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LOCAL News



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VOLUME 2

**LOCAL NEWS:****Powerful Tornado Leaves Damage Across Kankakee County, Community Begins Recovery**

By Aaron Robinson

Residents across Kankakee County are beginning the long process of clean-up and recovery after a powerful tornado-producing storm swept through the region earlier this week, leaving behind significant damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure.

The storm struck on March 10, bringing intense winds, heavy rain, and unusually large hail. The National Weather Service later confirmed that at least one of the tornadoes that touched down in the area reached EF-3 strength, with wind speeds estimated at up to 150 miles per hour. The storm carved a destructive path through parts of Kankakee County, damaging buildings, uprooting trees, and knocking down power lines.

In several neighborhoods, residents reported roofs torn from homes, shattered windows, and debris scattered across streets and yards. Emergency crews and utility workers responded quickly, working overnight to clear roadways and restore power to affected areas.

The storm also produced massive hailstones, some reported to be as large as six inches in diameter, among the largest ever recorded in Illinois. Vehicles, siding, and rooftops across the region were heavily damaged by the unusual hail.



Hail blast into car window

Local officials said that while the property damage was extensive, the outcome could have been far worse. Many residents were able to take shelter before the storm hit, and first responders were already on alert as severe weather warnings were issued.

Across the state line in Indiana, the same storm system proved deadly when a tornado destroyed a home and claimed two lives, highlighting the widespread impact of the severe weather outbreak across the Midwest.

In the days following the storm, community members, volunteers, and local organizations have stepped in to

help those affected. Neighbors have been seen clearing fallen branches, covering damaged roofs, and assisting families with cleanup efforts.

Despite the destruction left behind, many residents say the response from the community reflects the strength and resilience of Kankakee County.

As recovery efforts continue, local officials are encouraging residents to remain cautious around damaged structures and downed power lines while cleanup crews work to restore normalcy to the area.

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COVER PHOTO: Kankakee County Court House**INSIGHT NEWS READER**

InSight News Reader is more than a newspaper publication, it is a trusted voice for the community, created to inform, uplift, and amplify stories that deserve to be heard while addressing the concerns and needs of the community at large. It also engages with its audience and serves as a dynamic platform for businesses to expand their visibility and connect meaningfully with the communities they serve.

Operating under the umbrella of Robinson Publishing LLC, InSight News Reader is connected to the nationwide magazine, Consciousness Magazine, a respected publication with over 20 years of impact, along with a portfolio of published works that have achieved Amazon bestseller recognition. Together, these platforms reflect a lasting commitment to truth, empowerment, culture, and community advancement.

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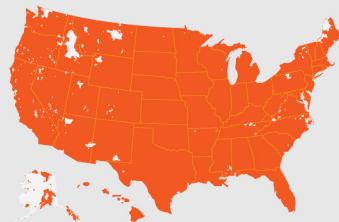
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Talk it out with your youth



5

Hot Topics - What's Trending

Building Self-Esteem: Knowing Your Worth from the Inside Out



In a world full of social media highlights, comparison, and pressure to “fit in,” many young people struggle with something deeply important: self-esteem. Self-esteem is how you see and value yourself. It shapes how you think, how you make decisions, and how you allow others to treat you.

The truth is simple but powerful, your value doesn't come from likes, popularity, grades, or appearance. It comes from who you are as a person.

What Is Self-Esteem?

Self-esteem is your inner voice that tells you, “I matter,” or sometimes, “I'm not good enough.”

When self-esteem is healthy, that voice is encouraging and balanced. It helps you believe in yourself even when things get hard. When it's low, it can make you doubt your abilities, compare yourself to others, and feel like you're never enough.

Every young person experiences moments of doubt. The goal isn't to be perfect, it's to learn how to build confidence that lasts.

Why Self-Esteem Matters

Strong self-esteem helps you:

- Make better decisions and resist peer pressure
- Handle failure without giving up
- Build healthy friendships and relationships
- Speak up for yourself and your needs
- Believe in your goals and dreams

When you value yourself, you don't accept less than you deserve.

What Damages Self-Esteem?

There are many things that can hurt how you see yourself, including:

- Constant comparison on social media
- Negative self-talk (“I'm not smart enough,” “I always mess up”)
- Being bullied or criticized
- Feeling left out or misunderstood
- Trying to meet unrealistic expectations

The important thing to remember is this: just because you feel something about yourself doesn't make it true.

How to Build Strong Self-Esteem

Building self-esteem takes time, but small steps make a big difference:

1. Change your self-talk

Talk to yourself the way you would talk to a friend. Replace “I can't do



this” with “I'm learning how to do this.”

2. Focus on your strengths

Everyone has something they're good at, creativity, kindness, humor, leadership, sports, or problem-solving. Notice what makes you unique.

3. Set small goals

Achieving small goals builds confidence. Each success reminds you that you are capable.

4. Surround yourself with positive people

Be around people who uplift you, not those who bring you down or make you feel small.

5. Limit comparison

Remember: people usually post

their best moments, not their struggles. Your journey is not meant to look like anyone else's.

6. Ask for support when needed

Talking to a trusted adult, mentor, or counselor is a sign of strength, not weakness.

Your Worth Is Not Up for Debate

One of the most important things to understand is that your worth does not change based on opinions, mistakes, or circumstances. You are not defined by a bad day, a bad grade, or someone else's judgment.

You are still growing. You are still learning. And you are still enough.

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FLAWS WITHIN THE LOCAL COURT SYSTEM:

Community Crying Out for Justice and Accountability



kankakee County Court House

By Aaron Robinson

Across the nation, confidence in the justice system is being tested as communities confront growing questions about fairness, transparency, and equal treatment under the law. In Kankakee County, Illinois, those concerns have erupted into public outcry, with residents demanding answers about what they describe as deep flaws within the local court system and its handling of justice.

Critics have specifically directed frustration toward Kankakee County State's Attorney Jim Rowe, arguing that the system under his leadership has failed to deliver fairness and compassion in several highly discussed local cases. Community members and activists have organized online, spoken

publicly, and demanded accountability from officials they believe are not listening to the people they serve.

One of the names at the center of these conversations is Xandria Harris. Supporters argue that Harris should not continue to be held and claim she did not pull the trigger in the case tied to her prosecution. Demonstrators and advocates insist that her continued incarceration represents what they believe is a broader pattern of injustice within the county.

Another rallying cry echoing through portions of the community is the demand to "Free Run'it Up Jones." Supporters claim that Jones has also been treated unfairly by the system and say the courts have failed to provide equal justice. While prosecutors and law enforcement maintain their own

positions regarding these cases, critics argue that deeper questions about fairness and accountability remain unanswered.

Adding to public frustration are allegations surrounding disturbing and allegedly racist conversations involving officials connected to the justice system. Residents who have spoken out say these reports have intensified concerns about bias, selective prosecution, and unequal treatment. Community advocates argue that if such behavior exists within positions of power, it damages public confidence and further divides the county.

The emotional tension surrounding these cases has sparked growing activism throughout Kankakee County. Protest signs, social media campaigns, and community meetings

have amplified demands for change. Some residents describe the current atmosphere as a "battle for justice," while others say fear and distrust are becoming deeply rooted in neighborhoods already struggling with social and economic challenges.

One message repeatedly heard from activists and supporters is simple but powerful. "Save us, Cierra, from our oppressors."

For many, the phrase represents a broader cry against what they believe to be systemic injustice, abuse of power, and a lack of accountability from local leadership.

At the same time, legal experts often caution that accusations against public officials and court systems should be carefully examined and supported by verified evidence. Defenders of the justice system argue that prosecutors and courts must follow legal procedures and that public criticism should be balanced with facts presented in court.

Still, the growing unrest in Kankakee County reflects a larger national conversation about criminal justice reform, racial disparities, prosecutorial power, and community trust. Whether one agrees with the criticism or not, the voices demanding change are becoming harder to ignore.

For many residents, the issue is no longer just about individual cases. It is about whether ordinary citizens can trust the system that is supposed to protect them equally.

And until those concerns are addressed openly and transparently, the battle for justice in Kankakee County is likely to continue.



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What's Poppin'

Entertainment

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Remembering Earl "LC" Robinson: A Pioneer Behind the Sound of Public Announcement

By Aaron Robinson

The world of R&B lost a foundational voice with the passing of Earl "LC" Robinson, a visionary musician, producer, and founding force behind the legendary group Public Announcement. While many remember the group for its chart-topping hits and collaborations, those who understand the roots of the sound know that Robinson's influence ran deep, shaping not only a group, but an era.

The Birth of a Movement

In 1991, on the South Side of Chicago, Earl Robinson founded Public Announcement alongside fellow members. The group would soon become a defining presence in the early 1990s R&B and new jack swing scene.

Their trajectory changed quickly when they teamed up with R. Kelly for the debut album *Born into the 90's* in 1992. The project went platinum and introduced the world to unforgettable hits like "She's Got That Vibe," "Honey Love," and "Slow Dance (Hey Mr. DJ)."

Though R. Kelly's name often dominated headlines, Robinson and the group were essential in crafting the sound and energy that defined the album's success.

Building a Legacy Beyond the Spotlight

After the early success, Public Announcement continued evolving, proving they were more than a supporting act. With Robinson as a creative anchor, the group released multiple albums, including *All Work, No Play, Don't Hold Back*, and *When the Smoke Clears*.

One of their biggest independent



Photo: Earl "LC" Robinson, Tocarra (Recording Artist) and BenOne (R&B Singer)

successes came with the hit "Body Bumpin' (Yippie-Yi-Yo)," which climbed the charts and became a staple of late '90s R&B.

Behind the scenes, Robinson was more than a performer, he was a producer, mentor, and developer of talent. He helped shape records, guide artists, and push creative boundaries, earning respect across the industry for his ear and dedication.

A Mentor and Community Figure

Beyond the stage and studio, Earl Robinson's impact extended into the community. Later in life, he resided in Kankakee, where he continued his work in music development. Through independent ventures and labels, he invested in emerging artists offering vocal coaching, production guidance, and opportunities that many would not have otherwise received.

He later formed a record label

An Enduring Influence

Earl "LC" Robinson passed away in 2025 at the age of 59, leaving behind a legacy rooted in creativity, mentorship, and innovation.

He may not have always been the most visible name in the spotlight, but his fingerprints are all over the music that defined a generation. From platinum records to grassroots artist development, Robinson's work continues to echo through the culture.

Final Reflection

Remembering Earl Robinson is about more than honoring a founding member of a successful R&B group, it's about recognizing a builder of sound, a cultivator of talent, and a man who never stopped giving back.

His journey from Chicago's music scene to the community of Kankakee, Illinois is a testament to a life dedicated not just to music, but to impact. And while he may be gone, the rhythm of his contributions will continue to play on.

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Community Highlights:

STILL I RISE ORGANIZATION LEADS POWERFUL RELIEF EFFORTS IN AROMA PARK AND KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS

By Mozella Malone

In the heart of Kankakee, Illinois, the nonprofit organization Still I Rise continues to stand as a vital force for community support, youth empowerment, and emergency relief. Founded in 2014, the organization has built a strong reputation across Kankakee County for responding to urgent community needs, especially during times of crisis such as recent natural disasters and economic hardship.

Still I Rise is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to empowering low-income and underserved youth and young adults through leadership development, education, and life skills training. The organization serves multiple Illinois counties, including Kankakee, Will, Cook, and surrounding areas, providing programs that focus on self-sufficiency, entrepreneurship, health education, and personal development.

Beyond youth programming, the organization has become widely recognized for its hands-on community outreach and relief efforts, often stepping in when families face urgent needs.

Most recently, Still I Rise played a key role in disaster response following severe tornadoes that struck Kankakee County and nearby communities,



Still I Rise Disaster Relief Giveaway - Schuyler Avenue and Station Street (Kankakee)

including Aroma Park. Homes were damaged or destroyed, and families were left struggling to recover.

In response, the organization mobilized volunteers and partners to distribute essential supplies such as: Food and water, clothing for children and adults, hygiene kits and household necessities, and care packages delivered directly to affected homes.

These efforts were part of a coordinated relief mission led by Still I Rise alongside local faith-based partners, ensuring that even residents unable to travel could

still receive support.

As recovery efforts continued, Still I Rise expanded its outreach through community-driven events such as the “Hands That Help the Community Giveaway” in downtown Kankakee. The event provided: New and gently used clothing, baby supplies, household goods and essentials, and holiday and seasonal items.

These distributions were designed not only to meet immediate needs but also to restore dignity and hope for families rebuilding after hardship.

Over the years, Still I Rise has served thousands of residents through free food distributions, winter coat and blanket giveaways, school supply drives, health and wellness fairs and homeless outreach programs.

The organization has also been recognized locally for its impact, receiving honors such as the Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award and the NAACP President’s Award, reflecting its long-standing commitment to community service.

At the center of the organization is Founder and Executive Director Tocarra Eldridge-Robinson, alongside a dedicated team of volunteers and community partners. Under their leadership, Still I Rise has grown into a trusted grassroots organization known for rapid response and consistent community engagement.

As Kankakee continues to recover from recent storms and ongoing economic challenges, Still I Rise remains committed to its mission: uplifting families, empowering youth, and strengthening the community through action.

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The Circle

Around the World News



Current - Latest Happenings

U.S. Military - Iran Update: Escalating Tensions as Naval Blockade and Regional Conflict Intensify



Iran War

By Staff

Tensions between the United States and Iran have sharply escalated following a major announcement by the U.S. military to begin a naval blockade targeting Iranian maritime traffic, a move that could significantly reshape security and economic conditions across the Middle East.

U.S. Announces Naval Blockade of Iranian Ports

The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) confirmed that it will begin enforcing a blockade on all maritime traffic entering and exiting Iranian ports starting April 13 at 10 a.m. ET.

According to officials, the blockade is aimed at restricting Iran's ability to move oil exports and military supplies by sea while increasing pressure on Tehran after failed ceasefire negotiations.

The operation will target vessels bound for Iranian ports in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, while still allowing non-Iranian transit through the Strait of Hormuz under strict monitoring conditions.

Military officials stated the enforcement will be "impartial," applying to ships from all nations trading with Iran.

Iran Responds With Threats of Retaliation

Iranian officials quickly condemned the blockade, warning that they may retaliate against Gulf states and regional ports if the U.S. proceeds with what they call an "illegal act of war."

Tehran has also maintained control measures over the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global shipping lane that carries roughly 20% of the world's oil supply, further increasing fears of energy disruptions and maritime instability.

Rising Risk of Regional Conflict

The situation follows weeks of intensifying military exchanges and failed diplomatic negotiations aimed at de-escalation. Analysts warn that the blockade could trigger broader regional instability, particularly if Iran expands retaliatory actions beyond maritime disruptions.

Recent reports indicate that:

- Oil prices have surged more than 7% due to supply fears
- Commercial shipping companies are rerouting or delaying operations in the Gulf
- NATO allies have declined to participate in the blockade, urging diplomatic resolution

U.S. Military Build - Up in the Region

In parallel with the blockade, the U.S. has significantly increased its military presence in the Middle East, deploying carrier strike groups, destroyers, surveillance aircraft, and

counter-drone systems to the region.

This buildup is designed to deter Iranian retaliation, protect shipping lanes, and maintain readiness for potential escalation.

Iran's Military Position

Despite sustained U.S. and allied airstrikes over recent months, reports suggest Iran retains significant asymmetric naval capability, particularly fast-attack boats and drone systems capable of disrupting shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz.

These forces continue to pose a threat to commercial vessels and military operations operating in the Gulf region.

Global Concerns Over Oil and Trade Stability

The Strait of Hormuz remains the most critical chokepoint in global energy trade. Any prolonged disruption could have widespread economic consequences, including: Higher global fuel prices; Supply chain delays in Europe and Asia; Increased insurance and shipping costs; Volatility in global markets.

With diplomacy stalled and military operations expanding, the U.S.-Iran confrontation is entering a more dangerous phase. Analysts warn that the coming days will be critical in determining whether the situation escalates into broader regional conflict or returns to negotiations.

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Still I Rise has received the Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce "Nonprofit of the Year Award" and the "NAACP Presidents Award".



With your contribution and support SIR will continue to make a difference in our community!

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