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LOCAL News



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VOLUME 4

LOCAL NEWS: Community Members Continue Raising Questions About Media Representation and Coverage in Kankakee County

By Aaron Robinson

Questions surrounding media representation, racial equity, and accountability in local journalism continue to spark discussion among some residents and community leaders throughout Kankakee County.

Much of the debate centers on coverage published by The Daily Journal, whose crime stories often rely on information received in the newsroom through tips, reporting, public records, and statements released by law enforcement agencies. While residents acknowledge the importance of reporting on public safety issues, some believe that certain communities and individuals are disproportionately linked to negative headlines, raising concerns about fairness and representation in local media coverage.

My concerns are not about avoiding accountability or preventing journalists from reporting the news. Rather, I believe individuals deserve fair, balanced coverage and that communities should be represented by more than their worst moments.

Pembroke Township Coverage Draws Renewed Discussion

The recent investigation into an alleged dog-fighting operation in Pembroke Township once again brought attention to concerns long voiced by some residents regarding how the historically Black rural community is portrayed.

Authorities reported recovering 18 dogs during the execution of a search warrant at a rural property during the same weekend as the 50th Annual Pembroke Rodeo celebration. While residents sup-



port law enforcement investigations into animal cruelty, some argue that coverage of Pembroke frequently emphasizes crime, poverty, and controversy while giving comparatively little attention to positive developments, businesses, churches, educational achievements, and cultural events.

Critics say the issue is not whether negative stories should be covered, but whether equal attention is devoted to the accomplishments and progress occurring within the community.

Debate Over Coverage Involving Public Figures

Questions about headline framing have also surfaced in stories involving public officials and their family members.

During the 2025 mayoral race, coverage surrounding Dr. Genevra Walters'

son generated discussion after headlines identified him primarily as "the son of Kankakee mayoral candidate Genevra Walters," linking the criminal allegations to the political campaign.

Some residents questioned whether similar editorial decisions would have been made in other circumstances.

Supporters of The Daily Journal newspaper point out that numerous stories over the years also highlighted Walters' educational leadership, political campaigns, and community involvement, suggesting that overall coverage reflected multiple aspects of her public career.

High-Profile Cases and "Trial by Media" Concerns

The coverage surrounding Xandria Harris and the Bradley police shooting

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COVER PHOTO: IvoryLamarr

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.



Meet Brandi Price: A Voice for the People [Part 1]

Meet Brandi Price, an educator, entrepreneur, and creative leader dedicated to making a lasting impact in her community. As the Co-Founder and Lead Graphic Designer of CR8tv Design Technologies LLC and a Special Education Teacher and Learning Behavior Specialist with Chicago Public Schools, Price has built a career centered on service, innovation, and advocacy. Guided by faith, perseverance, and a passion for creating opportunities for underserved communities, she has overcome personal and professional challenges while continuing to pursue higher education, business leadership, and meaningful change.

Inspired Commitment to Serving and Investing in the Community

What has inspired my commitment to serving others and investing in my community is spending time outside of it and seeing both what we lack and what we are capable of becoming. I have always had a genuine love for my city, even when I did not feel that love was returned. Over the years, I learned that my responsibility to give back is not dependent on recognition, appreciation, or validation. I have a duty to reinvest in the community that helped shape me into the woman I am today.

People can say whatever they want about Kankakee, but I believe it produces some of the most resilient, talented, and special people in the world. I know this because everywhere I go, people often tell me that I am different. The truth is, this is simply who I am. The values, work ethic, strength, and determination that define me were cultivated by the city that raised me.



Kankakee toughened my skin, strengthened my character, and prepared me to navigate spaces that were not always designed for people like me. It taught me how to persevere, adapt, and continue moving forward despite obstacles. Because of that, I would be doing both myself and my community a disservice if I did not return that love through service, advocacy, and investment.

Efforts Needed to Create Lasting Improvements for Residents

First and foremost, people need to vote. Too many decisions are being made that directly impact our communities, yet many people are not exercising the rights and power they do have. If we want change, we have to participate in the process. When it comes to education, I believe we

need to take a hard look at the systems that are currently in place. Year after year, many school boards continue to produce the same outcomes while expecting different results. As someone who attended Bradley-Bourbonnais schools and now works in education, I have seen firsthand the disparities that exist between neighboring districts. How can two school systems located right next to each other have such vastly different resources, staffing, opportunities, and outcomes for students? Why do some districts have access to more qualified and certified educators while others struggle to attract and retain talent?

The answer is not simply to complain about these issues. We need more people willing to pursue higher education, leadership positions, and policy-making roles so they can sit at the tables where decisions are actually being made. Real change happens when people from the community are in positions of influence. The question is: how many people are actively preparing themselves to do that work?

Economically, our city faces challenges as well. Leadership matters, and elections matter. Too often, we know who candidates are before they take office, yet we fail to show up at the polls. Community leaders must also do a better job of creating spaces where residents can engage in difficult conversations productively and respectfully. We cannot solve problems if people do not feel heard.

Housing is another issue that deserves attention. Many neighborhoods have gone years without meaningful investment, leaving residents with aging homes and

limited resources for improvement. At the same time, we continue to see licenses approved for more gas stations, liquor stores, and smoke shops while families are asking for resources that actually strengthen communities. Where are the youth programs? Where are the investments in neighborhoods? Where is the funding being allocated, and how is it benefiting residents?

Be a voice in the community. Do you have any concerns about your community? Here is your chance to Express Yourself. We want to hear from you. Email contact@insightnewsreader.com or write to P.O. Box 2496, Kankakee, IL 60901

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Hot Topics - What's Trending

Kankakee County NAACP Youth Council Expands Literacy Efforts with Little Free Libraries Across the Community



and neighbors to discover the joy of reading while sharing books with one another.”

The project became possible after the Youth Council successfully applied for a Build Grant last October. Out of a maximum \$25,000 available, the Kankakee County NAACP Youth Council was awarded funding to bring its vision to life.

According to Youth Adviser Veronica Irish, the initiative was driven by the students themselves after recognizing a growing need

said Irish. “The libraries allow children to walk outside their school, grab a book, keep it as long as they’d like, return it, and pick up another one. This will help improve their reading skills and literacy.”

The Youth Council hopes residents will help sustain the initiative by donating books whenever possible and keeping the shelves stocked for future readers.

The literacy campaign is just one of many projects led by the Kankakee County NAACP Youth Council, whose mission is to prepare young people to become leaders and advocates for positive change.

The organization serves as the primary gateway for youth to engage in civil rights activism and leadership development. Its work is grounded in four pillars:

- Leadership Development – Preparing young leaders to serve, organize, and lead with purpose.
- Direct Action & Advocacy – Mobilizing youth voices to drive policy change and social justice.
- Community Education – Informing and empowering communities through awareness and dialogue.
- Historical Legacy of Activism – Honoring the past while shaping the future of the movement.

Looking ahead, the organization plans to continue expanding its literacy programming, hosting additional literacy nights, and launching more educational activities

throughout the summer and beyond.

The Council is also finding new ways to amplify youth voices through media. Recently, the Kankakee County NAACP Youth Council launched its first live podcast, broadcast on the organization’s Facebook page. The inaugural episode focused on Mental Health and Bullying, opening meaningful dialogue among youth and community members.

The podcast, which airs twice each month on Sundays, provides a platform for engaging conversations, youth perspectives, community empowerment, and discussions on issues affecting young people.

Supporting the Youth Council alongside Veronica Irish are Co-Youth Advisers, Frances Noble and Nikeda Webb, who continue mentoring students committed to making a lasting impact throughout Kankakee County.

As more Little Free Libraries appear throughout the county, organizers hope every installation becomes more than just a place to exchange books, they hope each one becomes a symbol of opportunity, education, and community investment.

Residents are encouraged to stop by a Little Free Library, pick up a book, donate one if they can, and help ensure every child has access to the joy and life-long benefits of reading. Together, the Kankakee County NAACP Youth Council believes the community can build a brighter future, one book and one Little Free Library at a time.

By Tocarra Eldridge-Robinson

The Kankakee County NAACP Youth Council is helping turn the page on literacy in Kankakee County, one Little Free Library at a time.

With a mission centered on encouraging reading, increasing access to books, and strengthening the community through education, the Youth Council has installed several Little Free Libraries throughout the area, making free books available to children and families regardless of income.

The newest installations are located at Steuben Elementary School, King Middle Grade School and Mark Twain Elementary School. Community members are encouraged to embrace the simple concept behind the libraries: “Take a book. Leave a book.”

“Our mission is simple: take a book, leave a book, and help build a stronger community through literacy,” said Youth Council Adviser Veronica Irish. “We hope these Little Free Libraries encourage children, families,

for literacy support throughout the community.

“The kids came up with the idea to place Little Free Libraries throughout Kankakee County because they felt literacy was lacking in both the community and the schools,” Irish explained. “They wanted to provide books for children who may not have books at home while creating opportunities for families to enjoy reading together.”

The Youth Council developed a comprehensive proposal and presented their vision before both the Kankakee School Board and the City Council. Their plan extends beyond simply distributing books. Members are also organizing family literacy nights designed to bring parents and children together through reading, educational activities, and community engagement.

“As a teacher and educator in the school district, I thought creating Little Free Libraries would be a great way to place more free books into homes and schools for people who may not be able to afford books for their children,”

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Avory Lamarr

Building Beauty, Confidence and Legacy One Life at a Time



AvoryLamarr Fashion Photoshoot

By Aaron Robinson

For more than two decades, Avory Lamarr has done far more than style hair. He has transformed lives.

Inside Addicted Studio, every appointment becomes more than a beauty service, it becomes a conversation, a

confidence boost, a lesson in self-care, and often, a healing experience. Clients arrive seeking a new hairstyle, but many leave carrying something far more valuable: renewed self-esteem.

AvoryLamarr, owner of Addicted Studio and one of Kankakee County's most respected beauty professionals,

has spent 21 years perfecting his craft while building a reputation rooted in creativity, excellence, authenticity, and compassion. His journey is one of persistence, artistic vision, unwavering faith, and the courage to embrace individuality.

Long before earning his cosmetology license, AvoryLamarr was discovering who he wanted to become. As a child, he transformed his playroom into an imaginary beauty salon. While other children played games, he envisioned styling clients, creating hairstyles, and making people feel beautiful.

The inspiration came from watching his favorite cousin's mother work as a hairstylist. The atmosphere captivated him. He wanted that magic and wanted to take control...behind the salon styling chair.

"I fell in love with the smell of the salon, the clientele, and how happy women felt when they left," AvoryLamarr recalled. "I loved the transformation."

That fascination eventually led him to attend the Kankakee Area Career Center, where he earned his cosmetology license. However, the foundation had already been laid years earlier. Hair wasn't simply something he learned. It was something he believed he was born to do.

Creativity Without Limits

Hair is only one expression of Avory Lamarr's creativity. He is also an accomplished interior designer, painter, makeup artist, set designer, builder, and creative visionary whose

imagination refuses to stay confined to one discipline.

Growing up, his mother, Monica Williams, encouraged exploration instead of placing limitations on his abilities. If he wanted to redesign a room, build something new, or solve a complicated problem, she allowed him the opportunity to learn by doing. That freedom became the foundation of his creativity.

Whether constructing salon plumbing from scratch, designing elaborate event sets, or producing artistic concepts, AvoryLamarr approaches each challenge with confidence and curiosity.

"I never thought I was doing anything special," he explained. "I just tried things."

That willingness to experiment has become one of his greatest strengths.

More Than Hair

Although AvoryLamarr built his reputation behind the salon chair, he eventually realized healthy hair begins long before products are applied. Early in his career, one client profoundly changed his perspective.

During a difficult marriage, the woman's hair refused to grow beyond her ears. Following her divorce, her hair flourished. The experience taught AvoryLamarr that emotional health and physical wellness often reveal themselves through the body. From that point forward, he immersed himself in learning about nutrition, stress, iron

deficiencies, scalp health, and overall wellness.

Today, his appointments include education as much as styling. He believes understanding the “why” behind hair loss or damage empowers clients to take better care of themselves both physically and emotionally. His philosophy reflects a holistic approach that has distinguished him from countless others in the beauty industry.

Ask AvoryLamarr what separates him from other hairstylists, and he won’t mention technical skills. Instead, it’s about about people. He believes every client deserves to feel like the most important person in the room. Remembering birthdays, celebrating graduations, asking about family milestones, and treating every appointment with genuine care have become trademarks of his business.

His mother’s advice remains central to his work: Treat every woman in your chair as though she were your own family. That mindset has produced loyal clients who continue returning year after year, not simply because of the hairstyles, but because of the experience.

Faith Before Fame

Despite years of professional recognition, AvoryLamarr remains remarkably grounded. He credits his relationship with God as the anchor behind every accomplishment. Rather than chasing celebrity or public attention, he focuses on serving people with humility and excellence.

He believes lasting success is built slowly.

“Legends are built with time,” he said.

Instead of seeking shortcuts, Avory Lamarr has embraced consistency, allowing his reputation to grow organically through decades of dedicated work. That quiet confidence has carried him well beyond Kankakee

County, leading to opportunities with artists connected to rapper Lupe Fiasco, models, entertainment professionals, and cast members associated with television productions. Yet he views celebrity clients no differently than anyone else who sits in his chair.

The Show That Changed Everything

Perhaps no achievement illustrates AvoryLamarr’s impact better than the Addicted Hair Show. Ironically, the annual production began almost by accident. Feeling creatively restless nearly a decade ago, AvoryLamarr casually wondered whether anyone would attend a local hair show if he organized one himself. He expected perhaps 25 to 50 people. Instead, nearly 400 attended the inaugural event.

Standing before a packed audience, AvoryLamarr became overwhelmed with emotion. Years of being bullied for being different suddenly gave way to overwhelming acceptance. He broke down in tears. The experience transformed not only his career but his understanding of purpose.

Today, the Addicted Hair Show has become one of the region’s premier creative showcases, celebrating beauty, artistry, fashion, entertainment, and community. Each year, audiences continue returning, not simply because of the production itself, but because AvoryLamarr continually reinvents the experience.

Living Authentically

AvoryLamarr openly acknowledges that embracing his authentic self wasn’t easy. For years, he worried about public opinion. He changed outfits before leaving home, questioned how people perceived him, and struggled under the weight of others’ expectations. Eventually, everything changed. Instead of fearing attention, he embraced it. Rather than apologizing for his personality, creativity, or appearance, he accepted every part of himself.

Today, he encourages others to release

unhealthy relationships, let go of unnecessary burdens, and stop allowing public opinion to dictate their lives.

“If it doesn’t help me grow, help me elevate, or help me pay my bills,” he says, “It has to go.”

That philosophy extends beyond business. It shapes every aspect of his personal life.

Beyond the Salon

Many clients know AvoryLamarr as an accomplished hairstylist and makeup artist. Fewer realize he is also an avid animal lover. Over the years, he has owned reptiles, bearded dragons, exotic snakes, standard poodles, and internationally bred Teacup Yorkies. His fascination with animals surprises many who assume they understand him.

AvoryLamarr enjoys challenging stereotypes. He refuses to allow society to place him into a single category or define who he should become. That same willingness to break expectations has fueled his creative evolution throughout life.



Preparing the Next Generation

AvoryLamarr also speaks passionately about mentoring future beauty professionals. One lesson stands above all others. Have an exit plan. He encourages the young stylists to begin their careers in established salons where they can continue learning from experienced

professionals before opening independent suites. He reminds aspiring entrepreneurs that careers evolve, industries change, and longevity requires planning beyond immediate success.

For AvoryLamarr, success isn’t measured simply by today’s accomplishments. It’s measured by tomorrow’s opportunities.

A Legacy of Showing Up

When asked what legacy he hopes to leave behind, AvoryLamarr’s answer isn’t about awards, celebrity clientele, or business success. It’s about integrity. He wants people to remember someone who kept his word. Someone who showed up. Someone who gave everything he had whenever his name was attached to a project. His mother’s teaching still guides him: Your word is your reputation.

For AvoryLamarr, keeping promises remains more valuable than applause. That mindset has earned him lasting respect throughout Kankakee County and beyond. In an industry often driven by trends and appearances, AvoryLamarr has built something far more enduring. He has built trust.

Through talent, compassion, faith, and unwavering authenticity, he continues proving that true beauty isn’t created solely with scissors, color, or cosmetics. It is created by helping people see the greatness that already exists within themselves. And that may be his greatest masterpiece of all.



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TOMIKA A. TALLEY:

Creating Opportunities, Building Community, and Inspiring the Next Generation

By Aaron Robinson

For Tomika A. Talley, community service is not simply something she does, it is the foundation of who she is. Whether serving in public office, mentoring youth, creating spaces for artists, or bringing families together through entertainment, Talley has dedicated her life to building stronger communities throughout Kankakee County.

A proud mother of three, the oldest sister of seven, and the self-proclaimed favorite aunt of 24 nieces and nephews, Talley believes that leadership begins with serving others. Today, she serves as a Village of Sun River Terrace Trustee, Commissioner for the Kankakee County Housing Authority, and a member of the Community Development Corporation of Pembroke-Hopkins Park. She is also an entrepreneur whose businesses continue to create opportunities for connection, creativity, and community engagement.

Talley says her passion for service was shaped by the words of her grandmother, who often challenged her by asking, “If not you, then who? And why not you?” Those words became a guiding principle that continues to influence every decision she makes.

Rather than complaining about the problems she saw around her, Talley chose to become part of the solution. Early in her journey, she organized a community voter registration drive at Pioneer Park House. Before social media existed, she spent weeks distributing flyers, encouraging residents to participate, and rallying volunteers to help spread the message. The event ultimately became one of the area’s most successful voter registration efforts and introduced Talley to leaders who recognized her passion for public service. One of her closest friends, Grammy Award-winning DJ Vudu Spellz, volunteered to DJ a celebration where admission was free to everyone who registered to vote.

That event offered her a position at State Representative Lisa Dugan office and reinforced a lesson she still carries



Photo of Tomika A. Talley

today: one person truly can make a difference when they are willing to take the first step.

Like many who dedicate themselves to community work, Talley has experienced challenges along the way. She acknowledges facing limited resources, injustice, and racial trauma, but refuses to let those experiences define her future. Instead, they strengthened her commitment to creating opportunities for others who face similar obstacles.

“I’ve been blessed with an incredible support system,” she says. “What I lacked wasn’t encouragement, it was resources.”

That perspective has fueled her work in public service, where she continues advocating for affordable housing, civic engagement, youth development, and stronger neighborhoods.

Outside of government service, Talley has also become known for creating innovative experiences that bring communities together.

Inspired by childhood memories of roller skating with her parents, she launched Rollin’ Out, a mobile roller-skating business designed to transform ordinary spaces into places filled with music, laughter, and family fun. More than entertainment, Talley views the business as another way to strengthen relationships and promote positive community engagement.

“Rollin’ Out is about much more than

skating,” she explains. “It’s about bringing people together, building confidence, encouraging healthy activity, and creating spaces where families can reconnect.”

Her commitment to community also extends to the arts. In 2006, she founded The Art of Storytelling, a monthly open mic platform that began as a creative outlet for individuals recovering from addiction. Over the years, it has evolved into one of the region’s respected showcases for poets, spoken-word artists, musicians, and storytellers.

Talley was inspired after attending an open mic event and witnessing the powerful impact creative expression had on participants. She wanted to create a welcoming environment where everyone, from first-time performers to nationally recognized artists, could share their voices.

Nearly two decades later, that vision continues to thrive. The Art of Storytelling has welcomed acclaimed performers, including actor LaRoyce Hawkins of Chicago P.D., actress Jerrie Johnson of Harlem, and nationally recognized spoken-word artists. Yet Talley says some of her greatest rewards come from watching local artists gain confidence before moving on to larger stages.

The event has become more than a performance venue; it has grown into a place where artists, businesses, and

community members connect, collaborate, and inspire one another.

Talley’s entrepreneurial spirit also led her to co-found EZ Outdoor Movie Theaters. Inspired by fond memories of attending drive-in movies with her father, she wanted to recreate those experiences for today’s families.

Each summer, the business transforms parks and open spaces throughout Sun River Terrace and Hopkins Park into outdoor movie venues where families gather beneath the stars. Complete with local food vendors, youth entrepreneurs, community organizations, and sponsors, the events have become a summertime tradition that celebrates togetherness and community pride.

Whether organizing a movie night, hosting an open mic, serving in public office, or launching a new initiative, Talley approaches every opportunity with the same purpose, to create spaces where people feel connected, supported, and inspired.

When asked what she hopes people remember most about her life’s work, her answer reflects the humility that has guided her throughout her career.

“I hope people remember me as someone who created opportunities where none existed,” she says. “If someone says, ‘She cared enough to do something,’ that would be a legacy I’m proud of.”

Talley also has a message for aspiring entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders, and anyone with a dream of making a difference.

“Don’t wait until you feel completely ready,” she encourages. “Most meaningful things are built before we feel prepared. You can do hard things. Every worthwhile dream requires perseverance.”

Talley’s story is a powerful reminder that communities are strengthened not only by policies or programs, but by individuals who choose to serve with compassion, vision, and purpose. By creating opportunities, encouraging civic engagement, supporting the arts, and bringing neighbors together, Tomika A. Talley continues to leave an enduring mark on Kankakee County, one that will inspire future generations to answer the call to serve.

Community Members Continue Raising Questions About Media Representation and Coverage in Kankakee County

Continues from Page 2

case also prompted debate regarding pretrial publicity.

Most stories focused on court proceedings, legal motions, and the allegations against Harris. Court filings submitted by defense attorneys argued that extensive local media attention had contributed to a “trial by media” atmosphere that could potentially affect public opinion.

The newspaper’s reporting largely reflected information presented in open court and through official records.

Community Activists Seek Dialogue

Podcast host, DJ and community personality Broke Dusty has publicly called for conversations concerning racism, diversity, and media accountability.

Through social media and public statements, he has encouraged local media representatives to participate in open discussions regarding race, representation, and how communities of color are portrayed.

“The city has questions,” Broke Dusty stated, emphasizing the need for transparency and ongoing dialogue.

According to supporters, the effort is not intended to create conflict but to establish communication between media outlets and the communities they serve.

Longstanding Criticism From Community Advocates

Community activist Travis Miller has also publicly criticized local media coverage for years, citing concerns involving racial justice, police-community relations, transparency, and citizen engagement.

Other residents have questioned whether crime-related press releases involving white suspects receive the same level of follow-up attention and visibility

as stories involving Black residents or Black communities.

Coverage of Young Political Candidates

Questions regarding headline emphasis also arose during the 2025 Kankakee School District 111 election involving candidate Dajon Casiel.

The Daily Journal published stories about his campaign as well as reports concerning allegations and disciplinary matters. Critics argued that controversy-focused headlines often received greater prominence than stories discussing his candidacy and policy positions.

Broader Questions Remain

Community members continue to ask: Has local media coverage unintentionally reinforced stereotypes? Are predominantly Black communities receiving balanced representation? Are positive stories receiving the same attention as negative stories? How should media address concerns raised by readers and residents? What role should public dialogue play in strengthening trust between journalists and the communities they cover?

Many residents agree on one point: journalism serves an essential role in informing the public. However, they believe that trust is strengthened when coverage reflects not only crises and controversies, but also the accomplishments, culture, and everyday successes that define a community.

As these conversations continue, some community leaders hope that greater engagement between local media outlets and residents can lead to increased understanding, improved representation, and a stronger relationship between journalism and the communities it serves.

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Broke Dusty Music Review Column

Kankakee!!! As a fellow artist and citizen, I wanted to create a space where our music can be listened to, critiqued, and appreciated. The goal is to give artists honest feedback, support, and a different audience to hear their creative work.

These reviews are from a panel of people who appreciate Kankakee, and love music. This group will help encourage Kankakee artists with some honest constructive criticism, feedback, and tips from a fellow music lover.

The Grading System: (A+ to F)

CATEGORIES

Sound Quality • Bars/Lyrics • Production
• Subject Matter • Album Overall

For questions and for albums reviews please contact Broke Dusty: 87sauce@gmail.com



Album #1

Ace of Wands - Carrying Torches

May 19th, 2017

Pop/Rock

Review #1

Sound Quality - B+
Bars/Lyrics/Delivery - B-
Production - B+
Subject Matter - C
Album Overall - B

Favorite Song(s) - Wake Me Up/Where'd You Go/Sinking

Review #2

Sound Quality - A
Bars/Lyrics/Delivery - C
(Typical Rock/Metal Vibe)
Production - B
Subject Matter - C
Overall - B

Review #3

Sound Quality Grade: B-

The mix was an ok quality mix, you could hear all the instruments without them sounding messy or jumbled up (except the drums stuck out a little bit) mix could be better with "gain staging" and better gain contrast between the band and vocals. Vocals sounded a little hidden behind the band.

Lyrics and Delivery Grade: C-

Lyrics were average, some clever analogies in there, however some parts seemed like the writing was a little rushed when writing. There weren't too many lyrically memorable moments. Delivery was well executed, the vocals sounded like someone (or people) who are experience and talented singers.

Production Grade: B

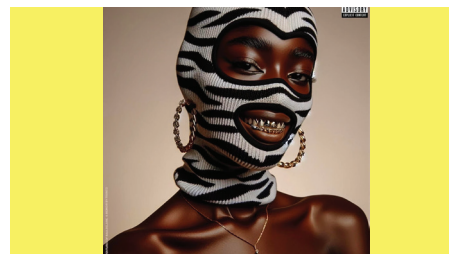
The instrumentation was well put together and executed. Some of the chording seemed and felt a little repetitive throughout the project but overall pretty good.

Subject Matter Grade: C

The subject seemed to be communicated well, which takes the perspective of a "hopeless romantic" I would've like to hear more detailed elements to what was truly going on, and why didn't this "love" work out.

Overall Album Grade: C+

The record was slightly above average to me, I will also note that the artist placed this project in the "pop music" genre, however I personally would not consider it "pop".



Album #2

The Adventures of Baudelaire - FRANCO

March 29th, 2025

Hip-Hop/Rap

Review #1

Sound Quality - A
Bars/Lyrics/Delivery - A
Production - B+
Subject Matter - C+
Overall - B+

Favorite Songs - Poppy Back/B.E.T. Uncut/Gelo Ball/Algernod

Review #2

Sound Quality - B
Bars/Lyrics/Delivery - D
Production - B
Subject Matter (to me) - D
Overall - C-

Review #3

Album Sound Quality Grade: A-

The mix was pretty good across all of the songs. It was clean and well-balanced. The vocals sounded a little thinner than my preference, but overall, the mix and master were solid. There were only very minor issues with the mix.

Lyrics and Delivery Grade: A

The bars were on point, and the delivery matched that same level of quality.

Music Production Grade: B-

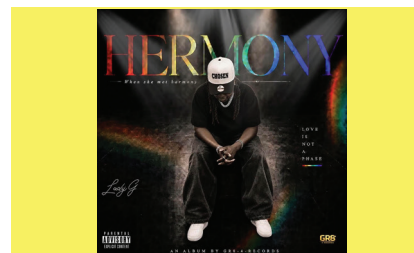
The production quality was good, although some of the tracks sounded slightly repetitive.

Subject Matter Grade: C+

The subject presented in the album title is clear. However, while the lyrics and songs initially took the listener on a journey, they seemed to get stuck with the artist repeatedly emphasizing his confidence and projecting an "I'm him" mentality. I think the project would have been stronger if it had focused more on storytelling.

Overall Album Grade: B+

Overall, the album was pretty good. I would have been more satisfied if I had heard a few more stories that expanded on the "adventure" suggested by the album title and the introductory track. Overall, it was a solid project.



Album #3

Hermony - Lady G

June 5th, 2026

Hip-Hop/Rap

Review #1

Sound Quality - B
Bars/Lyrics/Delivery - C
Production - B+
Subject Matter - B+
Overall - B
Favorite Songs - Kiss Me/Open/Peace

Review #2

Sound Quality - B
Bars/Lyrics/Delivery - B
Production - C
Subject Matter - C
Overall - C+

Review #3

Album Sound Quality Grade: D

The sound quality was not very good. The project needed a stronger mix and master to improve its overall clarity and balance.

Lyrics and Delivery Grade: B+

The songwriting was pretty good overall, with plenty of memorable and catchy hooks. There were a few moments where the writing lacked depth, and a few instances where the delivery could have been stronger.

Music Production Grade: C

The production concepts were solid. The main reason for this score is that the production sounded AI-generated. However, I did enjoy the blend of hip-hop and gospel influences throughout the project.

Subject Matter Grade: A

The theme and subject matter remained consistent throughout the project. The storyline was easy to follow, as the artist shared her story of struggle, explained how she overcame it, and encouraged others through her journey.

Overall Album Grade: C+

Overall, the project was decent. The artist did a good job putting it together. The overall sound quality could have been better, and I was not a big fan of the AI-generated production.

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**Saturday,
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2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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Hair Braiding
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