

THE HUDSONIAN

THE INDEPENDENT MULTIMEDIA NEWS ORGANIZATION OF HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EVENTS

TUESDAY || NOV. 19

- 9AM-3:30PM: University at Albany: Transfer Advisor Visit (CTR 294)
- 10AM-5:30PM: Discounted Regal Movie Ticket Sales (CTR 210)
- 11AM: Yoga with Paul Calarco (CTR 270)
- 12PM-2PM: Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA): Transfer Advisor Visit (CTR 290)

2:30PM-3:30PM: Mental Health Awareness Panel: Breaking The Stigma (BTC Auditorium)

WEDNESDAY || NOV. 20

- 10AM-2:30PM: Siena College: Transfer Advisor Visit (CTR 290)
- 11:30AM: Pizza Time! (CTR Lobby)
- 2PM-2:50PM: "A day in the Life of a Montessori Teacher" Workshop (HGB 100)

THURSDAY || NOV. 21

- 9AM-11AM: Empower to Employ: Workforce Development for Tomorrow (HVCC North, TEC-SMART Auditorium)
- 10AM-2PM: Ellis Medicine: Employer Information Table (CTR Lobby)
- 11AM-1PM: Great American SmokeOut (CTR)
- 12PM-1PM: The McKrells (BTC Auditorium)
- 4:30PM-6PM: Thanksgiving Dinner (CTR Second Floor)

FRIDAY || NOV. 22

- 5PM-8PM: Pride Ball (BTC Meeting Room)
- 5PM: Fall 2024 Last Day to Withdraw from Classes
- 5PM-9PM: Country Folk Art Show & Artisan Market (MCD Field House)

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SUDDENLY
HATED!?
PG.2

JOKER 2:
FOLIE À DEUX
MOVIE REVIEW!
PG. 4

PHOENIX GAGA
JOKER
THE WORLD IS A STAGE
ONLY IN THEATERS
10.04.24

RENSSELAER PROTESTS PROPOSED SLUDGE INCINERATOR

RESIDENTS AND ACTIVISTS UNITE TO BLOCK CONTROVERSIAL WASTE FACILITY

ADEM JONES
Staff Contributor

Rensselaer is currently at the center of a heated debate over a proposed sludge incinerator project that has sparked significant community concern. At a rally held earlier this month, environmentalists, residents, and politicians voiced their strong opposition to the facility which is set to process sewage sludge and other waste materials. The proposal is brought about by Harbor Rock, a company that dredges, converts, and reuses sediments and waste materials. Critics argue that the plant could have devastating environmental effects, particularly on the nearby Mohawk-Hudson River, a vital water source.

The rally drew large crowds and featured prominent activists such as former EPA administrator Judith Enck. Enck stressed the importance of a more thorough environmental review before moving forward. "All of us collectively have spent decades cleaning up this historic river, and just to our south is the old BASF chemical facility, which is highly con-

taminated," said Enck. "It is appalling, appalling that this company wants to build a sludge or sediment incinerator here in the city of Rensselaer, on the BASF property that still has not been cleaned up," Enck continues.

Concerns raised include the potential for toxic leachate (polluted liquid

the river during floods. Defenders of the project have not fully addressed these concerns, with critics calling for a comprehensive environmental impact statement. This process would allow for more transparency and ensure that the community has a say in the decision-making process

Supporters of the incinerator argue that the project could offer economic benefits, but local activists are not convinced. They claim that the environmental risks far outweigh any potential gains. Many are pushing for alternatives that would protect both the community and the river, which is already burdened by other industrial activities

As the project progresses through the regulation process, its controversy is

far from over. With the support of local groups like Riverkeeper, activists are determined to keep fighting for a more sustainable solution that prioritizes public health and environmental safety.

PHOTO CREDITS: WRGB



from decomposing waste) to contaminate local water systems, especially since the region's sewage treatment plants are not equipped to handle such contaminants

Another issue is the facility's location on a floodplain, which raises fears of contamination spilling into

PRIVATE JET EMISSIONS RASIED SCIENTISTS ALARMED OVER CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

SAIMA SYEDA
Web Editor

A study released Thursday in the journal Nature Communications Earth & Environment found that private airplane carbon dioxide emissions have risen 46% over the past five years.

More than two-thirds of all private jets were stationed in the United States, according to the researchers, who examined over 26,000 aircraft and 18 million journeys, which represented the majority of private flights between 2019 and 2023. Christopher Jones, head of the CoolClimate Network at UC Berkeley and researcher on carbon footprints, who did not participate in the study, stated, "I think [the paper] is going to be a benchmark for future studies."



"Their research of where individuals are flying is quite fascinating... It's a truly fascinating and thought-provoking paper. The researchers also discovered that a total of 3,800 tons of carbon dioxide were released on 291 flights that were going to the 2023 COP28 climate summit.

The Federal Aviation Administration invented the technology that enables researchers to follow private jets around the turn of the century. However, the agency is now permitting aircraft operators to hide their identification, which may prevent comparable studies from being conducted. The results, according to the study's authors, show that more regulation is required, especially because the United States wants its aviation sector to have net-zero

GO TO ... PG.2

THANKSGIVING! FREE LUNCH/DINNER HERE

CHRISTIAN RASMUSSEN
Staff Contributor

Hudson Valley Community College is hosting its annual Thanksgiving lunch on November 25, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM on the second floor of the Siek Campus Center. Student Activities and Student Senate are sponsoring the event, and all students and faculty are welcome.

In support of those in need, Hudson Valley Community College is also holding a food drive at the luncheon. Students and faculty can provide non-perishable food items to stock the food pantry as the winter season gets colder. For evening students, there will be a Thanksgiving Dinner event from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM on November 21. This will also take place on the second floor of the Siek Campus Center.

If you have any questions about the event, you can contact student activities at studentactivities@hvcc.edu or by calling their office at (518) 629-7348. Come attend!

News

Editor-in-Chief Adam Conklin
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LONG STORY
SHORT...

THE “CUTEST BABY HIPPO”
SUDDENLY HATED?

Samarun Suhana

The baby pygmy hippo born in Thailand stole the hearts of the internet over the past few months. Moo Deng, the always agitated but adorable hippo, started gaining fame mostly through TikTok after her caretakers posted about her. Everyone absolutely loved this little sassy hippo, but after recent events, people have changed their views.

A post on X of Moo Deng “casting her vote” in the presidential election between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. She was given a choice between two cakes, one with Harris and one with Trump, and the baby chose the “Trump” cake. After the results of the election came out, lots of people were furious with Moo Deng saying she “predicted” the election.

Moo Deng’s fame came very shortly after being born in Khao Kheow Open Zoo. Many people come from all around the world just to gaze upon the cutie patootie, Moo Deng. They are willing to travel for hours to see the hippos, some going as far as to travel 20+ hours.

Let’s hope the hate of Moo Deng doesn’t get to her, but in the end, she’s just a hippo.



PHOTO CREDITS: JAM PRESS/
KHAO KHEOW OPEN ZOO

HVCC PUBLIC SAFETY-
LETTER TO THE READERS

Terry Buchanan

The holidays, exams, life stressors of being a young adult -a lot going on in many students’ lives right now. It’s easy to be distracted (life is a series of distractions!) from safe driving. We take your safety seriously and that means traffic safety of course too. Towards that end, additional STOP signs have been put up, most recently on South Rd by the parking garage, as well as speed bumps and other “traffic warming” items.

The consequences of a traffic crash can range from merely expensive to life altering. We have very few traffic crashes and nothing major. We hope the trend continues. If you do happen to have an event, move the vehicles, if possible, to a safe location and call us. We will respond, take appropriate action and advise you what to do moving forward.

The best gift you can give you friends and family is not presents, but your presence. Be safe to be available to yourself and them this Season.

CONT ... PRIVATE greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. However, Jones argues that the issue is ultimately more of a moral concern about wealth inequality than a pressing front on the race to a carbon-neutral society because private aircraft only account for a small portion of total greenhouse gas emissions. The wealthy are disproportionately responsible for air travel emissions.

The carbon footprint of a premium class seat is five to nine times that of an economy class seat. Even though they only make up 0.003% of the population, private jets were responsible for over 2% of the industry’s emissions. According to Gössling, the worst offenders can use private jet travel alone to pollute 550 times more than the typical person in a single year. Others have discovered that the

COVID-19 pandemic has been a major factor, since wealthy people have chosen private flights over commercial ones in an attempt to prevent possible exposure to the disease, even though the study did not evaluate the reason for the increase. The authors of the study also point out that it is especially challenging to cut emissions when wealth and economic productivity are still rising.

WHAT THE ELECTION MEANS FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMY
WHAT TRUMPS PRESIDENCY MEANS FOR GLOBAL TRADE, MARKETS, AND ECONOMIC POLICIES

ADEM JONES
Staff Contributor

Donald Trump’s return to the White House has left experts debating the impact his policies might have on the global economy, especially with his focus on tariffs, immigration, and cryptocurrency.

One of Trump’s bold promises is to implement significant tariffs on imports, with plans to charge 10-20% on many goods and as high as 60% on Chinese imports. This “America First” strategy has sparked concern, especially in Europe. Thilo Brodtmann of the German Mechanical Engineering Industry Association noted that these tariffs “would strain global trade” and hurt German industries reliant on exports.

Trump’s stance on immigration also brings questions. With a focus on deporting undocumented workers, he aims to open up more jobs for American workers. However, analysts warn that rapid deportations could disrupt industries relying heavily on immigrant labor, from agriculture to manufacturing.

Stock markets have reacted strongly, reflecting both optimism and caution. In the U.S., the S&P 500 and Dow Jones saw record jumps after the election, signaling positive reactions to Trump’s business-friendly outlook. Yet, the 10-year U.S. Treasury yield rose, indicating concerns about rising government debt due to potential tax cuts and spending hikes.

Trump’s support for cryptocurrency is also making waves. Bitcoin hit an all-time high as Trump promised to make

the U.S. the “crypto capital of the planet.” His hands-off approach appeals to advocates in the crypto space, giving them hope for fewer regulations.

Global reactions vary, with particular concern in Mexico, whose peso dropped in value. Tariffs and immigration policies are expected to challenge Mexico as it navigates its trading partnership with the U.S.

The coming months will reveal the real impacts of Trump’s economic plans, but it’s already clear that his policies could have wide-reaching effects, from shifting trade dynamics to influencing cryptocurrency regulation. While markets and experts react with both optimism and caution, businesses worldwide are bracing for changes that could reshape global economic patterns in profound ways.

MEGAN SUTTLE’S EXHIBIT AT HVCC
“SPATIAL DRAWINGS” ART EXHIBIT IN TEACHING GALLERY

KELLY NGUYEN
Staff Contributor

Artist Megan Suttle’s latest exhibition, Once More, is now on display at the Teaching Gallery on Hudson Valley’s Campus. Suttles is the founder of Hot Wood Arts, a place that provides studio space for 17 artists working within different types of art media. Those include fine art, music and writing, and stage set design. The exhibit features a mix of video and sculpture to explore themes of physical existence, sense of self, and healing. The title of the exhibit refers to Suttle’s series of images that show her contorting her body as an attempt to occupy smaller and smaller open cubes. When

the mandated 2020 COVID quarantine appeared, Suttles revisited the old project and expanded on it. In the end, the series totals 1,000 still images with the artist inside various cube sizes that range from 6, 5, 4, 3, and 2 feet!

The series of images from the cubes, videos, and other works are going to be a part of this exhibit. Subtle considers the installations at the site to be “spatial drawings,” due to the combination of video and 3-D elements that utilize her own body to create her overarching message of physical existence.

The Teaching Gallery is open to see the exhibit during the following times: Tuesday from 10 am. to 4 pm.; Thurs-



day and Friday from 1pm to 7pm.; Wednesday from 12pm to 4pm. The gallery is closed on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. The exhibit closes December 7, and admission is free.

FLOODING IN SPAIN SPARKS OUTRAGE
THE ALLEGED MISHANDLING OF VALENCIA FLOODS

CHRISTIAN RASMUSSEN
Staff Contributor

On the night of October 29, Valencia, Spain was impacted by a large flood that affected the great city unexpectedly. Afterward, tens of thousands of Spaniards protested for the Valencia President, Carlos Mazón, to resign after failing to warn the citizens of Valencia of the incoming flood. The flood left nearly 200 dead, and more missing.

The tens of thousands of protestors marched to the city hall of Valencia with signs, demanding that the president resign and other signs that read “You Killed Us!”. The president stated that he “respected” the march and the practice of the right to protest. President Mazón was also under

pressure due to the slow response to the aftermath of the flooding, having thousands of volunteers be the ‘first boots on the ground’, and only days later did government officials mobilize enforcement officers to help with the matter.



PHOTO CREDITS: REUTERS/SUSANA VERA

Mazón argues that his administration was just as in the dark as the peo-

ple of Valencia and that the magnitude of the natural disaster was ‘unforeseeable’, so they did not receive the proper warnings from central authorities. However, it was reported that on the morning of October 29, red alert warnings were sent throughout Spain. At 6 PM, the flooding started, with thousands of people unaware. It wasn’t until 8 PM that Mazón sent warnings to his citizens’ cell phones.

Outraged, the people demanded that Mazón step down as president, as he left his citizens unwarned and helpless in this effort. The citizens claimed: “They should have sent in the army earlier. The king should have made them send it in. Why do we want him as a symbolic figure? He is worthless. The people are alone. They have abandoned us.” Thousands of people are mourning the loss of loved ones, and recovering from their land and homes being demolished.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters can be delivered to CTR 291 or emailed to HUDSONIAN@HVCC.EDU. Letters will be edited for grammar, style, libel and length. To join THE HUDSONIAN, attend our weekly meetings on Mondays at 2 p.m. in ADM 105.

EFFECTS OF SOUTHERN NEW YORK WILDFIRES SEEN IN THE CAPITAL DISTRICT

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THESE FIRES

ALAN CONKLIN

Jr. Layout Editor

Over the past week, the air outside has been eerily reminiscent of last year’s spring Canadian wildfires. But unlike last year, the smoke this time around comes from a more localized area. Wildfires in Jennings Creek and Sterling State Park located right outside of the Catskills have been raging on for days, with the smoke traveling all the way up to cover the majority of the capital region. The blaze, which is split between New York and New Jersey, has required over 250 first responders from over 40 different fire companies to fight. The affected area is over 5,000 acres, which

makes it the worst New York wildfire since 2008.

These fires are believed to have been started due to the drought con-



ditions in the area, as it had not seen rain in 15 days, and the recent falling dead leaves. This combo allowed a series of small fires to quickly turn

out of control. These conditions have also prompted New York state governor Kathy Hochul to put a burn ban in effect for the state until November 30.

But thankfully it looks like the worst of the fires are behind us, as crews are slowly starting to gain the upperhand in controlling the historic blaze. This hopefully means that the air in the capital district should also clear up, as during the height of the wildfires the area was seeing Air Quality Index (AQI) numbers of over 100. Numbers this high are listed as “unhealthy for sensitive groups”, but decrease in air quality was certainly noticeable to anyone outside.

PHOTO CREDITS: KYLE MAZZA/ANADOLU VIA GETTY IMAGES

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: PROPOSAL FOR THE EXPANSION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING SERVICES

HAMIDE AK

Guest Contributor

Our college has taken significant steps to support the academic success, and personal development, and motivation of our current students. However, college can be a stressful, anxious, and challenging time for students, both financially and psychologically, and they may not be able to cope on their own. Students who could achieve great success may underperform academically due to overwhelming anxiety. Thus, I believe that counseling services at the college should be expanded to improve and develop the mental health of students. In light of this, I would like to propose the following recommendations:

1. Increase Psychological Counseling Services: To ensure that services are accessible to students effectively, HVCC increases the number of counselors available. Additional sessions should be offered during high-stress periods, such as exam periods.
2. Provide Psycho-Educational Seminars: Students can gain awareness on vital topics such as stress management, self-esteem development, and time management, which are essential life skills.
3. Make Mental Health Resources More Visible: Information about how students and staff can access mental health services could be made more visible by placing posters and informative materials in more locations.
4. Provide training to other Employees: In addition to school counselors,

other campus staff could receive basic training to help provide psychological support to students. I believe that Hudson Valley Community College, with its strong academic structure, should equally prioritize the mental health of its students. The improvement of psychological support services will significantly enhance their quality of life and academic success. This will further strengthen the college’s student-centered approach. I kindly request that the college administration consider these recommendations and make the necessary arrangements to implement these improvements. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Editor-in-Chief Adam Conklin
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POLITICS

ELISE STEFANIK POTENTIALLY CHOSEN FOR TRUMP’S UN AMBASSADOR

ADEM JONES

Staff Contributor

Elise Stefanik, a Republican representative from New York, has recently been selected by former President Donald Trump to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. This move has sparked both excitement and criticism from various political circles, marking a significant shift in Stefanik’s political career. Stefanik, who has represented New York’s 21st Congressional District since 2015, has been a key figure in Republican politics for quite some time now. Known for her strong support of Trump, she quickly rose to national prominence during his presidency, especially for her defense of his policies and leadership. Her new appointment as U.N. Ambassador comes as Trump prepares for a second term and seeks to shape his foreign policy team. “I am honored to nominate Chair-

woman Elise Stefanik to serve in my Cabinet as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Elise is an incredibly strong, tough, and smart America First fighter,” Trump said in a statement to CBS News. Stefanik’s appointment would represent a significant step for her career and for women in U.S. politics, as she would become one of the few women to hold such a high-profile international position. Her path to the U.N. post follows years of positioning herself as a vocal proponent of domestic and international conservative causes. She has previously argued for a more America-first approach in foreign policy, aligning closely with Trump’s vision. However, Stefanik’s appointment has not been universally praised. Critics have raised concerns about her qualifications for the role, noting that while she has been a member of Congress, she lacks foreign policy experience. Some Democratic leaders argue that the position requires someone

with a deep understanding of global diplomacy and relations, which Stefanik has not demonstrated. “In foreign policy, experience matters,” said Senator Chuck Schumer, a Democrat from New York. “While Elise Stefanik has been an effective politician in her district, the U.N. requires someone with a global perspective, not just partisan loyalty.” The position of U.N. Ambassador is one of the most critical diplomatic roles, as it represents the U.S. on the world stage and oversees the country’s relationship with international organizations. Under the leadership of Nikki Haley, who served as U.N. Ambassador from 2017 to 2018, the U.S. adopted a more confrontational stance toward the United Nations, particularly on issues related to human rights and climate change. Trump’s previous time at the U.N. also saw a withdrawal from various international agreements, a policy that Stefanik has supported in the past. In the Cap- **GO TO ... PG.4**

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11.19.24

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CONT ... STEFANIK ital Region, where Stefanik's name is well-known due to the location of the district she serves, local reactions have been mixed. Some residents express pride in her rising profile, believing her representation at the U.N. could further elevate the region's political status. Others, however, view her appointment as yet another example of how political loyalty and alignment with Trump continue to shape the direction of U.S. foreign policy.

Her district, which covers much of northern New York, has historically been a swing area, and her political rise has often been closely tied to her abili-

ty to appeal to both moderate Republicans and conservative Democrats. This political flexibility could prove beneficial in her new role, where global diplomacy often requires balancing the interests of different nations and political ideologies.

As Stefanik prepares for this next chapter, the nation will be watching closely. Her appointment could signal a shift in U.S. foreign policy back toward a more "America-first" approach, prioritizing American interests above all. It could also mark a new era for Stefanik, one that elevates her from a local representative to a global political player. Whether her time spent as

U.N. Ambassador will solidify her status as a political force or show her limitations in global diplomacy remains to be seen. Either way, Stefanik's ascent reflects the continued centrality of the Trump-aligned Republican establishment in shaping the nation's foreign policy future.



THE FUTURE OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN THE USA

KELLY NGUYEN
Staff Contributor

The landscape of reproductive health in the United States has entered an era of uncertainty marked by evolving state laws, especially the 2024 election. In the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, many states have held referendums and voted on issues concerning abortion access. Referendums are "a general vote/popular vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for direct decision." Due to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, individual states were now

allowed to decide how they wanted to regulate their abortion laws through those referendums. These polls have revealed deep division throughout the nation, with some states expanding abortion rights, while others imposing stricter limitations.

Now what does this mean for IVFs (In Vitro Fertilization)? An IVF is a fertility treatment in which an egg is fertilized outside the body and implanted into the uterus as a treatment for those struggling with infertility. However, lawyers are skeptical of some of the abortion laws coming into place and how they may affect IVF, even if they make no mention of IVF. But due to the definition, it may be an issue. For

example, Arkansas' abortion ban defines an unborn child as something starting at fertilization. So if a law is written that establishes a fertilized egg or embryo as a person, discarding the embryo would be considered a violation of that law, and maybe homicide. Though it is unclear, the law focuses heavily on small details so this may affect IVFs.

As a response to the continuing restrictions on reproductive health, a new movement called the 4B movement has been growing in popularity. The name stands for "Body, Birth, Boundaries, and Beliefs", which emphasize a woman's right to control her own reproductive health due to those

4B's. In a way, the 4B movement is an effort to reclaim bodily autonomy by those who feel differently about the way the abortion laws have been swinging.

With the election of 2024 ending in Donald Trump's victory, there is a possibility that Trump will undergo Project 2025. Though Trump has said "I haven't read it. I don't want to read it — purposefully," speculation still exists as to Trump's beliefs on the matter. Under that project, there is a potential for a national abortion ban. If this ban were enacted, it's likely that efforts to aid coverage with birth control would be reduced. As a result, there would be higher costs for contraception and limit the accessibility of birth control.

OPINION

MOVIE REVIEW: JOKER- FOLIE À DEUX

OLIVIA WILLIAM
Staff Contributor

SPOILERS AHEAD!

Between Oscar's attention and raking in over a billion dollars at the box office, the first *Joker* film created quite the buzz when it came out. So naturally, the announcement of a sequel was sure to draw attention. Unfortunately, the first film's momentum did not seep into the sequel. Although the cinematography and acting are still well done; the musical aspect, the plot, and its implications fall short.

Joaquin Phoenix plays the character of the Joker (Arthur Fleck) impressively. He still manages to make him a hauntingly sympathetic character, as he did in the first film. Here he elevates what the script has laid out for him. Lady Gaga does the best she can with her character as Lee and elevates the small number of scenes she has as well.

Some of the musical numbers are beautifully shot with great production design. However, most of the singing doesn't occur during these numbers, it occurs when the characters are "talk-singing" to one another. The movie could be split down the middle in terms of dialogue versus singing, it

doesn't fully commit to either aspect entirely. Which may leave musical lovers and comic book fans unsatisfied for rivaling reasons. While the full musical numbers do explore the Joker's fantasies, they do little to move the plot forward. Generally in a musical, the numbers move the plot forward, but here it's as if the movie pauses in time for these musical numbers to take place, and then continues on with the story.

There are well-done scenes within the movie, notably scenes containing dialogue between the main leads and a few scenes that take place in the courthouse, but as a whole, the film feels lackluster.

It cannot be ignored that an aspect of

the allure of the movie is due to its title character. The first movie does have more callbacks that liken Arthur Fleck to the Joker of the comic books, but the second movie deconstructs that notion, Joker and Harley (or Lee as the movie calls her) barely showcase attributes similar to the characters they are based on, which may leave the general audience disinterested.

The Joker has a character study done on him yet again, but not as extensively or as interestingly as its predecessor. The first film built him up to wear his makeup, to become the Joker. *Folie à Deux* takes that makeup off. It essentially brings the character down to where he had been at the beginning of the first movie.



The first film had clear and interesting commentary, and this sequel also aims to provide commentary, but not so much on the character(s) of the movie or the societal themes of the film, but more so on the audience that enjoyed and related to the first film. The reality is, for better or for worse, many individuals found something to relate to with the main character, and when that pivotal character is so brutally torn down on screen, it makes it a particularly difficult watch for those individuals. It's almost as if the director, Todd Phillips, wanted to undo what he had built up from his first movie. Generally, as this sequel deconstructs the first film, it leaves lovers of the first film dissatisfied. This isn't helped by the fact that the movie ends on a dreary note.

Perhaps as a standalone, *Joker: Folie à Deux* would have been better received. However, since it is a sequel to a well-liked film, comparisons come naturally; and when it fails to live up to expectations, whether that be the folly of the filmmakers or the audience, it fails to receive the desired reception. I wouldn't consider *Joker: Folie à Deux* an entirely bad movie, but labeling it as disappointing seems appropriate.

ALBUM REVIEW: COWBOY CARTER

ADEM JONES
Staff Contributor

Beyoncé's album *Cowboy Carter* is more than just a musical release, it's a powerful celebration of Black culture, an exploration of history, and a reclamation of identity. As a proud member of the Black community, I can't help but

be in awe of how the album blends genres, honors ancestral roots, and showcases Beyoncé's immense growth as an artist.

One of the most striking elements of *Cowboy Carter* is how it redefines the country genre by weaving in the experiences of Black Texans and their contributions to cowboy culture. Texas, long considered a heartland of country

music, has a rich yet underexplored history of Black cowboys. The album shines a light on these unsung figures, presenting them as proud, resilient, and deeply connected to the land. Beyoncé's choice to center these stories is a powerful reminder that Black history is woven into every aspect of American culture, even in spaces where we have traditionally been overlooked. By combining her signature style with

country and Western influences, she highlights that the Black experience in America isn't just confined to an urban one, but stretches into rural spaces and histories as well.

In *Cowboy Carter*, Beyoncé taps into a range of sounds and genres, incorporating everything from traditional country rhythms to soulful ballads, and even a bit of hip-hop flair. It's an album that feels **GO TO ... PG.5**

THE HUDSONIAN

11.19.24

CONT ... COWBOY

expansive like Beyoncé is not only celebrating Black history but also crafting a new era for music itself. This genre-blending showcases her versatility, but it also calls attention to the intersectionality of Black culture, where multiple influences come together to create something uniquely powerful. The album feels like a bridge between past and present, honoring Black cowboys who lived generations ago while also speaking to a modern audience about resilience, resistance, and pride.

The album’s emotional depth is also worth noting. On tracks like ‘BLACK-BIRD,’ ‘AMERICAN REQUIEM,’ and ‘YA YA,’ Beyoncé gives voice to the struggles and triumphs of Black people in ways that feel deeply personal, yet universally relatable. The lyrics tell stories of hardship, joy, and the search for freedom, reflecting themes that resonate not just with Black Americans but with anyone who has experienced oppression or fought for their place in the world. For Black listeners,

there’s an undeniable sense of pride and solidarity in hearing these stories set to music, knowing that Beyoncé is unapologetically elevating Black narratives at the forefront of mainstream music.

While Beyoncé is an icon and a global superstar, her ability to remain deeply connected to her roots is what makes Cowboy Carter so impactful, this is reflected heavily in songs like ‘16 CARRIAGES,’ and ‘JUST FOR FUN.’ The album feels intimate, personal, and deeply committed to uplifting the Black commu-

nity. Each song exudes confidence, strength, and a sense of unity, something that can be both empowering and healing. For many in the Black community, music has always served as a source of uplifting and a way to connect with our history. With Cowboy Carter, Beyoncé has crafted an album that is not only for her fans but for the Black community as a whole, offering a sonic space to celebrate our culture, our heritage, and our shared struggles. The album also continues Beyoncé’s tradition of defying expectations and



OPINION: ARE HALLOWEEN DISPLAYS A FORM OF ART?

MATTHIAS MOJALLALI
Opinions Editors

Halloween displays have gained much popularity after COVID-19. While once a niche interest and craft for some, social distancing caused many to want to travel to see amazing, man-made sights around Halloween. While most just see it as a spooky craft to give families a fun fright and the homeowner’s association a temper tantrum, would this be considered an art form? Is creating Halloween displays a form of creativity and expression? I believe it’s impossible to argue that it isn’t.

In 2017, I was inspired to create my own Halloween display based on the other displays I had seen online. While the name has evolved over the years,

finally I settled on the name “Twilight Town” in 2023. Made up of wooden structures, robots designed to look like monsters, and lights, each section of Twilight Town feels alive. Each of the sections, otherwise known as “themes,” are made up of a collage of decorations to depict a scene. Through my display, or “haunt” as I like to call



it, I depict many different things people fear. Things such as a zombified laboratory, a murder barn, a circus of psychos, or even a dilapidated general store. Work and effort go into making these themes feel real and stunning, thus making it a form of self expression through art. However, Halloween display creation

(better known as “home haunting” online) isn’t just something limited to a few people. There are thousands of people on social media who spend the entire year working on their Halloween displays. Some will go all out with creating movie quality puppets and robots to scare trick or treaters. Yet to this day, many people don’t seem to acknowledge the amount of art and creativity that goes into scaring the neighborhood. The art of creating Halloween displays should be regarded as an art form and not just 100% goofing around. Just like traditional art, home haunting will always evoke emotions of awe and horror from people. That makes it a true art form.

QR CODE: TWILIGHT TOWN WALK-THROUGH (HORRIBLEBOO)

GAME REVIEW: STARDEW VALLEY

HEAVEN CARTER
Staff Contributor

Tired of the same old boring routine? Tired of working for some mega corporation that does nothing but drain your energy? Well you sure deserve some rest and relaxation. Stardew Valley is the perfect game to pick up if you enjoy a medium passed cozy farming sim. Without spoiling too much of the game, after inheriting your totally not deceased grandpa’s farm and accepting the offer to quit your job and move to the countryside you soon introduce yourself to the fel-

low residents, about 28, including the happy go lucky mayor. And after playing for a couple days, earning resources and recipes you learn that the town community center has been out of service for many years. Made by a single developer stardew valley has been a huge staple in indie games ever since it came out and with its newest there are even more life improvements and a new farm to choose on the main menu, again without spoiling too much. One thing I will spoil is that your avatar now has the option to drink mayonnaise.Which is absolutely not an instrument.

Also game mechanic wise there are daily seasonal events per year, so there’s multiple opportunities to get special items for your farm. I absolutely adore this game and have been getting back into it after the long wait for the update for console and I highly recommend it. It’s a really really great way to pass



time as well, with managing said time for each day in the game.

VALUES FOR VIKINGS - OUTLET STORES

MOLLY GRAIFF
Staff Contributor

With Black Friday right around the corner, shoppers eagerly await great deals. While it’s true that many retail stores drop their prices on November 29, you can do another kind of shopping that allows for year-round savings. Outlet stores are similar to malls, as you can shop at many stores next to each other. The beauty of the outlets, however, is the prices. Many outlet stores offer the same items you’d find

in the retail store but with a better value. The clearance sections are known to be home to great products for a fraction of the cost. The closest outlets to HVCC are Lee Premium Outlets at 17 Premium Outlet Blvd, Lee, MA 01238, and the Outlets at Lake George at 1424 US-9, Lake George, NY 12845. Being each about 45 minutes from campus, these locations con-



tain stores such as Old Navy, Under Armour, and Coach. There are constant sales promotions at both outlet locations but particularly around Black Friday is when the deals start to heat up. These outlet stores are a great one-stop shop for holiday shopping. While scanning the clearance section is certainly a great tip to find hidden gems, a lot of stores offer

whole-store discounts as well. If you are interested in purchasing a higher ticket item such as a purse from Kade Spade or Vera Bradley, it’s highly likely that you’ll get a nice deal on their products also. When deciding whether or not to travel to the outlets this Black Friday season I would recommend taking a look at which stores are present where so you can optimize your trip. It’s also best to head there before the snow and winter come for a more enjoyable shopping experience. Overall, I’d suggest taking a trip to the outlets before the deals are done!

PHOTO CREDITS: JDALEX

ARTS & LIFE

Cabin Fever

By M.M. Stephens



SHORT STORY: THE PURPLE ENVELOPE

SAMARUN SUHANA
Sports Editor

Continuing with the FBI’s findings in the Mason Kim case, this pertains to the letters found in the Corvette. There were four letters found, this is what was written in the purple envelope, addressed to “Beloved” and signed off with “MK.” The following was discovered.

You are out of my grasp.

Your love is out of my grasp. Maybe it doesn’t exist but it will soon. I reach out my arms for you, but no one holds me back. I feel no embrace, where are you?

I want to love and in return be loved. I run to the silhouette I assume to be you only to find no one on the other side. You’re the light at the end of the tunnel yet it

feels like I created that light. I see you in front of my first car – my two loves. I reach for you but you vanish just as

Where are you going, my beloved? Don’t you want to see me? Because I can see you.



love. The way you ignore me is unacceptable, why do such a thing to someone you love? I need to find a way for you to recognize me and I will do whatever it takes. I don’t think you understand, I need you to survive. People tell me I’m obsessed with you but I’m not, I just happen to be wherever you are.

This is fate, why can’t you see that? This is what love is. Why won’t you come to me? I’m right here. Why do you not love me? Your love is all that I long for and yet it is out of my grasp. Those affectionate words I crave, that recognition I want, that physical touch that I hope for, that devotion I yearn for, that romance I desire is out of my grasp. I will have you soon.

You are out of my grasp.

For now.

-MK.

soon as I can see your warm smile. I can and will do anything for your

SHORT STORY: FRAGMENTED UNREALITY CH 2

TYLER DINUZZO
Staff Contributor

Trekking through the seemingly infinite landscape of snow, a cacophony of questions reverberated through my head, loud enough to silence any logic. This strange girl, Kara Lovestring, was leading me somewhere. She said she could help me. Maybe she’s able to ease my mind? I stopped myself there. Naivety is a weakness. She could very well be leading me to my doom. Is she

working with humans? Are they hoping to dispatch me once and for all? Have they all been hiding?

I flinched as something came into contact with my shoulder. It was Kara, and that something was her hand.

“I’m designed to detect any grievances within a mind. You’re anxious.” Kara gently whispered. “Please don’t be anxious. I promise I’m not going to hurt you. I just want to help.”

“So, you can read my mind.” I stammered, attempting in vain to maintain my stoicism. While stoicism wouldn’t

mean much in the presence of a supernatural ability like that, the chance of trickery was still very real. I didn’t want to take that chance.

“Read your mind? Not quite. I can merely read what emotions are generated by your thoughts. Reading your mind would be an immoral invasion of privacy.”

“And reading my emotions isn’t?” I barely slipped another stoic sentence out, as my mind raced. Sure, she couldn’t read my mind, but she could read my emotions. She could see past

my masquerade, and that was a problem.

“Well, it’s not as supernatural as you may think. Emotions are always expressed through body language. Your face may droop, your body may slouch. I am merely designed to do these computations at a long distance.”

“Interesting. And, why exactly am I supposed to trust that? My emotions are quite the opposite of what you claim.”

Her previously saccharine facial expression seemed to drop at this remark.

“Well, **GO TO ... PG 7**

CONT ... FRAG

we're here. Please enter that cave." she gestured towards a dark opening in a white cliffside, illuminated by an orange light inside. Every ounce of logic I had told me to avoid that cave at all costs.

Unfortunately, I am not the logical person I masquerade as. I stepped into the cave, Kara following close behind. The cave was dark, but there was a soft glow in the center, illuminating some various rudimentary weapons and materials littering the walls. Right by

the light, there was the very thing my logic told me there would be.

A human. Our enemy.

Why would this fellow machine side with a human? Did the human trick her? These questions blasted through-out my mind, but I quickly put them aside to pull out my blade. It was now or never.

Kara gasped and grabbed me from behind. The human stared at me, un-phased. I fought to break free of Kara's grasp, but she was a lot stronger than I had anticipated.

"Wait." The human spoke with a

gravelly voice. "Kara. Let him go."

Kara promptly removed her arms from me, allowing me free reign. I prepared to strike the human with all my might.

"Kara, do me a favor," the man spoke, "I'm sensing another anxious soul out there. Go bring them here."

"B-but... this machine is terrified! Are you sure you can soothe him on your own?" she stammered.

"Yes." the man spoke succinctly.

Kara hesitated for a moment, before shuffling out of the cave and off into the distance. Every bit of me wanted to

take this chance to destroy the human, but I hesitated. What an odd decision he just made. Maybe it wouldn't hurt to learn more about this human, if only for the sake of strategy.

"Listen, Kara doesn't know about you human hunters," he started, "I know it's taking every ounce of your being to resist killing me on the spot. I've run into enough of your type before."

I stared for a moment, perplexed. He continued.

"Sit down for a moment. We have a lot to discuss."

GAMES

SPACE WORD SEARCH!

CAN YOU FIND THEM ALL?

A	L	T	O	T	S	G	A	L	A	X	Y	A	N
B	P	U	M	I	L	K	Y	W	A	Y	S	E	R
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ORBIT
PLANET
STAR
COSMOS
ECLIPSE
GALAXY
ROCKET
COMET
ASTEROID
ASTRONAUT
UNIVERSE
QUASAR
MOON
SATURN
BLACKHOLE
PULSAR
NEBULA
METEOR
TELESCOPE
MILKYWAY

SPORTS

THIS WEEK IN HVCC SPORTS

IZZIE HOLT

Business Manager

Men's Basketball went neck and neck with Herkimer College, losing their game 68-71. They played this game on the away campus, in Herkimer, NY, on November 13. The team was led by sophomore Keyaton Parks, who scored 19 points. Players James Blake and Hobbs Herlihy also helped the Vikings, each adding 12 points to the score themselves. Overall, Vikings held the score as close as they could, despite falling to the opponent.



Women's Basketball also played against Herkimer College, falling to the Generals with a final score of 56-64. The team played the away game on the opponents courts, on November 13. The team was led by player Stylianna Mantzouris, who scored a total of 18 points. She was followed by Leah Pergola and Mayanna Faraj, each scoring 11 points.

SPORTS OPINION: MONEY IS RUINING YOUTH SPORTS

ADEM JONES

Staff Contributor

Youth sports have become a significant part of many children's lives. These opportunities don't just offer physical exercise, but opportunities for personal growth and development. However, in recent years, youth sports have become increasingly inaccessible to families with limited financial means. What was once a simple extracurricular activity has turned into a financial burden for many, with costs steadily increasing for participation, uniforms, equipment, and travel. This pay-to-play system threatens to leave behind a large portion of youth who are unable to afford these opportunities, and it's time to consider how we can make sports more accessible to all children, regardless of their family's income.

The financial barriers are significant. For example, in some cases, the costs for a single season of sports can easily exceed \$1,000, and that doesn't

even include the price of travel for games or tournaments. A recent article from The New York Times highlights that youth sports have evolved into an expensive enterprise, with families often shelling out thousands of dollars a year. Sports organizations have become profit-driven, prioritizing elite, competitive leagues over recreational opportunities. For many families, these expenses are simply too much to bear, which means children miss out on activities that could foster teamwork, discipline, and resilience.

The growing financial burden has created a system where only children from higher-income families can participate in top-tier sports programs, which has much wider implications. Children from lower-income households may miss out on opportunities to be active, develop important social skills, and learn the value of working toward a goal. Sports are about more than just winning, they teach valuable life lessons that can shape children into well-rounded individuals. When participation is restricted to only those who can afford it, we lose out on nur-

turing potential in young people from all walks of life.

What's also concerning is how this pay-to-play culture has altered the focus of youth sports. For parents or coaches, it's easy to see that the emphasis has shifted from fun, inclusive recreation to a win-at-all-costs mentality. Leagues are more competitive than ever, and the pressure on children to succeed can be overwhelming. Sports should be about fostering a love for the game and encouraging personal growth, not about pushing children to perform at an elite level before they even reach their teens. With so many children unable to participate due to cost, the joy of playing becomes something that only a select few experience.

So, what can be done to address this problem? First, we must recognize that youth sports should be a right, not a privilege. Local governments, schools, and nonprofit organizations can help reduce costs for families who cannot afford the high fees. Community-based programs that emphasize participation over competition can offer children a chance to experience sports in a less

financially demanding way. There are already some great initiatives aimed at providing free or low-cost sports opportunities, but these efforts need to be expanded and supported on a larger scale.

Sports organizations and businesses involved in youth sports need to rethink their priorities. Reducing fees for participation, offering scholarships, or creating sliding scales for families based on income can help make these opportunities more accessible. We need to shift the focus back to inclusivity and fun, rather than turning every league into an exclusive, expensive, elite-level competition.

Youth sports have the potential to provide valuable experiences that shape children into confident, capable adults. But if the financial barriers continue to rise, we risk excluding a large portion of youth who would benefit from these opportunities. It's time to make youth sports accessible for all, regardless of income, so that every child has the chance to learn, grow, and thrive through the joy of sports.

JOEY LOGANO WINS 3RD NASCAR CHAMPIONSHIP

ALAN CONKLIN

Jr. Layout Editor

And just like that, one of the longest sports seasons in the United States has come to an end. Starting on February 18 with the Daytona 500 and ending this past weekend on November 10 at Phoenix, the last laps have been run for NASCAR's 76th season. Crossing the finish line first in Phoenix and by doing so also clinching the championship, was the driver of the #22 Pennzoil Ford for Penske Racing, Joey Logano. This marked Logano's fourth win of the season, and third in the last 10 races, which puts him in second for wins on the season only behind Kyle Larson's six. But besides his impressive stats in the win column, the rest of his season left a lot to be desired, and many fans feel like the sport's newest three time champ is undeserving of the title.

When Logano held off teammate and defending champion Ryan Blaney to win the championship last week-

end, he became the driver with the worst average finish to ever do so in any era of NASCAR at an abysmal 17.1. But utilizing the playoffs' unique sys-

ing it in only on even years. On top of that, Penske Racing is currently three for three for championships since NA-

SCAR implemented the Next Gen car for the 2022 season. But this is despite them not having the winningest driver in any of those years, as well as never clinching the regular season championship. But recent postseason heroics for drivers who have entered as underdogs has not seen as much praise as it

does in stick-and-ball sports, and after this most recent and most aggressive example, the playoff system as a whole is coming under massive scrutiny.

With 2024 now being the third year in a row where the "most deserving" and successful driver throughout all 36 races has not won the championship, fans are calling for a return to a more season-long focused point system. Despite one of the best seasons in decades racing wise, the end championship result leaves a lot of fans with a bad taste in their mouth as they wait the over 100 days until the 2025 season starts up with Daytona in February. While NASCAR is committed to a playoff type postseason for next year, they have indicated that they will look into making tweaks to the system over the offseason in hopes to retain the hype surrounding a playoff race, yet ensure that regular season success and consistency is properly weighted in the crowning of the next champion.



PHOTO CREDITS: AP PHOTO/JOHN LOCHER