



Students march on Capitol

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# \$18 million given for Ag

## Blue Mound couple donates life savings

By Teresa Brummett  
Lamp Writer

When a loving and modest couple from Blue Mound decided to donate a little money to a good cause, Lincoln Land Community College was the winner. Charles and Irene Kreher donated \$18 million to the college's agriculture program.

The Krehers were farmers for more than 20 years and never had children. They had a passion for agriculture and education.

After the Krehers both died, it took about a year for their trust to finalize the donation.

For over twenty years the Kreher's spent their lives farming and wanted to make sure that there was a future for agriculture here. So, to have Lincoln Land as the recipient is a great honor.

When student Ag representative, Dominic Ruppert, stepped up to the microphone, he thanked the Krehers

for the donation. He also thanked the teachers here at Lincoln Land who have helped him with his future goals. Helping students to complete their goals is what Lincoln Land is all about, Ruppert said.

When executive director of the Lincoln Land Community College Foundation, Karen Sanders, stepped up to speak, she started off saying, "Today is a great morning of celebration."

Sanders also thanked the Krehers for their humble generosity.

Sanders gathered the board members and trustees up around the podium. Sanders then said, "Now here's the moment you have all been waiting for."

They removed a cloth covering a ceremonial check for \$18 million being given to the agriculture department here at LLCC.

Kreher, Continued on Page 3



Blue Mound farmers, Charles and Irene Kreher

# Swee retires mid-semester

## Ex-professor says he had to 'move away from situation'

By Zach Aiello  
Editor-in-Chief

SPRINGFIELD - Students like Joe Monke are still wondering what happened to Psychology and Anthropology Professor Gary Swee right before spring break.

"They didn't say anything at all," Monke said. "Our new professor kind of just showed up and said he (Swee) wasn't going to be there for the rest of the semester."

Swee said he left teaching in the middle of the term instead of fighting a disagreement with college administration.

Swee said: "I had a disagreement with the administration. We interpret words differently, and they said I did something wrong, but I don't think I did. And the way to deal with that was to move away from the situation."

Swee said he was put on administrative leave and given the option to fight the charges, which neither the college nor Swee would discuss. He said it wasn't worth the time and effort to fight the school. He ultimately decided that since he was eligible for retirement, that was the best decision.

Swee said, "The administration thinks they were doing what was best for the students."

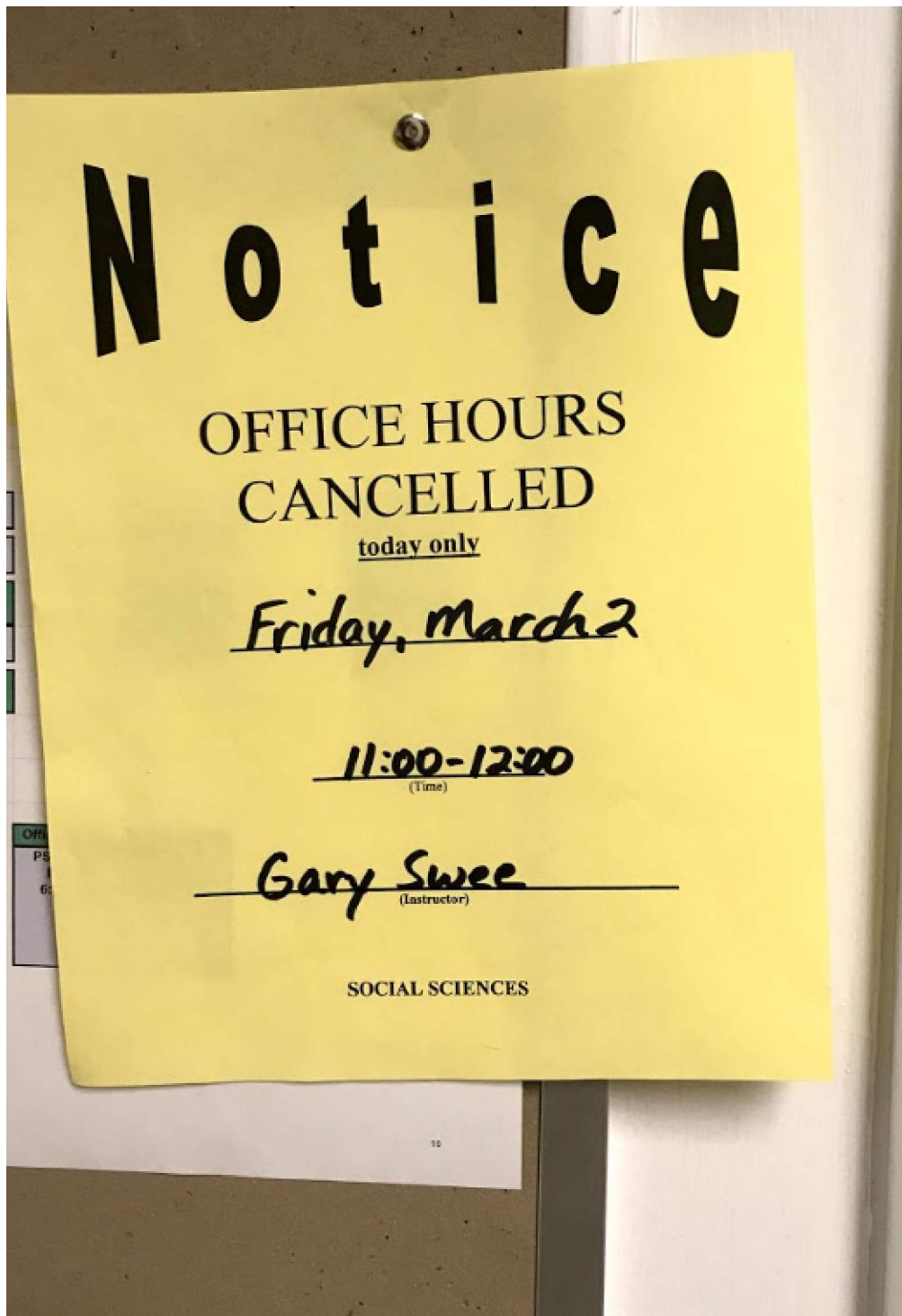
Students leaving his classes said they were not told anything about Swee's departure.

Lynn Whalen, executive director of Public Relations and Marketing, said, "I can confirm Professor Gary Swee retired on March 9."

Monke said he would love to know what happened to Swee.

"I'm not happy the way it happened," Swee said. "I think my students suffered because of it. They had to change teachers in the middle of the semester."

Swee, Continued on Page 3



A sign hangs outside former Psychology and Anthropology Professor Gary Swee's office in Menard Hall. After 28 years, Swee left teaching shortly before midterm over what he described as a disagreement over interpreting words.

# Black Sheep supports victims

Kallie Cox  
Lamp Writer

SPRINGFIELD - The locally renowned Black Sheep Cafe hosted an open mic night with Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault.

This event welcomed singers, poets, and activists, to come and express themselves and their thoughts on the Me too movement and Sexual Violence. The evening's theme was "embrace your voice."

When Clare Frachey Prevention Educator at Prairie Center was asked why she helped organize the open mic she responded: "I was looking at a huge national resource for sexual violence. I thought this would be a great idea for people to express their voice in the culture."

The event had a station set up to help the survivor love letter initiative. Guests were encouraged to write encouraging survivor love letters that were later to be displayed at the NPR art studio.

Throughout the night as different poets and artists spoke, resources concerning sexual violence were distributed throughout the crowd. By the end of the night, everyone knew a way to get involved. Whether it was with Prairie center, or in lobbying for the Equal Rights Amendment on April 10th.

At the very beginning of the night the audience was informed of the 5 steps to supporting a survivor of sexual violence they were:

- Listen
- Don't investigate for them, it isn't your place unless they ask you to
- Get permission to talk with them or to do anything, make sure they are comfortable
- Help them to explore their options, show them there is help, if they are OK with you doing this
- Follow up

This was a night of education and awareness. Individuals shared their stories

The survivor love letters written at this event will be displayed at the NPR Illinois art gallery until May 6th.

If you would like to write a letter to be displayed you may do so at the gallery during regular business hours.

Niko Robledo/The Lamp Editor of Photography



This newspaper is dedicated to the students, faculty and staff of Lincoln Land Community College.

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## Don't just vote for our president

Congress is a major part of government in America, yet it is rated very poorly by the people. Many people constantly complain about congress and lawmakers' inability to do what is right for the people in their districts. However, those same people did not vote in the congressional races, and let the incumbent remain, or elected someone that really shouldn't be there. There is a fix for this. It is simple and easy: Voting.

I was one of those people who only worried about the presidential election and did not care about the congressional seats, until I was all of a sudden working for someone who was running for Congress. Through this journey, I have had to really watch Congress, study lawmakers' decisions, the composition of the group, and who voted in alignment with what lawmakers said or what their district really needed. Many times, our representatives do not vote the way their district expresses as its needs. This is essential to being a good representative, yet so many lack that actual trait. This is why it is essential that as voters, we educate ourselves and vote for the candidate who is truly going to represent our districts.

Americans are constantly worried about who the president is, but fail to see that the people in Congress and the Senate are just as important. The checks-and-balances system needs the legitimate representation of the American people for it to work. We need to elect people to be our advocates in government.

I have only shortly been aware of the importance of this issue, and I wanted to make it known to others.

**Alexander Crawford**  
LLCC student

## Who wants a puppy?

Can I have a puppy? We've all heard that request many times from children and loved ones. The answer may be a yes or a no, depending upon one's family situation. For that lucky family that answers yes, the planning begins. What kind of dog are you going to get? Will it be a family friendly breed? How big will it get or how much will it cost?

While these are all relevant questions to ask, we should be asking ourselves where the animal will come from, such as a private breeder, puppy mill, pet store or a local shelter.

According to the American Pet Products Association (APPA), only 23 percent of all dog adoptions come from shelters across the United States. That equates to approximately 1.6 million dog adoptions each year. The more shocking number is that approximately 670,000 dogs are euthanized. While you can purchase exactly the breed and sex of the dog that you want through a private breeder or pet store, the initial cost on average is between \$500 and

# Letters to the Editor



\$3,000. The cost of adopting a dog from a shelter varies between \$45 and \$175. This fee includes a dog who is vaccinated, neutered/spayed and treated by a veterinarian prior to adoption.

Animal shelters are a great source to find that special pet for you. They take in pure breeds and mixed alike for a variety of reasons and allow you to come in to meet/interact with them before adopting. So if you are willing and ready to adopt, please visit your local animal shelter first and consider saving an animal's life.

**Darby Creasey**  
LLCC student

## We're humans, so lets be humane

As citizens of the Human race, shouldn't we embody the definition of Humane? If asked if we are advocates of a humane society, most people would reply, "Yes! I believe in showing compassion, being kind, considerate, understanding, sympathetic, and tolerant." Yet, when we see a homeless person, we walk around to avoid contact or some may throw change into a hat.

Is that enough?  
The Springfield Shelter is asking for warm clothing, blankets, hygiene products, hats, scarves, coats, gloves, food, and more specifically employment opportunities to assist our homeless brothers and sisters here in Springfield, Illinois. The need is real!

The critics of assisting the homeless make reference to those rare con-artists who beg for money on corners while driving expensive SUVs and living in affluent neighborhoods. Their concerns may be justified, but the alternative cannot be do nothing, for all disadvantaged ones in our area.

We don't know how they got there, but we need to realize that according to MarketWatch.com, 62 percent of us are only one paycheck away from homelessness ourselves. The majority of Americans have no savings to cover emergencies or sudden job loss.

Finally, Over the last two years multiple people have been found dead, frozen to death, lying on the street in various places around our country; that includes Illinois. Is it too much for the Springfield Shelter to ask for coats, hats, or scarves? We therefore need to ask ourselves, Are we our brother's keeper? The answer should be a resounding, "Yes We Are!"

**Orsey Nunn**  
LLCC student

## Left behind on spring break

I recently read a well-written post on thelamponline.com by Emily Smarjesse entitled, "Students Share Plans for Spring Break."

Most Lincoln Land students were staying in town, but a few lucky

ones were off to a well-known spring break destination, such as Destin, FL. While some of our traveling spring breakers are "in need of the beach," the beach is also in need for you -- to pick up your trash while you're there.

According to Project Know, 40 percent of college students travel to spring break destinations spending more than \$1 billion annually for trips to Florida destinations such as Miami Beach, Destin and Panama City Beach. Many bring alcohol containers, soda cans and plastic bags. Most of that debris is left on the beach, accidentally or on purpose.

The city of Miami Beach says that 100 million marine animals are killed each year due to plastic debris. Grant Brown, recreational and cultural affairs director of the city of Gulf Shores, said the city has implemented several clean up and anti-litter programs to keep their beaches clean. Brown says, "We hope to remind students to clean up after themselves by putting trash cans every 200 feet on the beaches. If spring breakers fail to do so, they could face fines of up to \$500."

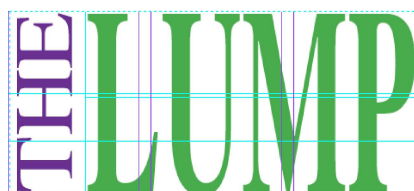
Spring break is a time for students to relax and take a mental break from the overwhelming course work and studying that college requires. I hope this letter is a reminder to students that while you're on those sunny beaches make sure you trash your trash.

**Ashley Henderson**  
LLCC student

## April Fools

By Niko Robledo  
Another year of school work and sadness has passed and it's now time for The Lamp's favorite time of year. April Fools Day! Over the years,

The Lamp staffs have created a satirical version of our paper to bring a light-hearted break from the regular month-to-month issues throughout the school year. We had a lot of fun making it, so I hope you have at least some fun reading it.



## CORRECTION

Various errors were found in the Coach Chad Jones article from our last issue, dated March 5, 2018. We apologize to Chad Jones and our readers. The Lamp editors failed to follow proper editing procedures. The corrected version is available to read at www.thelamponline.com.





Niko Robledo/The Lamp Editor of Photography

Art Professor Michelle Coakes talks Feb. 1 with Faith Brooks at her show 'A Fire Within,' held in the James Murray Gallery. Coakes is retiring at the end of the 2018 semester.

# Coakes' final year

Ceramics prof has been teaching at LLCC for 16 years

Leo Borgelin  
Lamp Writer

All good things must come to an end, and for Art Professor Michelle Coakes, that includes her time at Lincoln Land.

Coakes, who teaches ceramics, began at Lincoln Land in August 2002. Before that, she taught at a few other schools, including University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University and Highland Community College in Freeport, Ill., she said. But she never taught more than four years at any of them. This has been her longest stay, but after 16 years, she will be retiring.

On Feb. 1, dozens of people gathered for a final reception of Coakes' ceramics work, displayed in the James S. Murray Gallery. "A Fire Within: New Work by Michelle Coakes" gave the community a chance to see her latest work and wish her farewell.

A work from "A Fire Within: New Work by Michelle Coakes"

"The colors are really interesting. Simple, but they stand out," said Liz, an art appreciation student at Lincoln Land who attended the gallery.

Medium bowl from "A Fire Within: New Work by Michelle Coakes"

One of the colorful works was "Screamin' Avery Bottle." The dirt, called Avery, came from a mountain in North Carolina. She purchased the dirt years ago, and it was known to turn a beautiful orange in the kiln.

She was pleased with the outcome, and she said she was lucky to have the dirt because that mountain and dirt has been fully mined and sold.

Coakes said she is proud of teaching students how to do pottery, but also to have inspired them to love ceramics.

Many students have kept in touch, she said. Her students always remembered her name after they took their hands from the dirt and clay at Lincoln Land.

But there are also some low points in her career.

Coakes lost her dog at the end of one semester, and she canceled class because of it. That day also happened to be the semester's cleanup day, in which the entire studio must be cleaned. It is one of the most important days of the semester.



Niko Robledo/The Lamp Editor of Photography  
**Screamin' Avery Bottle is displayed at 'A Fire Within: New Work by Michelle Coakes.'**

Coakes decided she would do this task by herself, but many of the students who were told class was canceled decided to show up anyway, Coakes said.

That crisis ended up being a moment when students stood with her in support by helping her clean up the classroom, said Coakes, who began to tear up at the memory.

It was always the small things that mattered, Coakes said.

Coakes said she prized the camaraderie that was formed in the classroom. Each group had its own dynamic, and the jokes created a unique atmosphere and experience each semester.

Coakes recently built a wood-fired kiln at her home northwest of Taylorville. That kiln was used to create all of the art in her recent gallery show.

Coakes plans to continue creating ceramics at a business she opened there in 2013: Bad Wolf Pottery.

The store and studio, which also offers pottery classes, is usually open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Visitors to the Bad Wolf Pottery can follow the signs from Illinois Route 29 to 824 E. 1800 North Road in Taylorville. It can also be found online at [www.badwolfpottery.com](http://www.badwolfpottery.com)

Leo Borgelin can be reached at [lamp@llcc.edu](mailto:lamp@llcc.edu).

# Students march for stronger gun control

By Emma Shafer  
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD - On March 24, about 400 people gathered in Springfield outside of the Capitol to advocate for stronger gun control. Called the March for Our Lives, it was entirely student-led and organized; from the protesting permits to the speeches, poems, and songs. Despite the 40 degree weather and freezing rain, people continued to protest and make their voices heard.

The March for Our Lives was born in the wake of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The shooter had bought a AR-15 legally in Florida, without a waiting period, fingerprints, or a special permit. All he had to do was pass a simple background check that did not look at his disciplinary records in school, or notice the fact that he was on the FBI watch list. Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School were infuriated how many of their friends and family members had died because an unstable man was able to get a gun, and decided to create a nationwide March to advocate for common sense gun legislation. This includes closing the loop-

holes in background checks and making them universal, funding gun violence research, and a ban on assault weapons.

Around the country, people have been horrified how easily the shooter was able to access an assault weapon that was used to kill 17 people and injure an additional 15. The support for the March for Our Lives around the country was drawn from these adults, students, and children alike. The March was characterized by hashtags like #enough and #notone-more.

The March for Our Lives in Springfield was organized by students from Springfield High School and Glenwood, with Action Illinois helping with costs associated with the March, and guidance. Action Illinois has previously organized the Women's Marches that took place in January 2017 and 2018.

Students read poems, speeches, and the music was provided by students from Glenwood. The Democratic Nominee for the 13th Congressional District, Betsy Dirksen Londrigan, also spoke.

A Springfield chapter for Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America was also announced at the March. Anyone who is interested in getting involved can email [spfldstudentsdemandaction@gmail.com](mailto:spfldstudentsdemandaction@gmail.com).

# Swee

Continued from Page 1

Swee, who was in his 28th year full-time at LLCC, began teaching at the college in fall 1990.

Swee said his passion for anthropology stemmed from his time attending the University of California and Michigan State University.

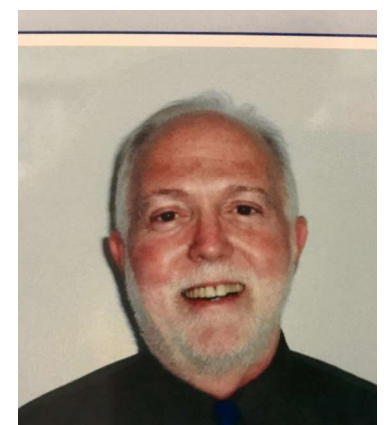
Before his time at LLCC, Swee traveled to Iran, spending two years conducting research on nomadic people living in southwestern Iran.

Swee said he looked at "how they lived their lives, how they were changing, changes in the government and country."

Now that Swee is retired he said he hopes to be able to travel and attend more music festivals.

Bluegrass is his favorite music, he said, and he hopes to attend more concerts of any genre.

"Music festivals would have a mix that give you a chance to hear different kinds of music. So folks you normally don't listen to, you



can say 'Hey I listened to them.'"

Swee said he has two adult children.

When asked what he wanted to say to all his classes here at LLCC since he never got the chance to say goodbye, Swee said: "I think it was unfair to them unfortunately because of our disagreement and I miss my classes tremendously. It's a sad time indeed."

Zach Aiello can be reached at [lamp@llcc.edu](mailto:lamp@llcc.edu).

# Donation

Continued from Page 1

The Krehers were farmers, so the family farmland was given to the college, giving the agriculture department more learning possibilities.

As part of the donation, a new Ford Hybrid was bought with Lincoln Land Agriculture decals all over the side panels to help promote the department.

With the current amount of 160 students right now in agriculture classes, they hope with this money that it will help students get scholarships, which will be a big part of bringing in more students, hoping to

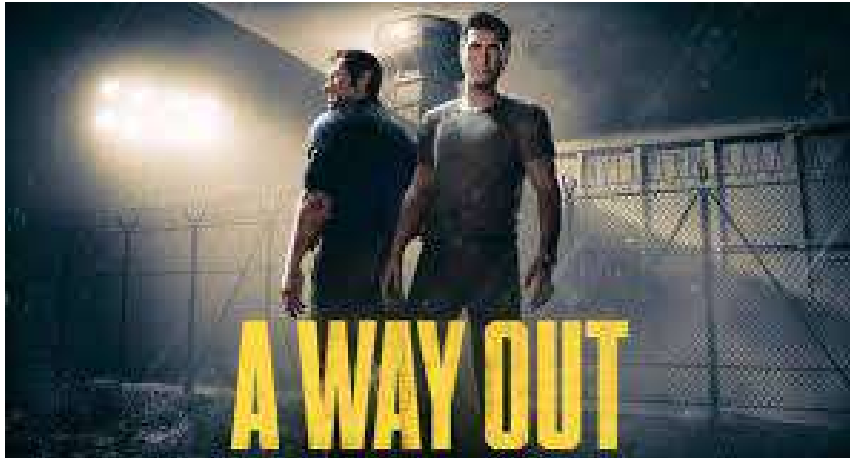
double their program's size within the next couple years.

Technology is another option, which would bring LLCC in the forefront in their department. Learning new techniques and getting to use new equipment seems to be in the classes future, such as combine simulators.

Whatever is done with the money in the agriculture department, those involved have a future that is looking brighter because of these modest and heartfelt farmers. A couple who didn't want the recognition but just a simple thank you, Ruppert said.

Teresa Brummett can be reached at [lamp@llcc.edu](mailto:lamp@llcc.edu)





A Way Out Cover Photo

## New co-op game

Jack Pugh  
Lamp writer

Review: 9/10

A Way Out was released on March 23, 2018. This game has so many things that pertain to it. It cannot be compared to one genre of gaming to another genre of gaming, rather it has created its own genre of gaming.

Without any spoilers, it's easy to tell the game itself revolves around escaping a prison. Vincent and Leo, an unlikely pair, meet under circumstances that will forever tie them to one another. These two, complete each other, while Leo specializes in brute force, Vincent compensates with his wit.

This allows the player to interact in the story differently from character to character in the gameplay. Each character interacts in the same world differently and apart from another.

This game has to be played with a friend, not with some random player or not through a solo play. It has to be some-

one you can play with on the same TV, or off your friend's list.

The whole aspect of this game is to explore, escape, and make your way through the game in co-op gameplay. It's revitalizing in the gaming industry, it's not some generic co-op.

It was very weird seeing a split-screen game. There was nostalgia to it. This whole system reminded me of when I use to play with my little brothers. Except, screen peeking is OK and allowed!

This game, from beginning to end, will be directed through split screen co-op gameplay. It was weird getting use to it, but it was executed perfectly. It allows you as either player to see what your partner is up to.

This game centers around story, co-op interactions, and the player deciding the events. It's a very immersive game, one that should be played with a friend.

This game gets a 9/10. It is really well done, fun to play, and a good story, something most games lack in today. If you have \$30, this game is worth every penny.

## New game in the franchise

### Metal Gear Survive offers new genre of gameplay

Jack Pugh  
Lamp Writer

Review: 7/10

For those familiar to the Metal Gear Solid franchise, Metal Gear Survive is nothing like the other games before it. It is a game of its own.

Metal Gear games have tended to have a very complex storyline with multiple plots all converging into one at the end. Metal Gear Survive does not follow that. It has a lot of tutorials and meaningless missions to help get the player adjusted to the grind intensive properties of this game. Rather, the "surviving aspects" of the game.

It's not to say the game does not have a story to it, but the focus is more on surviving, gathering resources, and rescuing survivors rather than a dramatic storyline.

Delving into the game for the first time, it was confusing trying to figure out what was going on. Portals appearing, a battle scene, and somehow a new character (the player who is named Captain) is brought into it and thrown into another dimension? Wait...what? That's the first ten to fifteen minutes of cutscenes of the game.

A cool feature to note, it has a very apprehensive character creation menu for facial features. Be creative with your face! It is not permanent and you can change it



Metal Gear Survive Cover Photo

at any point in the game after all the initial cutscenes.

After getting past the initial tutorial and reaching the base, the game then becomes what the title implies, Metal Gear "SURVIVE."

The game is now about procuring food, water, supplies, resources, etc. that are essential for maintaining a base and furthering the skills of the player. There is a lot to do and a lot to gather. It is best to start collecting everything as soon as you can.

It is recommended to gather as much as possible, especially food and water early game.

The co-op game isn't anything special on its own. It is a generic co-op to where you and three other friends/random players all band together to defend a single objective against a horde of

enemies. But, you are rewarded with boxes of loot.

The game mode is essentially a horde, wave based, resource collection game mode that allows you and your team access to rare loot. It can contain anything from weapons (titled as junk) resources and energy/currency for the game.

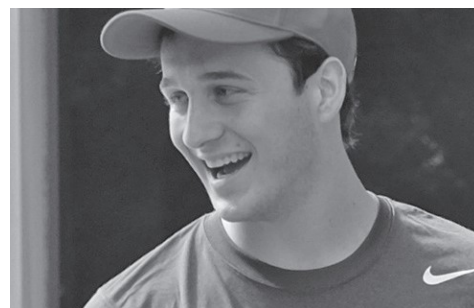
Overall, the game is very fun, even though it can be difficult to play and understand at first. But, after playing for a little bit, the game begins to get a clear message on how to survive and a much clearer story-line as you progress.

Metal Gear Survive is ranked a 7/10. It's a really engaging game, a fun co-op with friends, and a really mind bending storyline; grab your spears and "protect your base Captain."

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