

AN OINTED

NEWS JOURNAL

The Nation's Premier **Bi-Weekly** Faith-Based and Professional Publication For Winners
Volume 32 Issue 10 July 5-18, 2026 FREE **SEE INSIDE**

The cover features a large, stylized logo for 'Girl with a Grill' in yellow and white, with a chef's hat above the word 'Girl'. Below the logo are crossed yellow grilling tools (a fork and a spatula) and the word 'CAMDEN' in white. To the right, a photograph of Lashaun Crawford, a woman with curly hair and glasses, wearing a black chef's jacket with the 'Girl with a Grill' logo, is shown. The background is a light gray wall.

LASHAUN CRAWFORD
"STAYING THE COURSE!"

Girl with a GRILL
— CAMDEN —

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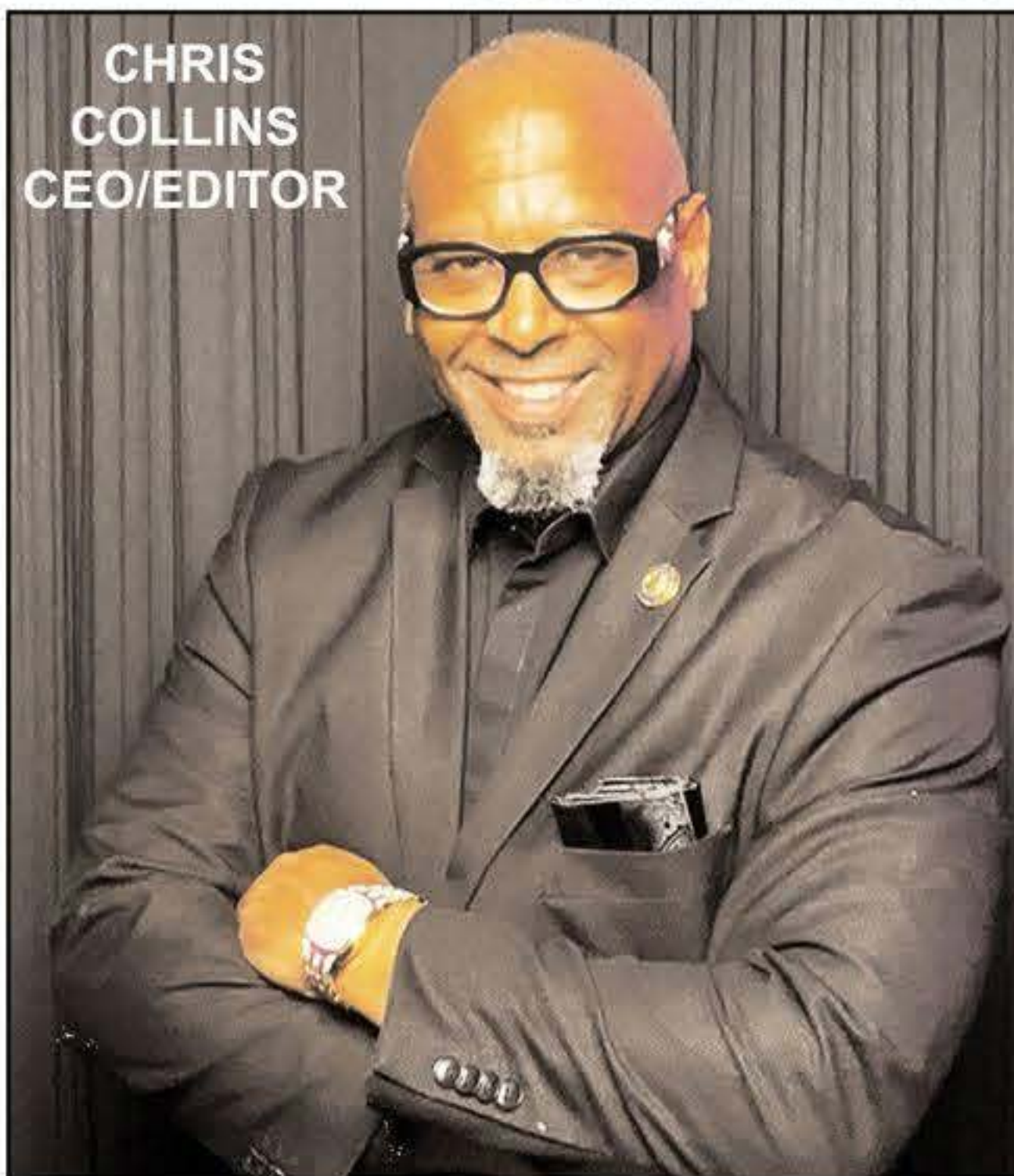
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CHRIS
COLLINS
CEO/EDITOR

A Word from the Editor

Celebrating 32 years of providing quality news to our readers

Dear Readers of the nation's premier faith-based and professional newspaper for winners, Anointed News Journal (ANJ). I am taking this time personally to thank each and every individual that has read the Anointed News Journal. I hope you have been inspired by the many positive people interest stories, and stories that have uplifted and empowered our communities.

I am also taking this time to thank our many advertisers that saw the value in utilizing ANJ to accomplish your marketing goals for your companies and/or purpose. ANJ remains the VOICE of Camden city and the SOURCE for connecting people together. If you are in business and need to advertise, we can help. Based in Camden, NJ, the Anointed News Journal has distribution locally in CAMDEN, BURLINGTON, GLOUCESTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND, DELAWARE, NEW CASTLE, KENT, and PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES. Since 1995 ANJ has provided stories and distribution to 28 states across the country and 11 nations around the world.

Getting your message in front of more than 180,000 readers bi-weekly in print and much more via the world-wide web is a great way to reach the market you are looking for.

I am also thanking those individuals that have given resources to support our mission of publishing positive press. Your contributions are paramount and my heart continues to be filled with joy from the smallest contribution to the largest, every time I receive a contribution, I cannot hold my smile in. I am forever grateful. For those that have been reading ANJ for many years and have never given a contribution, now is a great time to do so.

ANJ is a free publication that is supported by its advertisers. We offer cost effective advertising giving advertisers the opportunity to get quality exposure at a comfortable price point. We offer RISK-FREE Advertising, which simply means if you are not satisfied, you will receive a complementary ad in an upcoming edition.

About Anointed News Journal

In May 1994 the CEO/Editor-in-Chief, Chris Collins received a vision from the Creator to write a business plan to seek funding for a grass-roots newspaper. For eight months and through Divine intervention, the business plan was rewritten for the ministry of the Anointed News Journal. The Holy Scripture given divinely to Collins was Habakkuk 2:2 (Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry). As a result, and with prayer and seeking God's direction, the name "Anointed" was given.

Knowing that English was not his favorite subject while attending school, and that his career goal had nothing to do with journalism, Collins completely trusted in the Creator while developing this business.

The name "Anointed" comes from the hands that God has anointed to master this work and profession. Collins left a career in law enforcement to pursue the vision he received from the Creator.

Using his hands cutting and pasting stories and artwork is how it all began. Typing, proofreading, and making sure things were camera-ready before the layout was the process before technology was included.

Today, 32 years later, ANJ is recognized as a leader in the newspaper industry. ANJ was awarded Best100 Small Businesses consecutively since 2017. In 2021 Chris Collins was recognized by CIO Magazine as a Top 50 Innovators of the Year.

Although it may seem as if newspapers are becoming obsolete, ANJ continues to thrive. As the daily press struggles due to increase rates that have simply priced them out of the market. Weekly newspapers continue to make their mark serving the community and its advertisers. Although many have embraced the digital divide, people still want their physical newspapers. Because of the types of "Peoples Interest Stories" found in ANJ, most readers save their copies for years. Although mainstream media focus on negative press, ANJ has built its legacy on positive stories. "We have written a lot of stories in the past 32 years, and in 32 years we still have not run out of great stories to write about the great people of Camden and surrounding areas," said Collins. "As we look at the rise of Camden, NJ and the great positive image it has today, I believe we helped to increase that image by sharing the positive stories Camden has to offer, and we've been doing that for 32 years now," said Collins.

My Ask!

This is what I am asking from you today. I am asking every reader of ANJ, those of you who believe in positive press and grass-roots press to make a financial contribution to support our mission. Many have been reading ANJ for 32 years and have never made a contribution but would like to. Now is the perfect time as we have entered into our 32nd season. For those who are unable to financially contribute, we are thankful for your continued prayers.

The Holy Scriptures in Matthew 7:7-8 (KJV) states, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Luke 6:38 (KJV) states, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

I'm believing in the POWER of God. I'm believing in the POWER of God's People coming together. Yes, I'm believing in YOU.

1 John 5:14-15 (KJV) states, "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

Please make all contributions payable to: Anointed News Journal, P.O. Box 309, Camden, NJ 08101. You can also visit: www.anointedonline.net click on Donation button. You can also Cash App to \$ANJEDITOR.

May God continue to bless you! May God continue to bless this world! May god continue to bless ANJ!

Yours truly,
Chris Collins, CEO/Editor-in-Chief

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Call to Salvation

Have you received your salvation? If not just say, "Father, forgive me of my sins. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and that He arose again from the grave." If you believe this prayer, you are now saved by God's grace. I encourage you to get into a Bible teaching church to learn more about our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ.

Note: Opinions by columnists do not reflect those of the editor or staff. Feel free to respond.

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Food with A Purpose: “Girl with A Grill” Opens in Camden

CAMDEN, NJ - What began with an 8-year-old girl learning how to sell at flea markets has grown into a thriving entrepreneurial journey marked by faith, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to serving others. Today, Lashaun Crawford is the owner of Girl with a Grill Restaurant, founder of the nonprofit *Staying the Course Inc.*, and a passionate community advocate whose mission extends far beyond serving great food. As she prepares to celebrate the grand opening of her second restaurant location on the Camden County College campus, Crawford is also honoring the memory of her late daughter, Zaniya, by transforming a day of unimaginable loss into one of hope, legacy, and new beginnings.

In an exclusive interview with the nation's premier faith-based and professional newspaper for winners, Anointed News Journal, Lashaun Crawford shares her entrepreneurial journey, her unwavering heart for the community, and her inspiring vision. Through mentorship, employment opportunities, scholarship initiatives, and her signature "Pay What You Can" family dinners, Crawford demonstrates that true success is measured by the lives we impact.

Collins:
Who is LaShawn Crawford?

Crawford:
I am the owner of Girl with a Grill Restaurant. We have a location in Voorhees, where we've been for over six years, and we're opening our second location in Camden on July 18 on the Camden County College campus. I am also the founder of a nonprofit called *Staying the Course*. I'm a mom, a wife, and a community advocate—just kind of all wrapped into one.

Collins:
What was your motivation to take a step into entrepreneurship and open your own restaurant?

Crawford:
For many years, I worked in corporate America. I think it really started when I was young. My mom used to take me to flea markets all the time, and she would leave me there to sell her items while she went to hang out with her friends. I had to have been about 8 or 9 years old and I had to negotiate and learn how to sell. I didn't realize at the time what that would turn into later.

Starting that young helped me realize that I loved doing my own thing, writing my own rules, so to speak. I received a full scholarship to college, but I had my son at a young age, so I had to leave school. I walked away from my full scholarship, and at that point I said, "You know what? I have to make money every day. I have a child now, and I'm no longer in school. What am I going to do?"

So I started waitressing because I knew I was good with

people. I had those negotiation skills, and I loved the opportunity to talk with people, meet different individuals, and build relationships. Looking back now, I believe that was really the beginning of my journey into the restaurant business. That path eventually led me to opening multiple restaurants, even though I had no idea 20 years ago that this is where I would end up.

Even while I worked in corporate America, I was very autonomous. I had clients all over the place, and I felt like I was my own boss. It was important for me to be able to write my own script because doing that allows me to truly help others without limitations. Nobody can tell me I can't help someone else because I'm writing my own script. I think starting so young helped cultivate the entrepreneur I am today.

Collins:
And you're more than just a restaurant owner. You also established a nonprofit. Tell us about the nonprofit.

Crawford:
The nonprofit is called, *Staying the Course*. When you look at the logo, it's actually a winding road. It has a pothole, a speed bump, and a hurdle because it's just like life. Sometimes we're going to fall into potholes, but we don't stay there—we get back up. Then we're going to be running, and we'll have to jump some hurdles. Sometimes we're going to have to slow down a little bit. But if we keep going, we'll get to the end of the road, which is why the end of the road on the logo is open. It's not closed off.

I started the nonprofit because I've been serving the community for many years, and everything we were doing was simply for the love of it. I said, "You know what? We've got to legitimize this a little bit," because we wanted to pursue grants and other opportunities that would allow us to help even more people.

To date, we've fed more than 30,000 people throughout Philadelphia and New Jersey. We go out into the community and feed those who are in need, as well as those who are serving others in need. We literally pull out our grills, and people don't even know we're coming because we go where the need is instead of waiting for people who may not actually need the help to show up.

We also mentor young people because, at one point, somebody had to pray for me. Somebody had to mentor me, even if I didn't realize I was being mentored. God's hand has definitely been over my life. With young women especially, it's important for them to see someone who has been in their position so they know it's possible to move beyond it. Through the nonprofit and through life—that's one of the things we're able to show people. We also work with those who are formerly incarcerated because your past does not have to dictate your future, nor should it. You shouldn't have to stay stuck because we've all made mistakes.

In addition, we work with individuals on the autism spectrum and others with disabilities because I believe in seeing people for who they are, not for who others want them to be. Sometimes a person's story doesn't look pretty, but that doesn't mean it has to be the only story that's told. I also believe that if you're going to have a restaurant in a community, you should be a part of that community.

Collins:
You mentioned that you were a young mother, yet you overcame the challenges of that season. You honed your entrepreneurial skills, established multiple restaurants, and founded a nonprofit. What words of encouragement would you give to a young mother who has a dream she's pursuing?

Crawford:
I would say, first of all, stay in prayer. No matter your religious beliefs, stay in prayer because you've got to have faith. You have to believe in the things you cannot yet see. Believe that what's possible is possible, and do the right things. There are no shortcuts to this. Don't take the quick route to get where you're trying to go because the quick route is actually the slow one.

Surround yourself with people who speak life into you. If the people around you can never applaud you or speak positively—whether it's about you or even about other people—leave those people alone. Surround yourself with people who will continue to encourage you, even if they can't see your vision. That's okay because it's your vision to see.

Most importantly, stay in the fight. Stay the course. It's hard, and it's not always easy. You'll have some great days, and you'll have some days that aren't so great. You'll experience things that knock you down, but those very things are chiseling you into the person you're becoming. You have to keep the right

perspective when you're looking at life's challenges.

Collins:
Around the age of 8 or 9, your mom had you at the flea market managing her table and booth. When you started your restaurant, you got your children involved. Tell us why it was important for you to involve your children.

Crawford:
For me, I don't come from money. I think when I see a lot of businesses, the intent is often to build something to leave behind for the family, but the family is never involved in building it. You're leaving something to someone who was never part of the process, never part of the grind, and never experienced those moments when you sit back and wonder, "What am I doing?"

It was important for me to bring my children into that journey because, if they're going to take over what's being built, they need to truly understand how it works and how it was created. They need to know what it takes to build something from the ground up. If they choose not to take it over one day, that's okay too. But I wanted them to understand that if you're going to manage people, you should know how to do every job you're asking someone else to do. You should know how to sweep the floors. You should know how to clean the bathrooms. You don't outsource everything. Eventually, you'll reach a point where you can't do it all yourself, but you still need to understand and relate to the work you're asking others to do. What better way to learn than by actually doing it yourself?

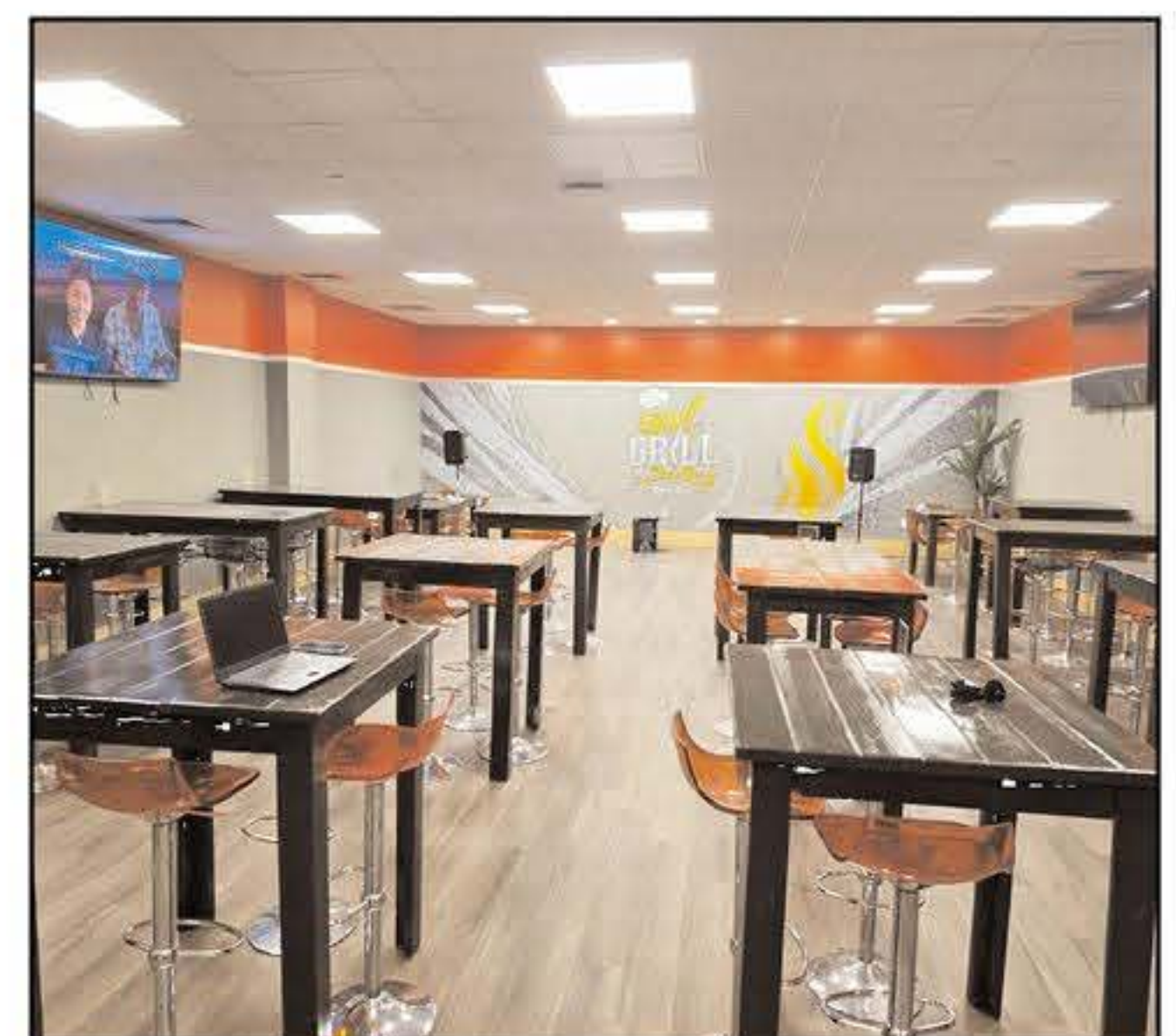
Some of the most valuable lessons can't be taught in a classroom. Entrepreneurship is one of them. You can teach certain aspects of business, but the grind and the experience of entrepreneurship only come from actually living it. I wanted my children to experience that for themselves.

Collins:
You were very successful in Voorhees, and you still are. You started under one name and franchise, and now you've become Girl with a Grill. Tell us about the name, and why you felt it was important to come to Camden.

Crawford:
Originally, I was an independent owner under a different franchise. We operated very independently, but I realized we were more than just that. A lot of people associated us only with that name and thought that's all we did. It was important for us to expand into who we truly are.

When you think about the name Girl with a Grill, it's very simple. I'm a girl with a grill. The name resonates because it reminds people that accomplishing something doesn't have to be complicated if you stay the course. It's a simple name that represents exactly who I am. I love to cook. I get up every day and create meals because I truly believe food brings people together.

I don't care what's happening or how upset you may be with a family member or friend. As soon as everyone sits around the table, even if it's just for that moment, food makes everything better. It brings families together. We don't sit around the dinner table enough anymore, which is one of the reasons I host our monthly "Pay What You Can" events. Those events help bring families back to the table. The name is simple because it doesn't have to be complicated to represent who we are and what we stand for.



Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

I've wanted to come to Camden for quite some time because of the work we've already been doing through our nonprofit. Over the years, I've built great relationships with many people from Camden who travel to our Voorhees location. I always knew I wanted to be here, but I wanted to come in a way that truly reflected who we are through community events and the work we do.

Opening on July 18 is important for several reasons. One is that we're able to continue addressing food insecurity throughout the city. We're able to mentor young people, work with those who are formerly incarcerated, and provide a welcoming space where students—and really everyone in Camden, as well as people from Philadelphia and surrounding communities, can gather in a safe and comfortable environment. We'll also be able to host community events without having to drive 25 minutes from Voorhees every time we want to connect with the people we've built relationships with. This location allows us to continue growing, building, and serving.

Another important reason is that we're able to provide jobs for Camden residents. That's extremely important to me. Too often, businesses look outside the community for employees when there are so many good people right here who are looking not only for employment but also for a place they can call home.

At Girl with a Grill, we treat everyone like family. When you become part of this family, we're going to have disagreements from time to time—that's what families do—but we care about each other. If you want to be part of this family, you have to have a genuine love for people and for the community. If you don't love people, you can't work for me. That's why Camden was the right place for us.

Collins:

I consider you to be a true visionary. You see what others may not see. With that in mind, you've chosen to locate Girl with a Grill on the Camden campus of Camden County College. Tell us about this location and what people can expect when they visit.

Crawford:

People can expect a lot of love and laughter. We're conveniently located right off the interstate, and there's a parking garage directly behind us, making it easy to visit.

Being part of the college is really special. While we're our own independent business within this space, being on campus gives us an incredible opportunity to surround ourselves with young people. That's where it all begins, with the youth.

We have the ability to impact so many young people by giving them vision, providing training, hosting different classes, and continuing to help elevate our communities. Whether it's financial education through partnerships with banks and other organizations, or simply sitting down around the table and asking someone, "What's going on with you?" this space gives us the opportunity to make those meaningful connections.

Camden County College is a special place. It truly is. When you spend time here, you begin to see just how special it is. You see how dedicated the staff is and how remarkable the students are. You don't have to attend a large Division-I university to have a meaningful college experience. You can find that right here. I'm just incredibly excited to be a part of it.

Collins:

And for the record, you're located at the foot of the Ben Franklin Bridge on the southeast corner of the bridge. What is your official address?

Crawford:

200 North Broadway.

Collins:

Let's go back to your grand opening. It's a very special day for you. Tell us why July 18 is so important.

Crawford:

Last year, on July 18, my 20-year-old daughter passed away. That was a day no parent ever imagines will come—the day you have to lay your child to rest. My daughter, Zaniya, was a huge part of everything we did. Whenever you saw us, you saw her. Losing her that day was the worst thing that has ever happened in my life. While death brings its own challenges and its own set of circumstances, we also have the ability to rewrite our script. Instead of July 18 only being remembered as the day Zaniya passed away, we're taking that day back. We're making it a day of family, celebration, remembrance, and hope. Every year, when that date comes around, it will also be a

reminder that this new location opened on her day.

Will we still feel moments of sadness? Of course. Grief is real. But we can also smile and say, "Niya, we did it on your day." If she were standing here with us, she'd be smiling right alongside us. This is her day. For anyone who has lost someone—especially a child—you understand that journey better than anyone else can. But we're rewriting that day, and we're rewriting that script.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the college. From the very beginning, I shared how important that date was to me. Every single person who has helped us bring this space together has understood the significance of July 18. They've all been pushing alongside us, and I've had an entire team of people rally behind this vision, working with excellence to help make sure we could open on that day. That's a day we'll always remember.

Collins:

Tell us about some of the specialty items on your menu. Then I'd like you to share your love for the community through your "Pay What You Can" concept.

Crawford:

If you haven't tried our brisket cheesesteak, you're missing out. I literally woke up from a dream one day with the idea for how to make this brisket cheesesteak. It features brisket, ribeye, two kinds of cheese: one of them being Cooper Sharp and the other a shredded cheese, along with green peppers, onions, and our signature Dat Sauce.

We actually make two sauces in-house: Dis Sauce and Dat Sauce, and you'll be able to purchase both by the bottle here in the restaurant.

Everything we serve is made with quality ingredients. Our burgers are made with fresh ground Angus beef that we hand-form into patties, season ourselves, and never freeze. Our hot dogs are 100% Certified Angus Beef and are made exclusively for us—you can't buy them in the store.

For our vegetarian guests, we offer Beyond Sausage and Impossible Burgers. We also have an eight-foot salad bar, so if you're on the go, you can build a fresh salad and be on your way, or you can add one to your meal while dining in.

Our fish platters are legendary. People absolutely love them. We also serve a variety of other menu favorites, including our handmade egg rolls. We hand-roll everyone from scratch, and our salmon egg rolls are especially popular.

We also hand-dip our own corn dog nuggets. We have a pretty extensive menu, and there's truly something for everyone. No matter what your preferences are, everybody can come in and enjoy a great meal.

Collins:

And we can't forget that awesome fish hoagie.

Crawford:

Yes, our fish hoagie is definitely a favorite. Every day we offer different specials. On Saturdays, we have our \$15 fish hoagie special, which comes with Cajun fries. On Fridays, we feature our fish platters, and throughout the week we offer burger specials.

We also have wings in 10 different flavors, so if you're a wing lover, you'll definitely want to stop by. We even make our own chili, so if you're a chili cheese dog fan, we've got you covered there too.

Collins:

Tell us about your Pay What You Can Day.

Crawford:

Once a month, I host what's called a Pay What You Can event. It's specifically for families. My single folks—I love you, but this one isn't for you. It's my way of bringing families back to the dinner table. Sometimes the people we work the hardest for are the ones we spend the least amount of time with. It's not intentional. We're working and trying to provide, but in the process, we lose the opportunity to sit down together, have conversations, find out what's going on with our children, and let them learn more about us. It should go both ways. If your children are sitting at the table with you, they're not out in the streets and neither are you.

When families come in, they enjoy a full buffet. We give each family an envelope, and they simply pay whatever they can afford. I never know what anyone puts in the envelope. Guests reserve a scheduled dining time so we can properly take care of everyone.

We also turn all the televisions off. You don't come here to watch TV. We play soft background music, and there's no take

out during the event. You can't come in, load up a plate, and leave. The purpose is to sit together, enjoy a meal, and spend quality time with your family. We've been doing this for well over a year now, and it's beautiful to watch. Families sit together, have conversations, and even put their phones down. It's exactly what we hoped it would be.

In April, we dedicated one of our Pay What You Can events specifically to the autism community. Families with children on the spectrum often experience judgment when dining out. If a child has a difficult moment, people tend to stare, and that can make eating out stressful. We wanted to eliminate all of that. I personally spoke with every family before the event to ask what accommodations they needed and how we could create the best possible dining experience for them.

Not only during those special events, but every day—and we'll be bringing this to our Camden location as well; we have a sensory station for guests on the autism spectrum. There are sensory fidgets and activities they can use while they're eating, along with noise-canceling headphones, so they can feel comfortable and supported in our restaurant.

Collins:

Fantastic. Once again, your grand opening is set for July 18. Tell us about the time, and what's next for Girl with a Grill?

Crawford:

On July 18 at 12 noon, we'll begin our official ribbon-cutting ceremony. We're blessed to have Mayor Carstarphen with us, along with Commissioner Al Dyer, Council President Angel Fuentes, Councilman Chris Collins, and the president of the college Dr. Lovell Pugh-Bassett. We'll also be joined by a host of other community leaders.

Before we officially cut the ribbon, we'll release doves because, once again, this day is for Niya. We'll release the doves in her honor, and then we'll open the kitchen. We'll be serving guests until 5:00 p.m. Our regular business hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. We invite everyone to come out and celebrate with us.

We'll also have tables set up to share information about our nonprofit. If you're able, please consider making a donation. We established a scholarship fund in Zaniya's honor called Forever 20. The scholarship supports students pursuing careers in technology, hospitality, or veterinary medicine because those were her three passions.

We'll be awarding scholarships to our young people. I say "our" because they're all our children. Donations also help support our Pay What You Can program for families who may not be able to afford a meal. We're very transparent about where every dollar goes, so if anyone ever wants to know, we have all of our records available.

Please come out and celebrate with us. You'll see people here who have been part of this journey, whether they're physically present or recognized on what I call our Wall of Fame. Beginning at 12 noon on July 18, Girl with a Grill, Camden will officially open its doors.

Collins:

For those who may want to contact you about catering opportunities, or for those who can't attend on July 18 but would still like to support your mission—how can they reach you?

Crawford:

You can visit our website at girlwithagrill.org. You'll find information about our catering services there, along with links to everything else we offer.

Our nonprofit website is stayingthecourseincorporated.com.

Both of our websites are connected, so if you're looking for information about Staying the Course and happen to visit the Girl with a Grill website first, you'll be able to find it there as well.

We're also active on social media. You can find us on Instagram at Girl with a Grill, Girl with the Grill Camden, and Staying the Course Inc. From those pages, you'll be able to find our other platforms as well. Most importantly, come on in and see us.

Collins:

We certainly thank you for your vision, your mission, and your love for the City of Camden, as well as the greater Camden County and Philadelphia region that you serve. The Anointed News Journal has more than 180,000 readers. In closing, what final words would you like to share with our readers?



123 Scholarships and Counting: Celebrating Educational Achievement and Partnership

CAMDEN, NJ – Women of the Dream a non-profit 501(c)3 organization under the leadership of its founder Leslie Morris, celebrates the achievements of young ladies from Camden, new Jersey with nearly a half million in scholarships.

Since 2017, our scholarship initiative has remained committed to investing in the education, leadership, and future success of young women. Through 2025, a total of 123 scholarships had been awarded to deserving students pursuing higher education and professional careers. Collectively, these students have received nearly \$400,000 in scholarship support.

To date, 53% of scholarship recipients from completed cohorts have successfully graduated from their respective institutions, with additional students from recent cohorts continuing their educational journeys toward graduation. Because the 2023–2025 cohorts are still enrolled, the current 53% reflects graduates to date and not the program's final long-term outcome.

Scholarship Program Highlight: The Brittain Foundation

Deborah Brittain established the Brittain Foundation in honor of her late husband, Willard Brittain, who enjoyed an accomplished career in finance before dedicating his later years to entrepreneurship and philanthropy. The Brittain Foundation partners with organizations that support college students and provide leadership opportunities that prepare them for long-term success.

A native of Arlington, Virginia, Deborah Brittain holds a Master's Degree from the Simmons School of Social Work in Boston and a Bachelor's Degree from Howard University. Women of the Dream is honored to partner with the Brittain Foundation through its annual scholarship initiative.

The first scholarship awarded through this partnership was presented in 2021 to **Zahmina Faulkner**, who graduated from Columbia University in 2025 with a degree in Theatre.

The second scholarship cohort was awarded in 2022 to **Killiam Kato and Lanasia Melvins**. Both students graduated just days ago — Killiam from St. John's University with a degree in Public Relations, and Lanasia from Rowan University with a degree in Business Administration.

In 2023, **Jayda Battle** received the Brittain Award and is currently a rising senior at Norfolk State University, an HBCU in Virginia. In 2024, Jasmine Smith received the Brittain Award and is currently a rising junior at Stockton University in New Jersey.

In 2025, **Anaya Thompson and Sasha Oglesby** received the Brittain Foundation Award. Anaya is a rising sophomore at Knox College in Illinois, and Sasha is a rising sophomore at Simmons University — the first student to attend the alma mater of Women of the Dream Founder Leslie Morris. Access the full story of Leslie's and Sasha's journey here.

To date, seven Brittain Foundation awardees have received a total of \$110,000.

Ms. Brittain also provides assistance to scholarship awardees attending Howard University, her alma mater, as well as other awardees referred for additional educational and financial support.

We begin this edition of ENEWS by celebrating our graduates who completed their educational journeys in 2026 — just a few short days ago. ENJOY!

"

One hundred twenty-three scholarships later, we continue to witness the incredible outcomes that happen when students are supported, encouraged, and empowered to succeed."

Leslie Morris, Founder, Women of the Dream

"The partnership between Women of the Dream and the Brittain Foundation reflects a shared commitment to education, leadership, and creating opportunities that transform lives."

Deborah Brittain, President, The Brittain Foundation

Congratulations to Women of the Dream's Recent Graduates!

Killiam Kato

2022 Women of the Dream's Brittain Foundation Awardee
High School: Creative Arts HS
Graduate: 2026, St. John's University, New York, NY
Major: Public Relations/Killiam has accepted an internship in NYC.

Lanasia Melvins

2022 Women of the Dream's Brittain Foundation Awardee
High School: Charles Brimm Medical Arts HS
Graduate: 2026, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ.
Major: Business Administration

Gabrielle Bernard

2022 Awardee
High School: Camden High School
JROTC Program
Graduate: 2026, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ
Major: Engineering
Gabrielle has accepted an engineering position in Virginia.

Meadow Carstarphen

2022 Awardee
High School: Camden High School
Graduate: 2026, Rowan University, Glassboro NJ
Major: Law and Justice Studies

Amira Davis

2022 Awardee
School: Camden High School
Graduate: 2026, Clark Atlanta University (an HBCU)
Atlanta, GA
Major: Communications
Amira has accepted a summer internship in Atlanta and will soon launch her own podcast.

Brielle Jones

2022 Awardee
High School: Camden High School
Graduate: 2026, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ
Major: Biology

Aaliyah Burke

2022 Awardee
High School: Charles Brimm Medical Arts HS
Graduate: 2023, Medical Assistant Certification Program (CMA). Aaliyah is currently a CMA at Camcare Health Corporation, Camden, NJ.

Gisselle Smith-Eschevaria

2022 Awardee
High School: Charles Brimm Medical Arts HS
Graduate: 2025, Camden County Community College
Major: Business

Disneiry Jiminez

2022 Awardee
High School: Big Picture Learning Academy
Graduate: 2025, Rowan College at Burlington County Community College
Major: Ultrasound Technology

Ayanna Muhammad

2021 Awardee
High School: Charles Brimm Medical Arts HS
Graduate: 2026, Rutgers-Camden
Major: Biology
Career Path: Medicine

Erielys Vicente

2021 Awardee
High School: Mastery High School of Camden
Graduate: 2026, Rutgers-Camden
Major: Graphic Design

Women of the Dream's Scholarship Graduates, 2017-2021

Natalia Castelan

2017 Awardee
High School: Charles Brimm Medical Arts Graduate: 2021, Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. Madison, NJ
Major: Public Relations
Natalia is a Senior Marketing Specialist at Comcast, Inc. in Philadelphia.

Iyonna Herbert

2017 Awardee
High School: Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2021, Snow College
Ephraim, Utah
Major: Music Education

Adelina Hernandez

2017 Awardee
High School: Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2021, Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ
Major: Criminal Justice
Graduate Degree: 2023, Masters in Social Work Rutgers-Camden
Doctorate Program: Currently enrolled in the doctorate program in social work at Rutgers University.

Nasyria Taylor

2017 Awardee
High School: NYC School Graduate: 2019, Simmons University
Boston, MA
Major: Marketing & Public Relations
Nasyria is a marketing specialist at MAC cosmetics, a subsidiary of Estee Lauder, in New York City.

Siani Davis

2018 Awardee
High School: Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2022, Rutgers-Camden
Major: Criminal Justice & Gender Studies
Siani is currently a case management specialist at The Cooperative, a state-licensed maternal and child health wellness program.

Karima Dickerson

2018 Awardee
High School: Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2022, Cornell University, Ithica, NY
Major: Human Development
Karima is currently employed in the Washington, D.C. area.

Esmeralda Pena

2018 Awardee
High School: Charles Brimm Medical Arts Rutgers-Camden
Major: Marketing

Continued from page 6

Sierra Warner

2018 Awardee
 High School: Freedom Preparatory Graduate: 2022,
 Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA
 Major: Biology
 Career Path: High school biology teacher.

Chynah Morrison

2019 Awardee
 High School: Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2023,
 New York University (NYU)
 Major: Theatre

Celeste Rodriquez

2019 Awardee
 High School: Charles Brimm Medical Arts Graduate: 2024,
 Rutgers-Camden
 Major: Art/Painting
 Career Path: Art Teacher

Shanyce Smith

2019 Awardee
 High School: Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2024,
 Stockton University, Glassboro, NJ
 Major: Communication Studies
 Masters Program: Shanyce will enroll in the Masters Program in Public Administration at Rutgers University in the fall 2026.

Teseanna Harris

2019 Awardee
 High School: Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2025,
 Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ
 Major: Psychology

Lanasia Robinson

2020 Awardee
 High School: Creative Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2024,
 Howard University, Washington, D.C.
 Major: Biology
 Career Path: Medicine

Yasira Lugo

2020 Awardee
 High School: Urban Promise Graduate: 2024,
 Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ
 Major: Environmental Science

Abigail Rivera-Mercardo

2020 Awardee
 High School: Charles Brimm Medical Arts HS Graduate: 2025,
 Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ
 Major: Psychology

Janiyah Taylor

2020 Awardee
 High School: Charles Brimm Medical Arts Graduate, 2024,
 Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ
 Major: Communications

Brianna Calaf

2020 Awardee
 High School: Big Picture Learning Academy Graduate: 2022,
 Camden County Community College
 Major: Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

Zhamina Faulkner

2021 Awardee
 Women of the Dream's Brittain Foundation Awardee
 High School: Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2025,
 Columbia University, New York, NY
 Major: Theatre
 Career Path: Actress

Regina Bennett

2021 Awardee
 High School: Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2025,
 Howard University, Washington, D.C.
 Major: Sociology
 Graduate School: Regina is an MPH candidate at The George Washington University- Milken Institute School of Public Health Washington, D.C.

Joanna Dominguez

2021 Awardee
 High School: Freedom Preparatory High School Graduate: 2025,
 Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire
 Major: Biology
 Career Path: Medicine

Debani Mercardo

2021 Awardee
 High School: Woodrow Wilson High School Graduate: 2025
 Stockton University, Galloway, NJ
 Major: Criminal Justice

Nedeshka Ruiz

2021 Awardee
 High School: Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Graduate: 2025,
 Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ
 Major: Marine and Environmental Biology

The Scholarship Team**Deborah Brittain**

Presenter Sponsor
 Founder and President,
 The Brittain Foundation

Leslie Morris

Director, Scholarship Program
 & Annual Event

Michael Brown

Board Member
 Chair, Scholarship Committee

Dawn. Hiltner

Board Member
 Coordinator, Annual
 Scholarship Event

Donna Baines

Junior and Senior
 College Prep Instructor



Continued frompage 6

Crawford:

I would simply say this: If you have a vision, stick with it. Everyone isn't going to see what you see, and that's perfectly okay because the vision was given to you. Continue to do good. The world can be a difficult place sometimes, but be the change you want to see. Don't wait for someone else to do it; be that change yourself.

Life is going to happen. Challenges will come. When they do, it's okay to slow down for a moment, but it's not okay to crawl into a corner and stop. I truly believe God has given each of us a purpose and a mission. If we stop, we can't fulfill that purpose or accomplish the mission He's given us. So, surround yourself with good people, stay the course, keep moving forward, and know that everything is going to be all right.

Conclusion:

As Girl with a Grill prepares to open its doors in Camden, Lashaun Crawford hopes the restaurant will become more than a place to enjoy a great meal. It will be a gathering place where families reconnect, opportunities are created, and the community is strengthened. Through her nonprofit, mentorship initiatives, scholarship fund, and commitment to serving others, she continues to demonstrate that true leadership is measured by the lives we uplift along the way. With a heart for people and a determination to stay the course, Crawford is building a lasting legacy of faith, compassion, and purpose that will continue to impact generations to come.

By Chris Collins

New Jersey American Water Completes Acquisition of Hopewell Borough Water System

Acquisition Adds 930 New Water Customers; \$7 Million in Planned Infrastructure Investments

CAMDEN, N.J. – JUNE 30, 2026 – New Jersey American Water today completed its acquisition of the water system of Hopewell Borough for \$6.4 million. This former municipally owned system serves approximately 930 water customer connections and has been purchasing water from New Jersey American Water for a portion of the Borough's water supply since 2005. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities today approved the municipal consent, allowing New Jersey American Water to provide water service to Hopewell Borough customers as of the closing of the transaction.

The agreement to purchase the system was approved by voter referendum in November 2025. This agreement underscores New Jersey American Water's ongoing commitment to delivering safe, clean, reliable and affordable water and wastewater services. By integrating the new system into its operations, the company aims to enhance service reliability, advance infrastructure investments, and improve operational efficiency for Hopewell Borough's customers and this community.

"Following a thorough and thoughtful process with ample community input, we are confident this is the right path forward for Hopewell Borough," said Hopewell Borough Mayor Ryan Kennedy. "By partnering with New Jersey American Water, we are addressing long-term infrastructure needs today while securing dependable, high-quality service and stable rates for our community."

As part of the agreement, New Jersey American Water will invest \$7 million in infrastructure improvements to the Hopewell Borough system within the first five years of ownership while keeping rates affordable for the system's customers. Anticipated improvements to the system include identifying and replacing all lead and galvanized steel service lines as well as upgrading aging customer meters, fire hydrants, and water mains. Additionally, New Jersey American Water will shut down the Borough's one operating well that has elevated PFAS levels and provide water to the community through the company's Canal Road and Raritan Millstone Water Treatment Plants which meet current state and federal safe drinking water standards. Further improvement projects will be identified as New Jersey American Water continues its analysis of the system.



Photo Caption: New Jersey American Water President Mark McDonough (left) and Hopewell Borough Mayor Ryan Kennedy at the financial closing of the company's acquisition of Hopewell Borough's water system.

"After providing water to Hopewell Borough through an interconnection for over two decades, we're proud to officially welcome the community into our footprint," said Mark McDonough, President of New Jersey American Water. "Our priority is to deliver safe, clean, reliable and affordable service for the 3 million people we serve statewide, including Hopewell. As the community's water provider, we'll start by stabilizing rates, making smart, targeted investments to strengthen the system, and working to address PFAS by first transitioning away from the system's existing well."

Residents will receive additional information in the mail from New Jersey American Water in the coming weeks, and the information is also available now on a new, dedicated webpage on the company's website at newjerseyamwater.com under Customer Service and Billing. Hopewell Borough's residents will now be able to take advantage of the company's customer service benefits, including its online account management portal, MyWater, as well as its H2O Help to Others program for qualifying customers needing help paying their bills.

New Jersey American Water remains focused on delivering industry-leading customer service, environmental stewardship and ongoing infrastructure improvements as it continues to grow and serve more communities across the state. This is New Jersey American Water's tenth acquisition in the last five years, adding more than 25,000 new water and/or wastewater customers.

About American Water

American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the United States. With a history dating back to 1886 and celebrating 140 years in 2026, We Keep Life Flowing® by providing safe, clean, reliable and affordable drinking water and wastewater services to approximately 14 million people with regulated operations in 14 states and on 18 military installations. American Water's approximately 7,000 talented professionals leverage their significant expertise and the company's national size and scale to achieve excellent outcomes for the benefit of customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders.

For more information, visit amwater.com and join American Water on LinkedIn, Facebook, X and Instagram.

About New Jersey American Water

New Jersey American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, is the largest regulated water utility in the state with approximately 875 dedicated employees working to provide safe, clean, reliable and affordable water and wastewater services to approximately 3 million people.



MELISSA MORALES
Founder & Executive Director

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WATER MAIN FLUSHING PLANNED IN CAMDEN

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FLUSHING SCHEDULE

American Water, the City's contracted water service provider, will be conducting fire hydrant flushing for approximately 10 weeks beginning the week of April 6, 2026 during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHY WE FLUSH

Flushing helps us to clean out any build up of mineral deposits and sediment inside the pipes. These harmless deposits can occur when water service demands are reduced during the winter months. It also allows us to use the hydrants to make sure they are operational and to check fire flows.

WHAT TO EXPECT

When crews are in the area, you may experience a drop in water pressure or discolored water. If discolored water occurs, let the cold water run until it is clear.

HOW TO PREPARE

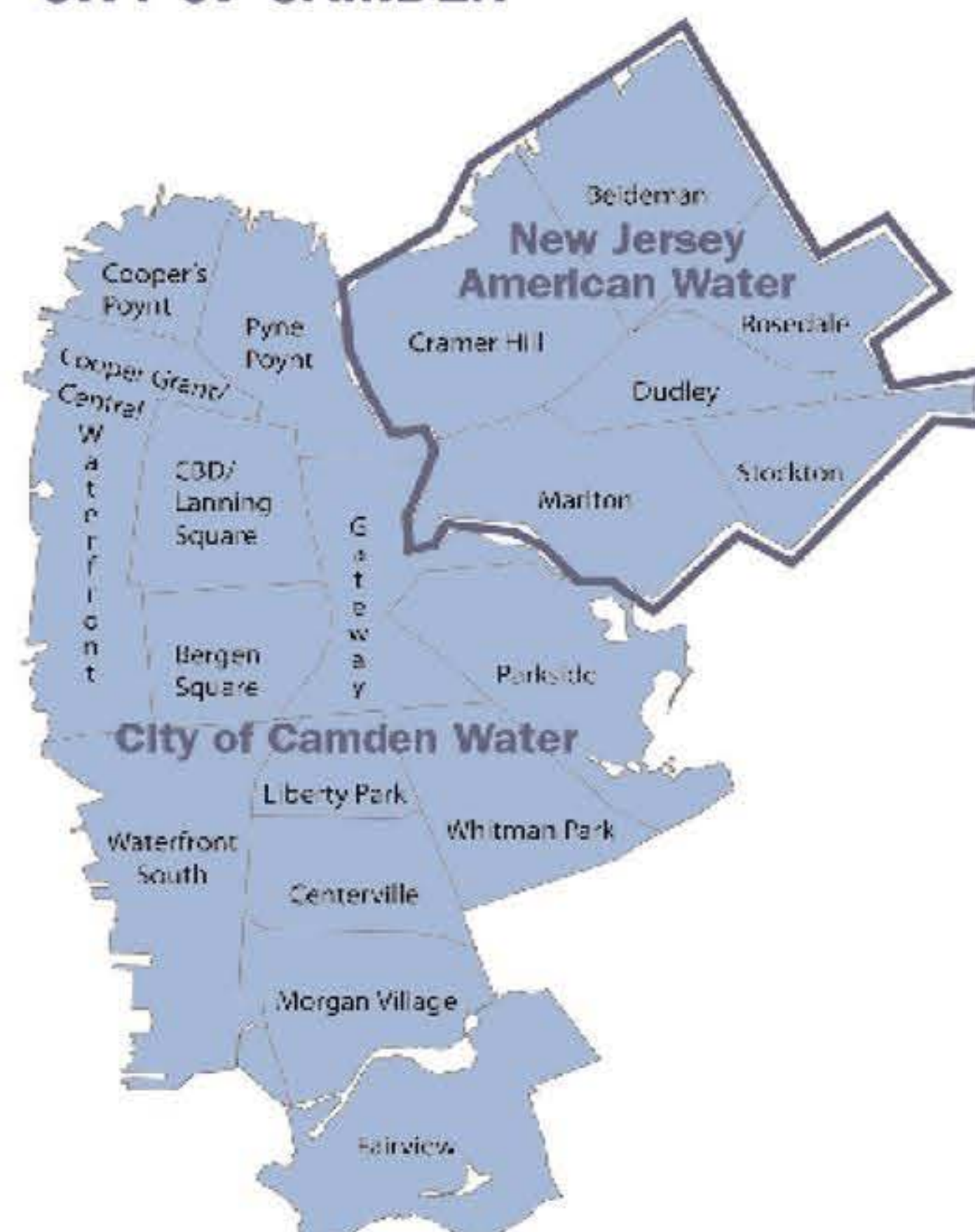
- Draw water for cooking ahead of time.
- Store a large bottle of water in the refrigerator for drinking.
- Check for discolored water before using the washing machine or dishwasher.

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Historic Guinness World Record Broken in Philadelphia: 142 Authors Sign the Same Book Simultaneously

PHILADELPHIA, PA — ICYMI: History was made in the City of Brotherly Love as 142 authors came together on May 30, 2026, to officially set a new Guinness World Records™ title for the Most Authors Signing the Same Book Simultaneously. The achievement surpassed the previous record of 126 and was officially recognized by Guinness World Records.

The record-breaking event was led by author and publishing strategist Jim Hetherington and Authority Building System, in partnership with Jose Escobar and Connected Leaders Academy. Together, they assembled a diverse group of business leaders, entrepreneurs, coaches, speakers, and faith-based influencers who became “Legacy Authors” in the collaborative book, Legacy in Ink.

What began as a vision years earlier evolved into a movement centered on leadership, collaboration, and legacy. The event was intentionally held in Philadelphia during America’s 250th anniversary celebration year, connecting the project to the city’s rich history of nation-building, courage, and the power of the written word.

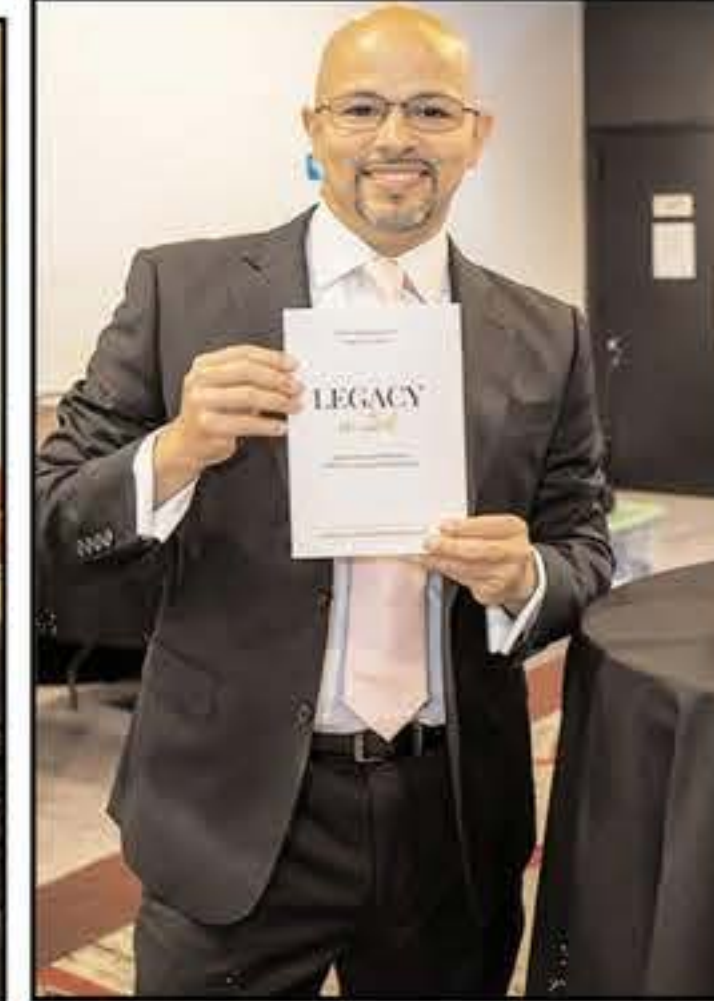
Participants from across the world gathered for a full day of networking, keynote presentations, media opportunities, and relationship-building before taking part in the official signing ceremony.

Beyond the record itself, organizers emphasized that the event was about much more than numbers. It was about bringing together individuals committed to sharing their stories, inspiring others, and creating a lasting impact through authorship and leadership.

The collaborative book, Legacy in Ink, now stands as both a published work and a historic symbol of what can happen when purpose-driven leaders unite around a common vision. For the 142 authors who participated in the signing (and the 180 total authors featured in the book), the day represented more than a world record—it represented a commitment to leaving a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations.

As the celebration concluded, attendees reflected on the significance of the moment: a room full of voices, experiences, and stories coming together to make history. What was once an ambitious dream, became an official Guinness World Records achievement—proving that when leaders collaborate, extraordinary things can happen.

By Christopher Collins II



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www.bellpharmacycamden.com

You Are Our Top Priority Contact Information

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Marian K. Morton, RPh
President, CFO

Anthony V. Minniti, RPh
Vice President, Pharmacist in Charge

Allen R. Morton, RPh
Executive Director in Charge of Long Term Care at Home and Remote Fulfillment Services

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South Jersey Banking Professional Launches Family-Owned Property Solutions Business

MOUNT EPHRAIM, NJ — After more than a decade in banking, South Jersey resident **Claritza Peralta** has launched CRP Properties LLC, a family-owned property solutions company serving homeowners, landlords, property managers, and businesses throughout South Jersey.

Founded by Claritza Peralta and Roy Cruz, CRP Properties LLC provides residential and commercial cleaning, rental turnovers, home maintenance, exterior property services, mobile notary services, and translation services.

Born in the Dominican Republic and raised in Puerto Rico, Peralta credits her success to faith, hard work, and a passion for helping others. As a mother of two and banking professional with over 10 years of experience, she created CRP



Properties LLC to bring the same values of trust, communication, and customer service into the property solutions industry.

"Building a business while raising a family isn't always easy, but I want my children to see what is possible when you work hard, stay faithful, and keep showing up every day," said Peralta. "This business is about creating opportunities, serving our community, and building a legacy for future generations."

The company is also preparing to launch CRP Luxe, a line of home cleaning products, and plans to host an official ribbon-cutting celebration on August 1, 2026, in Mount Ephraim.

For more information, contact CRP Properties LLC at CRP-Properties01@gmail.com, call (267) 453-1426, visit crppropertiesllc.com, or follow @crppropertiesllc on social media.

Moen Scrap Metal Safety Bill Heads to Governor's Desk for Consideration

Assemblyman thanks advocates and stakeholders for helping strengthen legislation to better protect New Jersey communities

TRENTON, NJ — Legislation sponsored by Assemblyman William F. Moen Jr. to establish stronger fire prevention and safety standards for scrap metal facilities is headed to Governor Mikie Sherrill's desk after receiving final legislative approval.

Bill A2401 was introduced following a series of fires at a scrap metal facility in Camden, including a major blaze in February 2025 that displaced families, shuttered roads, and blanketed surrounding communities in toxic smoke.

"The devastating fires in Camden made it clear that the status quo was unacceptable," said Assemblyman Moen (D-Camden, Gloucester). "Over the past year and a half, we've met with residents, advocates, stakeholders, and community members to hear their concerns. We listened and developed this legislation to strengthen oversight and protect New Jersey families."

The bill would require scrap metal businesses to install heat detection equipment capable of identifying potential hot spots before fires ignite, develop fire safety plans in coordination with local fire officials, maintain public access to those plans, and demonstrate compliance with enhanced fire prevention standards. Scrap metal businesses with an unprepared metal stockpile exceeding 200 tons would be required to install an on-site fire suppression system within 48 months; a scrap metal business with a stockpile exceeding 500 tons would be required to install an on-site fire suppression system within 24 months. The bill also incorporates amendments limiting material pile heights to 20 feet.

"Good legislation doesn't happen in a vacuum," said Assemblyman Moen. "I am grateful to everyone who contributed to this process, and I am proud to see this bill head to the Governor's desk."

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ICYMI: Norcross Forces House Passage of Collective Bargaining Protections

Legislation would be biggest advancement in workers' rights since 1930s

June 9, 2026: Congressman Norcross delivers remarks on House floor while forcing vote on his collective bargaining bill. Click here for a transcript of his speech as prepared.

WASHINGTON, DC — Today the U.S. House of Representatives passed Congressman Donald Norcross' (NJ-01) Faster Labor Contracts Act (FLCA) in a bipartisan 220-193 vote. The bill, which would be the single biggest advancement in workers' rights in nearly a century, came to the floor after Norcross successfully forced a vote over the objections of House Republican leadership.

Because there are no deadlines for an employer to agree to a contract with a new union, it takes an average of 458 days for that first contract to be finalized. Likewise, roughly a third of workers are forced to wait more than three years for a contract after voting to unionize. The FLCA would speed up that process by giving both parties options to seek third party remediation after set periods of time – including the choice to have a three-person arbitration panel render a first contract.

“The biggest loophole in labor law is how the richest executives in human history can simply run out the clock on their workers' first union contract – denying their employees their fundamental collective bargaining rights. That dirty tactic is selfish, it's immoral, and today's vote also puts it one step closer to being a relic of history,” Norcross said. “Unions represent workers of all political stripes, and today's resounding bipartisan vote should clearly demonstrate the collective power of workers' voices. Solidarity forever, and it's time to get this bill over the finish line.”

Before passage of the FLCA this evening, Norcross needed to win the majority support of the House this afternoon to force a vote on the bill through the use of a discharge petition. This process was necessary since House Speaker Mike Johnson refused to bring the FLCA to the floor, despite the bill having enough bipartisan support to pass. Historically, only a small fraction of discharge petitions have achieved majority support; Norcross' coalition of 218 supporters included 211 Democrats and 7 Republicans.

“Once again, House Democrats are governing in the minority as if we're in the majority and successfully forced a vote on legislation to make life better for the American people. The Faster Labor Contracts Act has passed the House of Representatives, strengthening worker protections and compelling employers to come to the table,” said House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries. “At a time when the right to organize is under assault, it is unacceptable that when hardworking Americans come together to form a workplace union, employers can stifle that progress by refusing to bargain. I thank Congressman Norcross for his leadership and for standing up for working families across the country.”

“The Faster Labor Contracts Act is the most consequential labor bill to come before Congress in decades. Its bipartisan passage out of the House of Representatives is a significant milestone for millions of American workers,” said Teamsters General President Sean M. O'Brien. “The 1.3-million member Teamsters Union has worked tirelessly to build a coalition of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents who are committed to improving the lives of working people. Millions of workers at Amazon and other major companies who are fed up with being overworked, underpaid, and undervalued are organizing their unions today in record numbers. We can no longer tolerate a broken system that allows corporations to corruptly drag out negotiations and shirk their legal obligations to bargain fair first union contracts. The FLCA has a real shot to right generations of wrongs and level the playing field for workers. The Teamsters are eager for the Senate to take up this urgent legislation and ensure it lands on the President's desk.”

“For the second time this Congress a bill to restore or strengthen collective bargaining rights has been forced to the House floor by a working majority and passed with a bipartisan vote. The reason is simple: The country is hungry for pro-

worker labor law reform,” said Jody Calemine, Advocacy Director of the AFL-CIO. “This bill is an important first step toward passing the PRO Act. It underscores a basic truth: it's better in a union. More collective bargaining means higher wages, more access to affordable health care, a secure retirement, and a way for working people to take control over their lives and finally get ahead. Let working people organize and exercise their bargaining power, and the economy will start working for them, not just the billionaires.”

The FLCA is endorsed by more than twenty unions and advocates for workers' rights. Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) has introduced companion bipartisan legislation in the Senate.

Norcross, the only union electrician serving in Congress, is a co-chair of the Congressional Labor Caucus and a lifelong champion for workers' rights. Last week he successfully passed out of the Armed Services Committee a provision in this year's National Defense Authorization Act to overturn President Trump's executive order stripping Defense Department employees' collective bargaining rights – a measure he also passed out of the House last year. He was also an original cosponsor of the House-passed Protecting America's Workforce Act, and has previously helped pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act in the House.

DEFB Now Accepting Applications for 2027 Youth Ambassador Program

CAMDEN, DE – The Delaware Farm Bureau (DEFB) has opened applications for a Youth Ambassador Scholarship Program. Young individuals with a passion for agriculture who are ages 17–21 as of January 1, 2026, and are active DEFB members or the children or grandchildren of active members are encouraged to apply.

The DEFB Ambassador Program provides young leaders with opportunities to develop communication, leadership, and advocacy skills while promoting agriculture across the state. Ambassadors serve as representatives of DEFB, engaging with members, participating in community outreach, and helping share the story of Delaware agriculture with the public.

Through hands-on experiences, networking opportunities, and leadership development activities, applicants gain valuable skills that support both personal and professional growth. Ambassadors also receive a \$5,000 scholarship in recognition of their commitment to agricultural advocacy, while playing a key role in strengthening connections between farmers, consumers, and policymakers.

“Throughout my year, I have had the privilege of engaging in outreach efforts with not only Farm Bureau members, but also members of the broader community,” said 2026 DEFB Ambassador Emerson Hickey. “Being able to represent and promote an industry that means so much to me has been the most rewarding part of serving as the ambassador.”

Applications are open through September 15, 2026. Interested individuals can apply at www.defb.org/ambassador/. Completed applications, along with a statement of intent and resume, may be submitted via email to jaiden.cain@defb.org or by mail to 3457 S. Dupont Hwy, Camden, DE 19934.

Delaware Farm Bureau is a grass-roots, member-driven organization dedicated to advocating for agriculture and the interests of farm families across the state. Established in 1944, DEFB works to promote sound public policy, support agricultural education, and strengthen connections between farmers and their communities. Through advocacy, outreach, and leadership development, the organization is committed to ensuring a strong future for Delaware agriculture. For more information or to join DEFB, visit defb.org.

Norcross' workforce protections, investments in defense manufacturing pass House Armed Services Committee

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Donald Norcross (NJ-01), ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee's (HASC) Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee and Member of the Sea-power and Projection Forces Subcommittee, today voted to advance the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

“America's self-defense is wholly reliant on the servicemembers and civilian workforce who dedicate their lives to keeping our country safe. At a time when seemingly everything else in Washington is broken, I'm proud of our committee's bipartisan commitment to serving those irreplaceable workers and men and women in uniform,” Norcross said. “From essential workplace rights protections to investments in the critical manufacturing happening right in South Jersey, the provisions in this bill will make a meaningful difference in the security of our country and the rest of the world.”

The Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) NDAA improves military readiness and strengthens American industry by cutting red tape, fixing outdated systems, and supporting defense innovation. The FY27 NDAA also includes a 3.6% pay raise for all servicemembers and boosts access to housing and education for themselves and their families.

Norcross also authored a successful amendment to protect Department of Defense employees by restoring collective bargaining rights that President Trump illegally stripped in an executive order last year. His remarks to the committee in support of his amendment can be found here.

Other FY27 NDAA priorities secured by Norcross include:

- Over \$591 million for seven additional CH-47 helicopters, which will be manufactured by South Jersey workers in nearby Ridley Park across the Delaware River;
- Over \$3.8 million for four additional MH-139A Grey Wolf helicopters that South Jersey workers will help build in Philadelphia;
- Over \$3.47 billion for the KC-46 refueler aircraft, which flies out of Joint Base McGuire-Dix Lakehurst;
- \$5 million to Rowan University for the development of hypersonic technologies;
- Required a DoD study on the state of the skilled trade workforce essential to Navy shipbuilding to strengthen the training and workforce pipeline and increase our Maritime Industrial Base shipbuilding capacity;
- Preserved critical airborne warning and control capabilities by protecting an \$800 million investment in the E-7 Wedgetail program from cancellation;

Ensured shipbuilding jobs are kept in the U.S. by blocking the Navy from outsourcing warship construction to foreign countries.

THE SOUTH JERSEY ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC. PRESENTS A

COMMUNITY BOOK DISCUSSION

With the Author!

Featuring
BLONDELL REYNOLDS-BROWN

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Real Conversations.
Real Community.**

Adults 18 and older welcome

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Date: June 6, 2026 Time: 11:00 AM Location: Omega's Restaurant 27 S. Center Street Merchantville, NJ 08109

Books will be available for purchase and author signing.

South Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Presents Community Book Discussion Featuring Blondell Reynolds-Brown

CHERRY HILL, NJ - Blondell Reynolds-Brown was the featured guest author at an inspiring Community Book Discussion hosted by the South Jersey Alumnae Chapter, Arts and Letters Committee of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The event took place on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Omega's Restaurant, 27 So. Center Street, Merchantville, N.J. 08109

The discussion centered around Reynolds-Brown's compelling book, "Walking a Tightrope Backward in High Heels", a reflective and empowering work that explores leadership, perseverance, public service, and the balancing act women often face while navigating professional and personal responsibilities.

Reynolds-Brown is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a lifelong advocate for education, arts and culture, women and families, and community empowerment.

As former Chairwoman of the Philadelphia City Council Committee on Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, Reynolds-Brown played a pivotal role in strengthening access to arts programming and preserving Philadelphia's commitment to cultural investment.

"This event was more than a book discussion," said representatives of the South Jersey Alumnae Chapter, Arts and Letters Committee. "It was an opportunity for the community to engage in meaningful dialogue about leadership, resilience, public service, and the power of storytelling."

Attendees did look forward to an engaging morning of conversation, inspiration, and fellowship under the theme:

"Real Stories. Real Conversations. Real Community."

Books were available for purchase, and guests had the opportunity to participate in an author signing following the discussion.

The event was free to the community and guests under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

South Jersey Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Pamela Mack- Brooks, President

Media Contact: sjacartsandletters@gmail.com



Former Philadelphia Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds-Brown (L) along with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. South Jersey Alumnae Chapter Members.

Black Woman As Muse, A Landmark Book Celebrating Black Womanhood

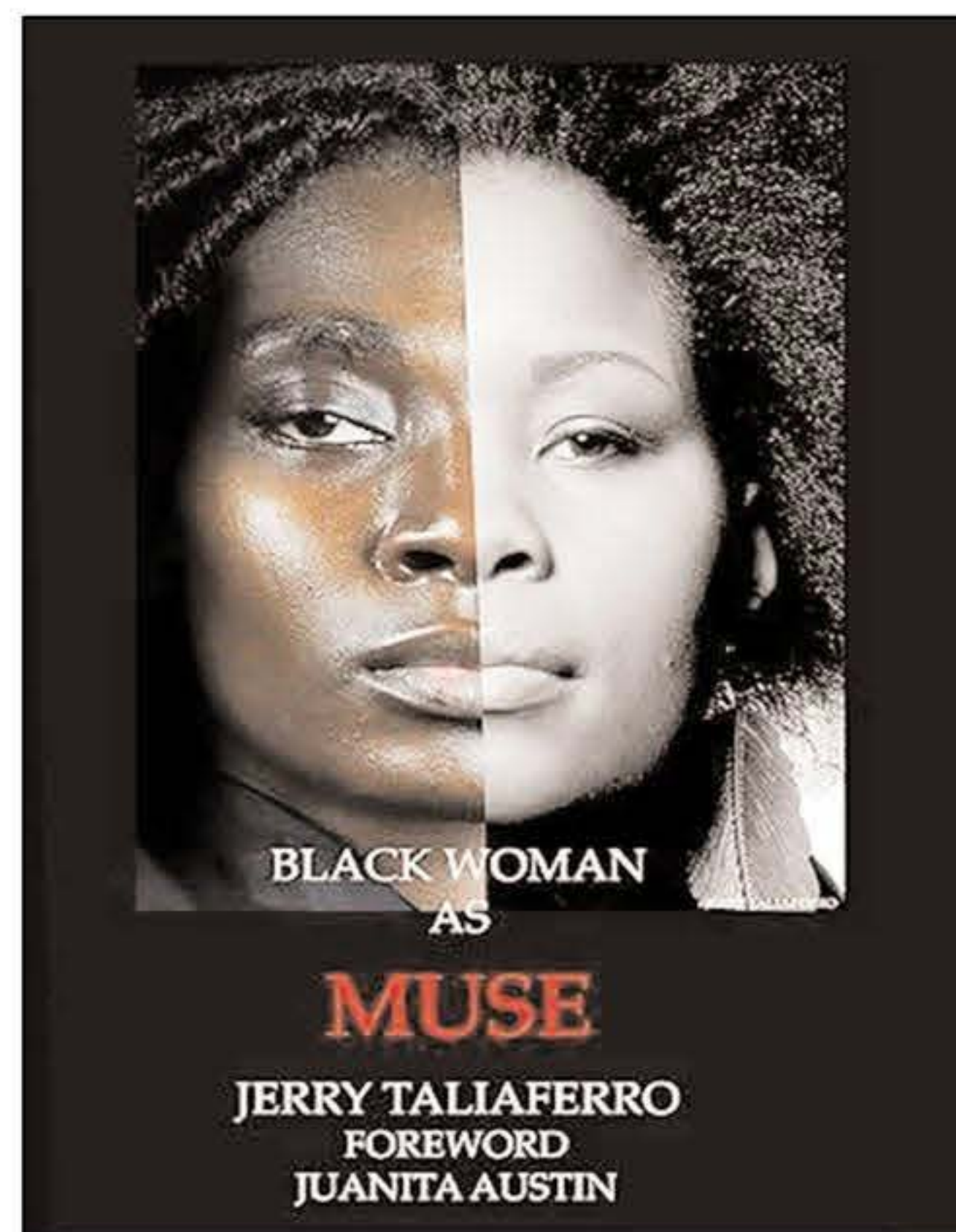
Charlotte, NC - Photographer Jerry Taliaferro has just published his latest photo essay BLACK WOMAN AS MUSE (MUSE). The book is based upon his traveling exhibition of the same title. It is a long overdue homage to African American womanhood.

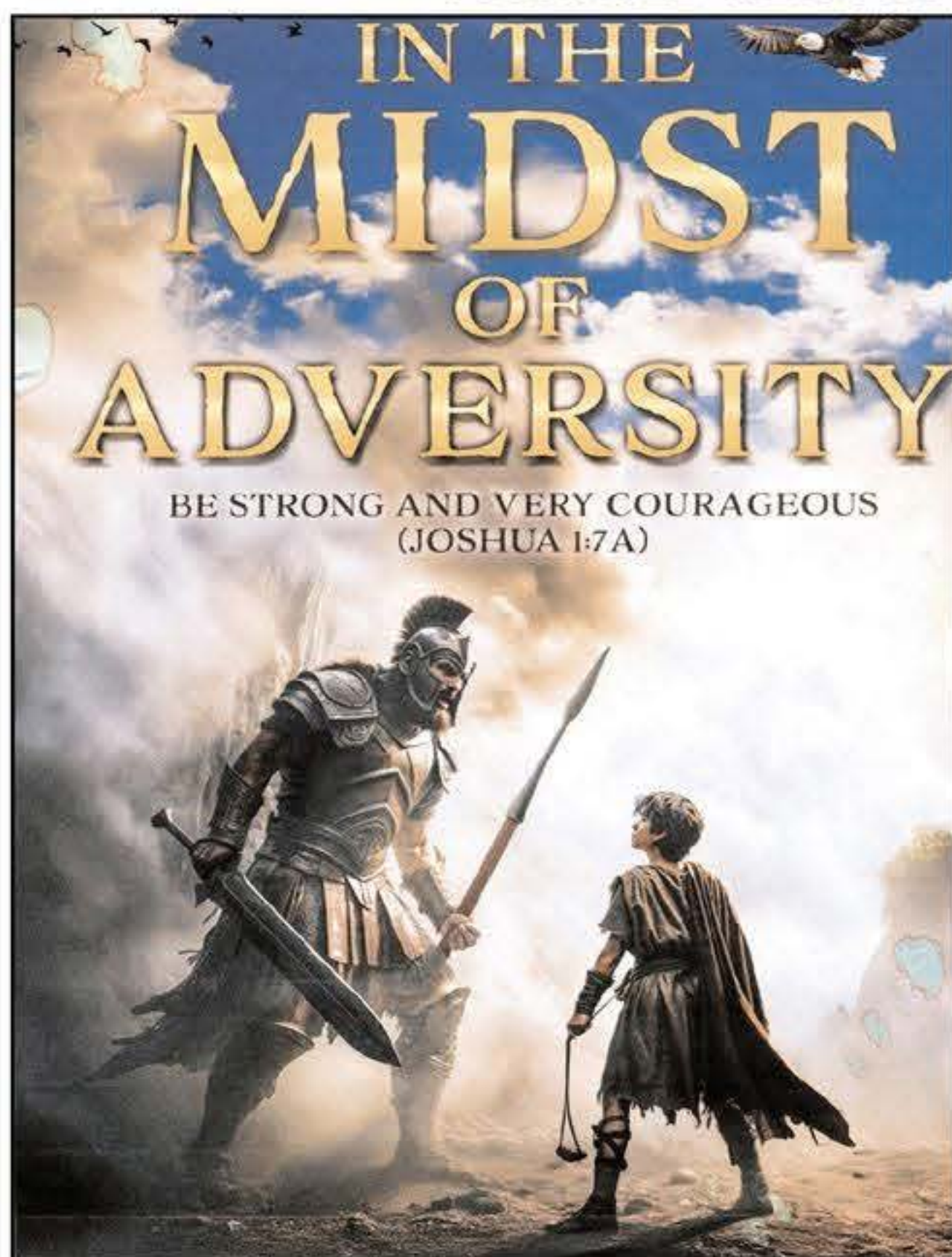
This collection of photographs, produced over the course of decades, consists of images from one photographer's odyssey to truly "seeing" the beauty that has always surrounded him. Most importantly, the subjects are Black Women who inhabit the day-to-day lives of most Americans. They are our mothers, sisters, daughters, friends and coworkers. Rarely has the American woman of African descent been so gloriously portrayed. Every page is an emotional experience.

This is a book that daughters will share with daughters as they celebrate the beauty that is uniquely their own.

Page Through MUSE virtually at <https://www.blackartphotoart.com/BWAM1MinPageThru.mp4>

Now available on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/01Jk5xUt>.





Faith Through the Fire: Rev. John A. Quann Sr. Inspires People to Overcome Life's Challenges

CAMDEN, NJ - Growing up in Camden, New Jersey, Reverend John A. Quann Sr. faced a lifetime of adversity, from overcoming a speech impediment to learning how to stand up for himself in challenging circumstances. Rather than allowing those hardships to define him, he embraced them as opportunities for spiritual growth, drawing strength from his faith in God and the biblical example of Moses. Now, through his book, *In the Midst of Adversity*, Rev. Quann encourages readers to view life's trials not as obstacles, but as stepping stones that can strengthen character, deepen faith, and lead to victory through Christ.

In an exclusive interview with the nation's premier faith-based and professional newspaper for winners, *Anointed News Journal*, Reverend John A. Quann Sr. shares how a lifetime of adversity became the foundation for an unwavering faith and a powerful message of hope for anyone facing life's challenges.

Collins:

Who is Reverend John A. Quann Sr.?

Quann Sr.:

Reverend John A. Quann Sr. is a faithful preacher who grew up in Camden, New Jersey. He identifies with Moses in the Bible because of his loyalty, integrity, and humility. People often think humility is weakness, but humility is not weakness—it is strength.

I've also written a book called, "In the Midst of Adversity." I wrote *In the Midst of Adversity* because, throughout my life, I grew up facing adversity.

Collins:

Rev., you are no stranger to the *Anointed News Journal*, and you are certainly no stranger to the people of Camden, New Jersey. *In the Midst of Adversity* is your second book. You also wrote a first book, which was entitled what?

Quann Sr.:

My first book was entitled, "You Are So Wise Yet So Foolish."

Collins:

Okay. And how did your first book do?

Quann Sr.:

It was surprising to me that the rating was so high. The highest rating you can receive is 5.0. Right now, *You Are So Wise Yet So Foolish* has a 4.6 rating.

Collins:

And for those who may be interested in following Reverend John A. Quann Sr. and getting your book, "You Are So Wise Yet So Foolish", how can they get access to it?

Quann Sr.:

You can go to Amazon or just about any online retailer to purchase the book. It's available on demand. It's not on bookstore

shelves because I chose not to have it there. You have to crawl before you walk. At the time, I wasn't fortunate enough to have the financial resources. God has blessed me this time with the finances to bring my second book to the market.

Collins:

And with that said, you were successful with your first book. And now you're introducing your second book, *In the Midst of Adversity*, and you have a book signing coming up on July 25. What motivated you to write this second book, "In the Midst of Adversity?"

Quann Sr.:

Like I said before, the reason I wrote *In the Midst of Adversity* is because I've experienced adversity throughout my life. Chris, growing up in Camden, New Jersey, I faced adversity all my life. I had to fight because of a speech impediment, just like Moses.

That's only part of the reason I wrote *In the Midst of Adversity*. The real reason I wrote it wasn't to prove anything to anyone. You don't have to prove anything to anyone. You have to prove something to yourself and to God.

Adversity is what I went through, but I learned that, just like salvation, life is a process. Through that process, adversity can make you strong, or it can make you weak. It can make you better, or it can make you bitter. I believe adversity made me strong. Adversity is not a bad thing. It's a good thing because it made me stronger, and I came through it. As the saying goes, if God can bring you to it, He can bring you through it.

Adversity helped shape who I am. I made a lot of friends over the years. I don't like hurting people, but if my mother and father were here today, they would tell you that I made many friends because I remained a humble person.

I never started fights, but I finished them. I'm a man of God, but I'm not a doormat, and I'm never going to be one. One of my brothers taught me how to fight. He bought me a punching bag, and my father bought me boxing gloves. I fought just about everybody on my block when I was a child. I earned respect by standing up for who I was—not because I thought I was big and strong, even though I was a short guy, but because I refused to let anyone pick on me. My nephew and I were the ringmasters of Centerville.

Collins:

So when you think about your childhood and the adversity you faced your entire life—having to fight because of your speech impediment, your brother teaching you how to fight, buying you a punching bag, and your father buying you boxing gloves; it was all preparing you to be strong and defend yourself while growing up in the neighborhood of Centerville in Camden.

Now you've written this book, *In the Midst of Adversity*, which takes those life experiences and connects them to the spiritual. What do you want people to take away from reading *In the Midst of Adversity*? What message do you want them to receive?

Quann Sr.:

Well, Chris, we all have pride. God gave us pride. But as the Bible says, "Pride goes before the fall." Pride is okay. Competitiveness is okay. But too much pride is not okay because pride can turn into arrogance. Arrogance makes a person prideful, just like Lucifer. That's why he fell from heaven and took one-third of the angels with him. Lucifer still wanted to be God. He is a god with a little "g," but he's not the big "G." He wanted to be the big "G," but he never will be. Sometimes it seems like he's winning, but just as David defeated Goliath, God gives us the victory.

Collins:

So are you suggesting through your book that the adversities people face every day are, in a sense, a form of spiritual warfare? Through their faith in God—as you said, the big "G"—they are able to overcome any challenge or adversity they may face.

Quann Sr.:

Yes, sir, because it's all in you. God made you strong. He did not make you weak. He did not make you a wimp. He made you to face your enemy. The Bible says you are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are His workmanship. He calls you more than a conqueror. You are not a victim—you are a fighter. You can overcome the enemy within so that you can face the enemy without and defeat him.

Collins:

And just as David defeated the giant Goliath, individuals can also defeat the giant of adversity.

Quann Sr.:

Yes, sir.

Collins:

You are preparing to debut your new release during a book signing on July 25th. Tell us about the book signing and where it will be so the public can come out and support you.

Quann Sr.:

Yes. First of all, my pastor is from Liberia. His name is Pastor Matthews, and his church is called Harvest Church City of Grace. The location is 320 Cornell Drive in the Cornell Industrial Park in Wilmington, Delaware. That's where my book signing will be held.

As you mentioned, it will take place on July 25th. I don't have the exact time yet because we're still working through the final details with my pastor.

Collins:

You've also been a contributing author in the *Who's Who Millennial Magazine*, 18th Edition. What is it like to see yourself featured in this magazine alongside so many successful authors and entrepreneurs from around the world?

Quann Sr.:

Well, as I mentioned before, I'm happy, I'm pleased, and I have a little pride. That's okay, but I don't want to give credit to myself. When I was younger, I was proud. Chris, you remember when you were young and modeling—you were proud. I was proud in my own way. I was proud of standing up for myself, and I was proud of riding my moped. I was the first Black person on my block to have a moped. My father gave me all the material things I could ask for, but I never really asked for much. I didn't want for anything. Even with all of that, I can't take credit for any of it. I'm thankful.

I have a saying that goes along with the scripture, "Pride goes before the fall." I also say, "Those who thrive on pride will fall hard like a ball." You know how a basketball bounces. Your brother and my brother used to play basketball together. That's how hard a prideful person can fall.

Collins:

What words of encouragement would you give to a young man or young woman who is facing the storms of adversity?

Quann Sr.:

First of all, I would tell them to follow Christ. Don't follow me, because following me will only get you in trouble. We're all human. We all make mistakes. None of us is perfect. Life isn't just about being smart. It's not only about your head—it's about your heart. That's where revelation comes from. When your head and your heart work together, all things work together for the good of those who love Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus makes everything right. So follow Christ, and you can't go wrong.

Collins:

How can people get a copy of *In the Midst of Adversity*?

Quann Sr.:

It should be finalized no later than the second week of July, so it should be available by the third week of July. Once it's released, you'll be able to purchase it through bookstores around the country and through online bookstores as well.

Collins:

So people will be able to purchase it in bookstores. Will it also be available on Amazon?

Quann Sr.:

Yes, sir. It will be available on Amazon and through other online retailers as well. This time, with my second book, I'll also have links available through social media.

Collins:

Have you done any speaking engagements about your book? Are you available for speaking engagements? If so, how can people get in touch with you?

Quann Sr.:

Since the book has been published but hasn't officially been released yet, I haven't done any speaking engagements. However, I am a member of Toastmasters. Because of that, Toastmasters will likely be the first organization where I'll speak about the book once it's released.

Collins:

And how can people follow you? How can they get in touch with you?

Quann Sr.:

They can email me at QUANNJ@myyahoo.com.

I would encourage everyone to do their very best and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who is the third Person of the Trinity. Read God's Word and continue striving to live according to His will. No matter what you're facing, keep trusting God and do your very best in every situation.

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Philadelphia Eagles' Jordan Davis Surprises more than 80 Camden Youth at Gb Elite Flag Football Clinic at the Salvation Army Camden Kroc Center

CAMDEN, N.J. – More than 80 children attending a flag football clinic at The Salvation Army Camden Kroc Center received a surprise visit Saturday morning from Philadelphia Eagles defensive tackle Jordan Davis.

The clinic was led by coaches from GB Elite Flag Football and gave participants the opportunity to learn football fundamentals, run drills, and compete in flag football scrimmages. The excitement grew when Davis arrived and joined the children in the gym.

Before the activities began, Davis thanked parents for their support and encouraged participants to take advantage of the opportunity in front of them.

"I appreciate your parents coming out here today. Without you and without their sacrifice, none of this would be possible," Davis told the group.

Davis also spoke about the importance of starting young and shared that flag football was where his own football journey began before encouraging participants to have fun and make the most of the experience.

"We were especially grateful to welcome Jordan Davis and his mother, Shay, whose encouragement and engagement helped make the day both memorable and impactful for all participants. While kids learned football skills and enjoyed friendly competition, the greater value was found in the life lessons sports help teach—perseverance, discipline, resilience, teamwork, and confidence—qualities that serve them well both on and off the field. At The Salvation Army, we believe sports are about more than physical development. Thank you to GB Elite, Jordan and Shay, our dedicated Kroc Center staff, volunteers, parents, and all who helped make the event a success." - Major Richard Sanchez, Camden Kroc Center Administrator.

"Looking around today and seeing more than 80 kids out here learning, competing, and having fun is what it's all about. At GB Elite, football is the vehicle, but our real goal is helping young people develop confidence, discipline, accountability, teamwork, and perseverance that they can carry with them long after they leave the field. First, I want to thank the parents for bringing their children out today and for the sacrifices they make every day to support them. None of this is possible without parents who invest their time, energy, and resources into helping their kids succeed. Having Jordan Davis come out and spend time with these kids made today even more special because they got to hear directly from someone who's achieved success through hard work and dedication. We're incredibly thankful to The Salvation Army Camden Kroc Center for partnering with us and believing in this vision. This is just the beginning, and we're excited about the opportunities we'll continue creating together for the youth of Camden." — John Bond, Co-Founder, GB Elite Flag Football.



About The Salvation Army Camden Kroc Center

Opened in 2014 to enhance The Salvation Army's ministry in the City of Camden since 1880, The Salvation Army Camden Kroc Center is a 125,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art community center where opportunity meets potential. With over 25,000 annual visitors, the Camden Kroc Center provides recreational, health, educational, cultural, and spiritual holistic programming for the entire family. From first-time swimmers to experienced athletes, the Kroc Center has hosted over 2.5 million visits since its opening, striving toward Camden's transformation in body, soul, and spirit. Visit www.camdenkroccenter.org to find out how you can help empower families, youth, and seniors in the Camden region.

About GB Elite

GB Elite, which stands for Green and Bond, was founded by two dads who came together to create something positive for their sons and their friends through sports. What started as a way to give kids a structured, competitive, and supportive environment has grown into a youth development organization focused on mentorship, athletics, and community engagement. Through partnership with The Salvation Army Kroc Center, we're able to provide opportunities for young athletes to grow both on and off the field while building confidence, teamwork, discipline, and leadership.



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For More Information Call: **856-379-6900**
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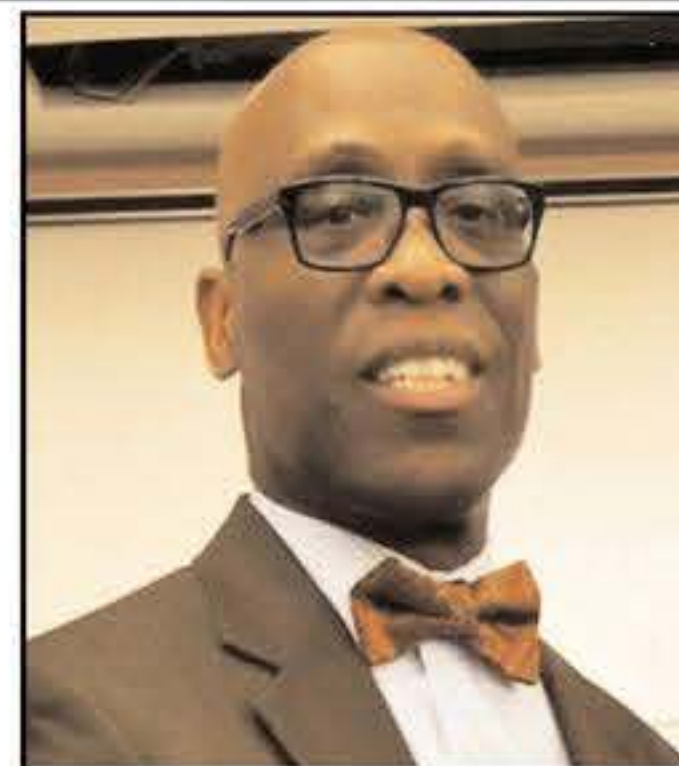
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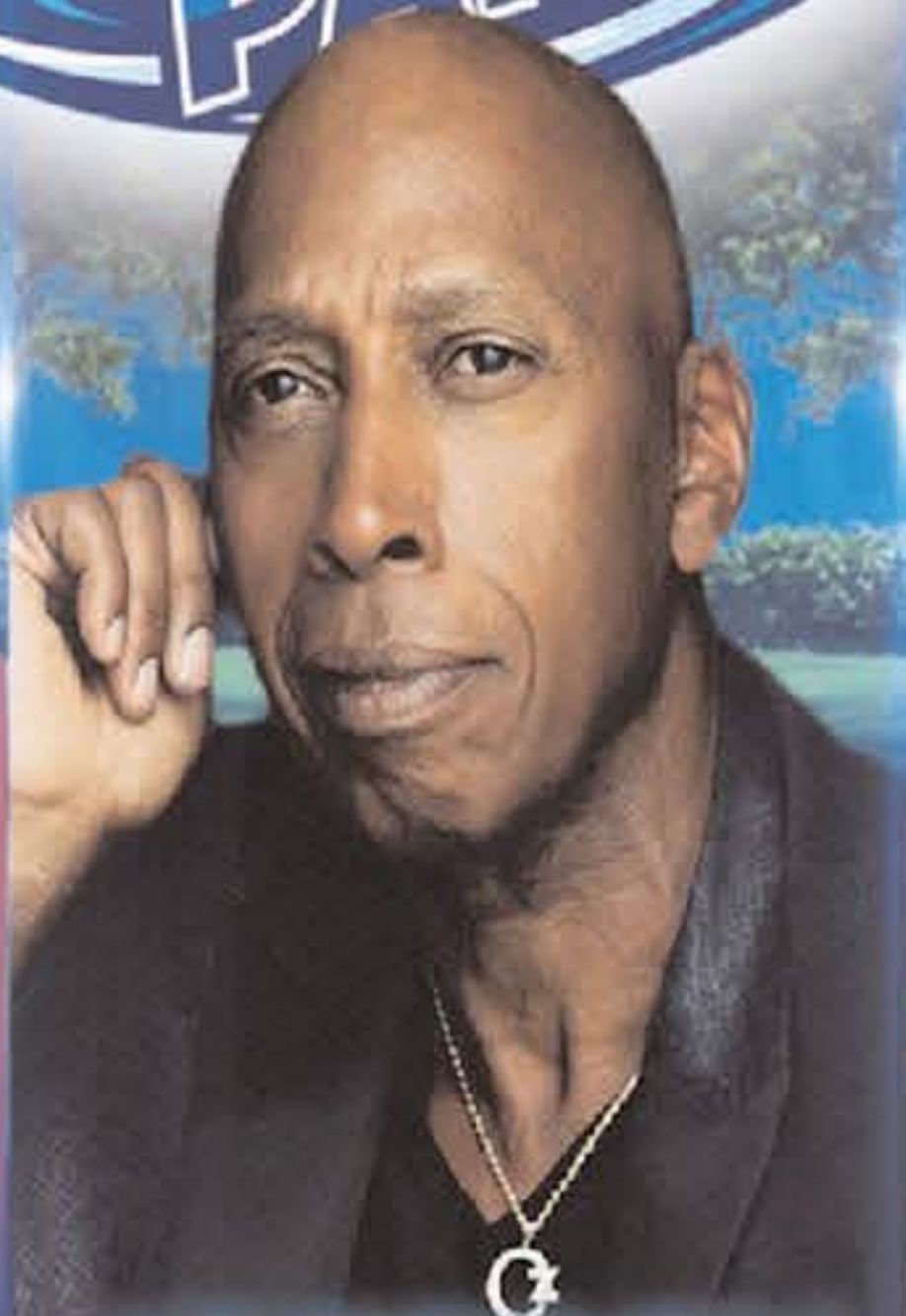
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