transparent avenues for business owners and individuals to defend themselves against any wrongdoing and enables them to retrieve their property back from the IRS.

“In no way should the IRS be allowed to seize Americans’ property without first being able to prove its necessity. Time and time again, we see that the IRS has gone above and beyond its purview destroying homeowners, small businesses and their employees,” states Senator Scott.

Similar to how forfeiture laws are used by local, state and federal government prosecutors, the practice by the IRS to seize money or property without due process is often times at the expense of a person of color or a business owned by a person of color and the less affluent.

What's Happening

- Every Tuesday, Open Mic with Benny P, 8:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., Trenton Social, 449 South Broad Street, Trenton
- Every Thursday - Children's Thursday Theater, 3:00 p.m., Trenton Free Public Library, 129 Academy Street, Trenton
- Every Saturday, Board Game Workshop, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Trenton Free Public Library, 129 Academy Street, Trenton
- Every Monday, Bible Conversation Group, 12 Noon to 1:15p.m., Starbucks Community Room, 102 S. Warren St., Trenton - For the non-religious, the spiritual, and everybody in between 609 836-1403
- Every second Saturday, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Championship Bar and Music Club at 931 Chambers Street in Trenton NJ there is 'Barz All Night'. Each artist gets to perform 3 songs and some freestyle cypher during intermission.
- Every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Open Mic Night with your favorite host Cinnamon R. Martin. Get a front row seat to some of the best talent that Trenton has to offer. Items for sale at this unique small business shop. 25 East Bridge Street, Morrisville, PA. There is a \$5 donation for the event.
- Sign up every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. West End LL Girls Softball. West End Batting Cage, 600 Artison Ave, Trenton, NJ. Registration: \$40. More information: Ron Davis 609-817-5062
- May 2 through May 19, 2019 at the Mill Hill Playhouse in Trenton, NJ "Morir Sonyando" by Erlina Ortiz.
- Saturday, May 4, 2019, 1:00 pm, Wine Tasting presented by the Association of Black Women Lawyers (ABWL). Hopewell Valley Vineyards, 46 Yard Rd, Pennington, NJ. Includes wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres \$20/\$25 only cash accepted at the door. Come out, sample wine, network, mix and mingle. For more information - awashlaw2010@gmail.com
- Saturday May 4th, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Courage To Be More- I AM QUEEN. Masterclass Series was created for the woman who is ready to SHOW UP BIG IN LIFE!! Each class in this series will help to elevate your mindset as you are reminded that you were born to be GREAT!!! Lunch included and vendors on premises. 320 Hollowbrook Dr., Ewing Township, NJ. \$7. Tickets at eventbrite
- Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 4 PM - 8:30 PM - Alphas Derby Day Party 2019 - Rho Waterfront, 50 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey - Hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Zeta Iota Lambda Chapter
- Saturday, May 4th, 4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Capitol City NJ Alphas Present "#CAPCITYDERBY19" Day Party. Live Music & Entertainment by The Great Show DJ SNS & DJ Alamo and The Renaissance Jazz Band. Cooper's Riverview (formerly Rho) 50 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ. Admission \$45 - \$50
- Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 2 PM - 6 PM, Philly Girls Jump 2019 Season Jump Off! Hosted by Philly Girls Jump. Anyone who loves jumping double dutch, no matter how young or old, are encouraged and welcome to join the fun! Bring your ropes, your water, your favorite double dutch songs, and let's have fun doing what we love: Jumping Double Dutch! We will have Vendors, Food. Awbury Park, 6101 Ardleigh Street, Philadelphia, FREE Basic Double Dutch instruction during the first hour! Come! Watch! Jump! Enjoy the atmosphere!!
- Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM - Women's Empowerment Breakfast - Hosted by Dress for Success Central New Jersey. Trenton Country Club, 201 Sullivan Way, West Trenton, New Jersey. \$50 per person. For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/2H-vtHYZ>
- Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 12 noon in the the Capital Area YMCA, 431 Pennington Ave - CAPITAL CITY AREA BLACK CAUCUS, "Community Updates, Candidates, Black Media Recognition and A 2019 Salute To Black Mothers"
- Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM - Intersectional Feminism Workshop - Hosted by Our Revolution New Jersey Trenton Metro. Intersectionality is an analytical framework to identify how one's different identities--like race, sex, age, ethnicity, health and other characteristics--intersect to magnify or minimize oppression or discrimination in society. For more information: www.ourrevnj.org
- Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 2 PM - 6 PM - Women of Impact Honorary Brunch, Hosted by IMPACT-Magazine. Kelly Price will join IMPACT Magazine as the Guest of Honor as we celebrate some amazing women! The honorees are: Narubi Selah, Wendy Dean, Wanda Austin, Butterfly Sarah Holman, Latarsha Williams Burke, Bethesda Stokes-Turner, Rev Jamilah Abdul-Raheem. \$55 secures your spot, be sure to get your tickets from www.theimpactmagazine.com.
- Saturday, June 15, 2019, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Higbee Street School Juneteenth Celebration, Higbee Street School, 20 Bellevue Avenue, Trenton, NJ
- Tuesday, May 21, 8:00 am to 9:30 am - Networking Before Nine! Presented by the Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce at the United Way of Greater Trenton, 3150 Brunswick Ave, Suite 230, Lawrenceville, NJ. All business sizes are welcome. Questions, 609 498-0698
- Monday, July 8th thru August 2nd. Colonial Summer Camp. The Old Barracks of Trenton. information: www.barracks.org/summer-day-camp.html Sign up: www.barracks.com

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