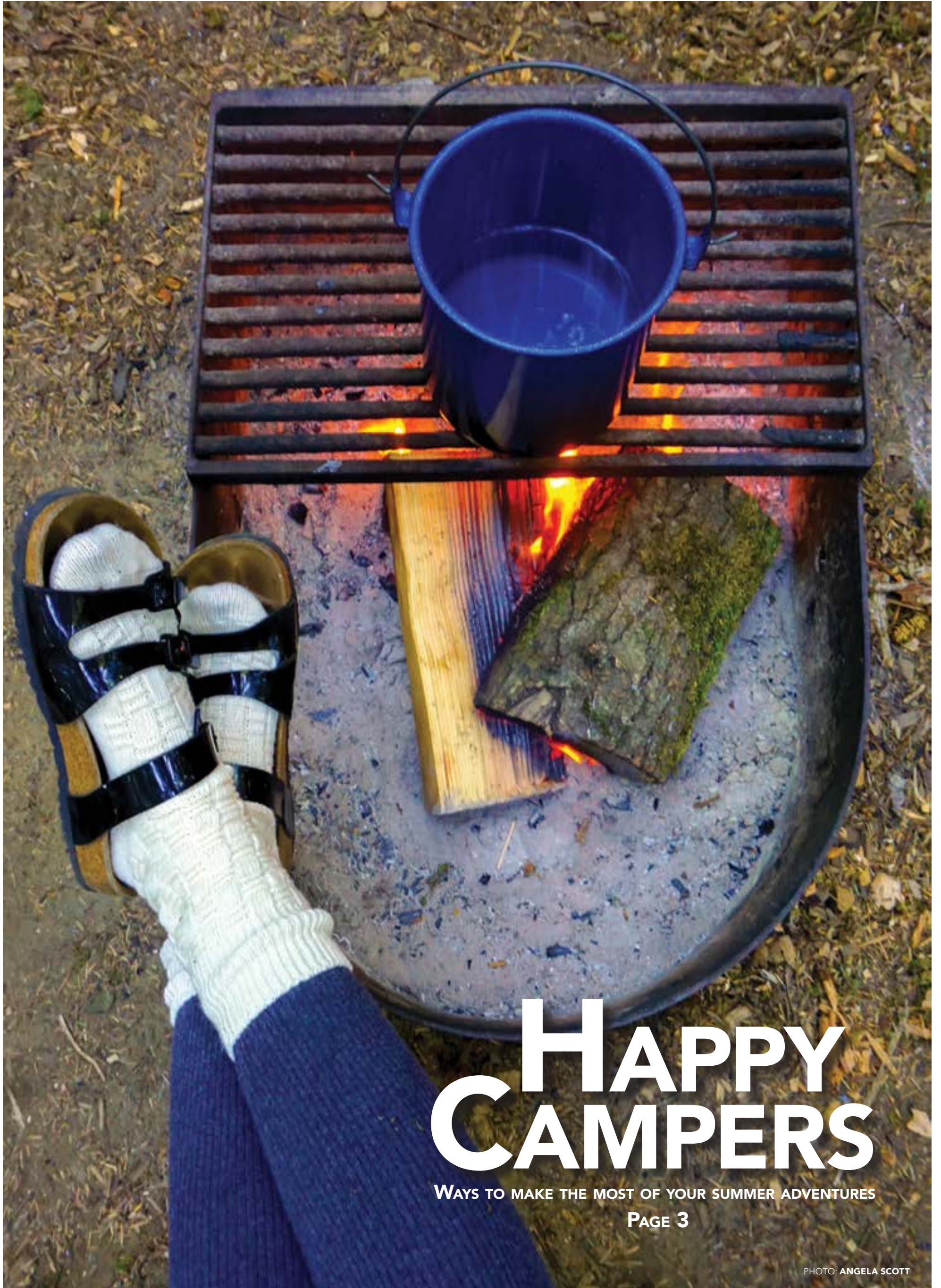


COMMUTER

VOL. 50 EDITION 1



AUGUST 1, 2018



HAPPY CAMPERS

WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER ADVENTURES

PAGE 3

THE LINN-BENTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMUTER

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for LBCC, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty and students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters, and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Letters Welcome

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. The Commuter attempts to print all submissions received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter submitters do not represent the views of the Commuter staff or the College. Deliver letters to:

Address:

The Commuter
Forum 222
6500 Pacific Blvd. SW
Albany, OR 97321

Web Address:

LBCCommuter.com

Phone:

541-917-4451, 4452 or 4449

Email:

commuter@linnbenton.edu



Twitter

@LBCCommuter



Facebook

The Commuter

Our Staff

Adviser

Rob Priewe

Editor-in-Chief

Alex Gaub

Layout Designer

Rebecca Fewless

Managing Editor

Sarah Melcher

Digital Editor

Josh Stickrod

A&E

Steven Pryor

Photography

Angela Scott - Editor

Web Master

Marci Sischo

Advertising

Vicki Ballesterio

Contributors

Millicent Durand

Adel Faksh

Lee Frazier

Cam Hanson

Maureen Woisard

Taryn Sustello

M. Nabis

Becky Howell

STRAHAN SET TO APPEAR IN FEDERAL COURT

Former LBCC student Christopher Strahan indicted on federal charges

STORY BY MILLICENT DURAND

It has been four months since Oregon State University students got an email alert warning of several threats to the school posted on Twitter by a user going by the name "Hard Belly Dorm." Now, that the dust is settled, former LBCC Student Christopher Strahan has been federally charged with one count of making interstate communication of a threat to injure the person of another.

According to Cornell University's Legal Information Institute, Strahan has been charged under U.S. Code 875 (c) which can carry up to five years in prison.

While Strahan has been in jail ever since his arrest in February of this year, prosecutors dismissed the charges once federal authorities took over in March, according to the Corvallis Gazette-Times. He has been in the



custody of the U.S. Marshals.

Strahan has pled not guilty and was denied bond during his initial

appearance in court in March, being determined "a flight risk and danger to the community."

Strahan will again appear in front of a judge on August 22.

In a series of tweets posted in late February, Strahan threaten to "shoot up" the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis, while also comparing himself to Parkland, Florida shooter Nikolas Cruz.

"There'll be disorientation crying and a whole lot of emergency responders at orientation" read one of Strahan's tweets.

Strahan is currently barred from taking classes on LBCC's campus by the administration. It is still unclear if Strahan will be allowed back on campus upon his release.

THE WATER IS FINE, LITTERING IS NOT

COLUMN BY SARAH

Last weekend, a couple of friends and I decided to go to a swimming hole near Foster Lake to combat the summer heat.

It's pretty tucked away, and most people don't seem to know about it, save for the locals.

To get to it, it's a beautiful, short walk up a shallow river. I'd say the swimming hole is about a quarter of a mile up it. Along the walk are high rock faces with long vines about thirty feet high. There's even a spot where the rock cuts in behind the vines, creating a small cave behind the vines.

Sounds gorgeous, right?

Well, it could be if it weren't for one thing.

Garbage.

From the minute we stepped into the river and walked up to the swimming hole, there were piles of garbage all along it. We even encountered a fish and crawdad lying belly up and lifeless at the bottom of the river.

I can't say for sure that garbage is what sent those creatures to their shallow, watery graves. However, I can say for sure that it did not help their chances of survival.

In fact, thanks to littering, there's an estimated 100,000 birds, marine animals, and sea turtles that die each year, according to the whale and

dolphin conservation (www.wdcs.org).

Research has shown that littering is much more likely to occur when there's already garbage somewhere it shouldn't be, according to conserve-energy-future.com. The litter already on the ground tells us that it's okay to just add to the pile, and that someone else will pick it up. That couldn't be any more wrong.

Don't let litter have that effect on you. Be aware of the fact that if you see garbage somewhere besides a proper receptacle, it shouldn't be there.

I urge you to pick it up if you see it. I wish I'd had a garbage bag, or anything at all to pick up all the garbage I saw at the river that day.

When you go out and enjoy the beauty of our state during these final days of summer, remember two sayings:

"Leave No Trace," and, "Pack It In, Pack It Out."

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has seven principles to leave no trace when your visiting a natural area, whether it be a local park or a backcountry area. In that list is "Dispose of Waste Properly."

It applies to litter, human waste, and wastewater. Basically, always pack out anything you packed in, and you should always leave a place cleaner than you found it. Although, you should never remove any naturally occurring items, and don't disturb wildlife. They say, "Take only pictures, leave only footprints."

So, if you're out enjoying some cool swimming hole, or going on a nice hike this summer, don't be the asshole that leaves garbage behind.



COURTESY: PEXELS



SUMMER STAPLES

A few tips to make sure the rest of your summer is one to remember

PHOTO: ANGELA SCOTT

COLUMN BY **ALEX GAUB**

Summer is about to start winding down, but there are still plenty of hot days coming up to get the most out of your break. Whether you are taking classes, working, or both, it's essential to get outside and enjoy the Northwest at its finest. These are the hot days and warm nights that you'll miss when the cold winter rains have set in, and you find yourself reminiscing about grilling up a burger after a swim in the lake. Here is a list of summer essentials to help you get the most out of the final days of the season.

Outdoor Fire Pit

If you have a backyard or a community garden, it's a great idea to have a place that your family and friends can all be brought together. With a screen occupying a lot of our time, we can use a fire pit to bring us back to our roots as a tribe gathered around a flame.

There are many options to bring this enjoyment to your house. You can pick up a fire pit at many stores, or you can find a lot of diy projects on pinterest or youtube. If you go with the diy option, using an old washing machine drum can provide a cheap and fun project. The drum offers good ventilation and high walls to help control of the fire, keeping you and your community safe.

A Favorite Swimming Hole

It was almost in the hundreds most of last week. That means you need to find water, and fast. Sometimes driving out 45 minutes to the nearest lake isn't going to cut it. Our area is blessed with many other options, such as the Mary's River, The Willamette River, The Santiam River, and a bunch of other tributaries that feed into these.

Location will probably help you in deciding your favorite spot, because an important part is that you go often. Many popular spots will fill up in the evening and on weekends, so hitting it in the morning for a quick wake up is sometimes the best option. If you have a dog that swims, they'll thank you for the exercise.

If you live in Corvallis, Avery Park offers a few swimming holes that are within walking distance of downtown. An afternoon spent down by the river can



PHOTO: SARAH MELCHER

Jonathan Claro enjoys a firepit in a friend's backyard.

be followed up with a burger either grilled by yourself in the park, or you can meander across the river and visit many of the brew pubs downtown. Sky High Brewery has a rooftop with fire pits and an amazing view of Corvallis. If you catch it at sunset it can be a great place to relax and soak up the last rays of sun.

For a longer day out on the water, floating down the Willamette River through Corvallis can be a great way to spend it. If you get in on the south end of Willamette Park in Corvallis, you can get out at the Old Spaghetti Factory. It only takes an hour or so, which means you can even get a relaxing evening out of it if you decide to float after work.

There are plenty of spots close to Corvallis or Albany, so don't feel like you need to drive out to Foster Lake or Green Peter Reservoir to get a water fix.

Grilled Food

It's fast, easy, and amazing. There are so many options when it comes to creating a meal on the grill. If you are a vegetarian, vegan, or anything in between it's impossible not to love the ease and flavor that grilling food can bring to the table.

When it comes to making food for a large group of people, grilling is always the easiest thing to do. It's no wonder we find ourselves around a grill in the summertime with our family and friends. Grilling can also give us the option of location. If you want to get out of town for a day, or you are hanging out at your local park on a Sunday, all you need to do is pack a cooler and some briquets and you're ready to go.

A Coast Trip

One nice thing about living in the Willamette Valley is our proximity to the Oregon Coast. Even when fires rage inland, making breathing difficult, and pollution from our billion grass seed farms makes living a challenge, the coast doesn't lose its ability to drown out worries and air pollution with a salty breeze.

Options for a coast trip are as limited as your imagination. You can make a short-day trip out of it, surfing in the morning on South Beach, shopping in the quaint little shops in Newport, then ending back at the beach with some fresh crab from the South Beach Fish Market and a fire.

It's also an option to make a multi-day trip out of it. There are good sections of the Pacific Coast Trail that stretch along the coast, as well as other trails that have an option for camping.

A recommended coast trip includes a three-hour drive to Seaside, hiking up the Tillamook Head Trail National Recreation Trail, and seeing the sunset drop below the Pacific from a perch on a hundred-foot cliff. The trail is well travelled but has a couple sections of steep switchbacks. At the top of the trail, about 5 miles in, there are a few shelters that offer four sleeping areas each. It's best to get there earlier in the day to scoop up a spot, but even if you get there later in the evening, if you pack a tent, you will have plenty of room to pitch it.



PHOTO: SARAH MELCHER

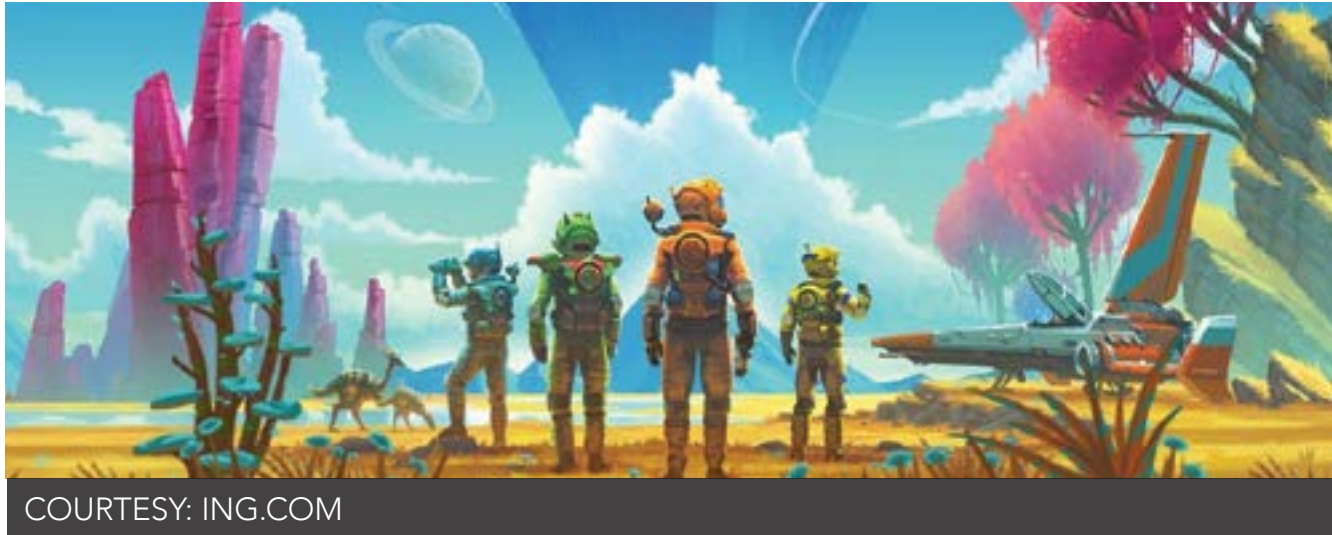
To get the most out of your glamping trip, pack an outdoor rug and battery-powered twinkle lights to make your campsite feel cozy.



PHOTO: ANGELA SCOTT

The Sea Lion Caves are located just outside of Florence, Oregon on Highway 101.

ANOTHER SHOT AT THE STARS



COURTESY: ING.COM

GAME REVIEW:

No Man's Sky

PUBLISHER: Hello Games
PLATFORM: PS4, Xbox One, PC
RATED: T
INITIAL RELEASE: Aug. 9 2016
UPDATE RELEASE: July 23 2018
OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

REVIEW BY CAM HANSON

When touted space exploring adventure “No Man’s Sky” initially came out in 2016, it met a wall of criticism and backlash that no game in recent memory had seen before. This wasn’t without reason. For years, “No Man’s Sky” was advertised as a revolutionary space explorer with an endless universe, and they meant this quite literally. Using a revolutionary game engine, the game was able to create an endless span of solar systems with various organisms and environments inhabiting them. They delivered on this, but not quite the way people had seen at various game conventions where head game designer, Sean Murray, showed it off. They have slowly worked towards a more complete game, but two years later, is it enough?

“No Man’s Sky”, developed by British developer Hello Games, initially released on August 9, 2016 and after almost 5 years of hype and expectation. However, due to it’s issues, the game fell flat on its face. The game has you take the control of an unidentified spaceman who wakes up on a randomly generated planet. From here you must find the resources to rebuild your ship and take off to the stars. When released in 2016, there was no character customization or any way of seeing your player, and although Hello Games touted the ability to play with other players, the in-game universe was far too large to even encounter another player. One incident saw a player finding another person on a planet via streaming site Twitch, but the players model wasn’t visible despite being on the exact same planet as the other player.

As you can guess, this caused major backlash in the community. On top of the bland and mindless

gameplay cycle of finding a new planets (those of which had almost none of the fun and variety they had in the games advertisement) and mining for pointless resources, the games advertised “center of the universe” was nothing but a continuation of the game you had played the first 10 hours, as the center turned out to be a wormhole that takes you to another random universe with nothing to do in it.

After this, many people gave up on the game, including myself. Sean Murray hung his head in shame as people got their money back and even attempted to sue the small game company for false advertisement. Those who stuck around however, were in for quite the treat.

Hello Games continued to support and update the game throughout the ensuing months. Updates that introduced space combat, base creation, and even the colonization of planets ensued the coming months, and it was all topped by Hello Games’ most recent addition, No Man’s Sky “Next”, the massive new update finally added real working multiplayer with up to 4 players in a game, but does it make the endless journey through the stars more enjoyable?

The short answer, yes, but not without a few hiccups. After the new update dropped on July 23rd, I quickly blew the dust off of my copy and tried it out with a friend. The changes are noticeable and apparent, but are followed by a few game breaking glitches that almost ruined the playability entirely for me, but I continued to work with the game. They quickly released a stability update that fixed most of the glitches, but some audio issues, such as song breaks still occurred.

The best part about the update is that the good outweigh the bad, and it shows. Many core elements of the games building and resource collecting have been overhauled, and make the process a tad bit easier when traversing the stars. While you may still find dead asteroids with no oxygen and minimal plant life, you might stumble on huge new planets with continents and oceans that hold a variety of things to discover. In one of my first planetary encounters, my friend and I soon discovered a planet covered in a dense and deep jungle that outletted into a vast sea with bright red snake creatures that flowed through the ocean like smooth velvet. Not only did this one singular planet provide organisms and new, rare resources, but it also held abandoned space stations with lore behind various intelligent alien life forms that inhabit the universe. Keep in mind this was just one planet out of the virtually endless ones you could discover in the game.

While most of these features should have been in the game during the launch, “No Man’s Sky” has redeemed itself in the best way possible. The work Hello Games did while facing the adversity of their initial launch is respectable and shows in the new overhaul of the game. No longer are the stars dead and empty, but are now brimming with various new life and opportunities to explore on your quest of becoming the greatest space colonizer in the universe. “No Man’s Sky” may have gone through a rough and long cycle, but to say it hasn’t improved would be neglecting the obvious. Seeing how well the game has developed has proven that with dedication, changes to one’s work can truly be astronomical.

“FATHER OF THE YEAR” OFFERS MINDLESS FUN

REVIEW BY LEE FRAZIER

Happy Madison Productions is at it again. After a slew of subpar, poorly rated films, they have made and released “Father of the Year.” Don’t let the 5.2 rating on IMDB sway you though. If you’re looking for a simple comedy that focuses on family bonds and redemption, and that attempts to get the message across the easiest way possible, then this film is for you.

The trailer for the film gives the impression that this may be another mindless comedy from HMP, which seems to have fallen from grace since their last hit, “Pixels,” which brought in \$245 million, more than three times the budget. It is hard to compare their newest releases since they are going straight to Netflix and are not reported on for their gross, but since 2015, HMP has been inconsistent in producing good films.

“Father of the Year” focuses on the relationship between Wayne (David Spade), and his son Ben (Joey Bragg). After graduating from college, Ben returns to his hometown to spend a couple of weeks with his childhood friends and his father, before moving to New York to start a new job. When Ben and his friend Larry (Matt Shively) have a childish conversation about

who’s dad would win in a fight, they both choose their own dads. Wayne finds out about the challenge and feeling that his son thinks that he is a failure, he accepts the challenge to prove he is the dominant male, and a winner. Needless to say, things go awry, and relationships and jobs are put into jeopardy.

Wayne takes it upon himself to fix the problems he has caused by helping his son achieve his goals. Ben is forced to look within himself to find what is right. He learns that family is the most important thing, and that doing the right thing, sometimes, isn’t the thing you thought you wanted.

I had low expectations going into this film, having watched all of Happy Madison Productions that have went straight to Netflix, but that may have made the film better. I came away with the positive message that was delivered in the silliest of ways, and still the message was clear, family is everything. After watching this, you will probably appreciate your family and friends more as well, because hopefully they’re not too much like the characters in the film.

The characters were played well by each of the

MOVIE REVIEW:

Father of the Year

DISTRIBUTOR: Netflix
STARRING: David Spade, Nat Faxon, Joey Bragg, Matt Shively, Bridgit Mendler, Jackie Sandler, Mary Gillis, and Jared Sandler
PRODUCTION: Happy Madison Productions
DIRECTOR: Tyler Spindel
RATED: TV-14
OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

actors, with decent standout performances by Matt Shively and Bridgit Mendler, who hasn’t had much screen time since playing Candace on “Undateable.” These two characters are just secondary to the overall story, being the best friend and love interest, but it is their stories that push the film forward.

I would have to say that the worst part of the film is the accent David Spade uses to portray Wayne. It sounds almost like a dead on impression of Adam Sandler from “That’s My Boy,” which was annoying then. This just in... It’s still annoying. The film, overall, was an easy, mindless, and enjoyable experience. I would recommend it if you’re bored and have access to Netflix.