Recruits put skills to the test

zBy Jessica Speweike
Managing Editor

University ROTC recruits had the opportunity to put their skills to the test as they navigated Oak Openings Preserve this past Saturday.

The Field Training Exercise was part of the University's Army ROTC program and one of two FTX events for the year.

“We're in the business of taking young, responsible Americans and turning them into second lieutenants (in the Army),” said Maj. Joseph Kolczynski, a cadre from the University ROTC.

FTX is open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who each participated differently according to their rank. Freshmen are listed as MS1s; sophomores as MS2s; juniors are MS3s; and seniors are MS4s.

“This (training) is more involved with tactical kind of training,” said Kolczynski, “what Army soldiers would be expected to do on the battlefield.”

During Friday and Saturday, the recruits were required to complete a land navigation test, finish a five-mile foot march and set up a patrol base during the night. Saturday, the recruits conducted recon and ambush drills.

Teams of freshmen and sophomores trekked through Oak Openings, with the sophomores using this year's FTX as an opportunity to lead the freshmen in their groups. A marker was at the location to indicate if the recruits had found the correct coordinates. The recruits were expected to find five of eight coordinate locations.

Shane Rowlands, a senior intelligence officer in the ROTC program, said the coordinates are “self-correcting,” so even if a recruit finds the wrong point, they can use that location to orient themselves toward the correct one.

The juniors were required to complete the task by themselves.

“It's kind of a recap,” said Lucas Earnest, a sophomore Army recruit. “Next year as an MS3 we'll have to do it on our own, so figuring it out now is...key.”

The training provides examples of real world navigation and tactical situations while also giving the sophomores a chance to showcase their leadership skills.

“(It) helps them to learn what they’re doing, and they can teach others how to do this, so then they can be the people in charge the following years,” said Rowlands.

With 4,000 acres, Oak Openings provided a location where the recruits could put the skills they learned in classes and labs to the test.

David Pfleger, the log technician responsible for the equipment and property of the ROTC program said Oak Openings “gets them out of the campus environments and gives them the skills that they need... (and) gives them confidence.”

There were marked trails in the park, but the land navigation markers did not necessarily coincide with the trails.

The recruits also had to be careful to...
Leaf-raking leaves harmful impact on the environment

This month I received a wonderful message along with my utility bill that I never expected to see from the city of Bowling Green. It was a message about raking your leaves. Growing up, I have a lot of fond memories about jumping into piles of leaves but also a few boring memories of actually raking the leaves. I’m sure I’m not the only one with those memories, but I was slightly surprised to read this informational message asking not to rake leaves.

As a scientist, I study organisms that aid in the decomposition of fallen, dead leaves and yet, I never considered not raking leaves in the fall because it had been so ingrained in me by my parents and society. However, now that I know how ecologically important it is to leave your leaves in place, I will never rake again.

For starters, raking your leaves could add to the algal bloom we experience annually here near Toledo. When you rake leaves, typically you leave them on the curb to be picked up by the city workers. But by doing that you’re creating a pile of organic matter that fuel detrimental effects to our watershed.

The leaves can affect the waterways in two different ways. It can add excess nutrients to the water, much like fertilizer does, and increase the algae populations thus leading to a bloom. Also, it can reduce the oxygen in the water and cause fish kills. When organic matter falls into streams or lakes it is broken down by invertebrates and bacteria, aka decomposition, but it takes quite a bit of oxygen out of the water.

So, with a large influx of organic matter, there is a large decrease in oxygen and thus a large number of fish die.

Other than decreasing the risk of environmental degradation, skipping the rake does great things for your plants as well. Throughout the summer the trees have been taking up nutrients from the soil to grow, which is in the leaves when they fall. Those nutrients would typically be returned to the soil through decomposition, but when we rake them away, that can no longer happen. In short, by raking your leaves you are depriving your yard of vital nutrients.

To preserve the green return of your lawn after winter, you may not want to leave the leaves where they lie. But if you have a garden or a flowerbed, it is the perfect recharge for that soil. Not only will this bring nutrients back to the soil and give you better veggies or flowers next spring, but it can also help your plants throughout the growing season.

If you add leaves instead of mulch or fertilizer, you’re essentially ringing the dinner bell for the organisms that participate in decomposition. And because this dinner bell is ringing so loud, the decomposers are going to stick around and make your soils healthier all season.

Though you might not have a lawn or garden right now, you will one day. So, keep this in mind and maybe share it with your family members. Not only will this save you some time this fall, but it’s also improving the ecosystem in your yard.

Reply to Cari at thenews@bgnews.com

Cari Ritzenthaler
Columnist

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Cari Ritzenthaler
Columnist
Bob Dylan wins Nobel Prize

The times, they are a-changin'.
Because 2016 hasn’t been a strange enough year already, Bob Dylan has won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

As some of you already know, Dylan recently became the first musician in the history of the Nobel Prize to win for literature, something that pleasantly shocked much of the world and led others into a negative frenzy of questions, asking if he really deserved it.

Dylan was awarded “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition”.

Being the private person that he is, Dylan, 75, had no immediate comment on his big win. He even performed in Las Vegas the night the prize was announced but said nothing about it, only adding to the notably oddball musician’s already weird persona.

First things first, it’s ridiculously cool that a songwriter has won such a prestigious award, let alone an American songwriter. Dylan is the first American to win a Nobel Prize in Literature since Toni Morrison in 1993.

A personal favorite and what’s considered one of his most influential songs, “Blowing in the Wind,” comes to mind when I found myself reflecting on why he deserve the prize. The song is a series of thought-provoking questions, such as: “How many years can a man exist before he’s allowed to be free?” with no answers other than Dylan offering the repeated line: “The answer is blowing in the wind”.

“Blowing in the Wind” was taken in by anti-Vietnam protests for its powerful nature. To me, the song offers listeners both urgency and hope that things need to change in the world, even if he doesn’t specifically come out and say it.

Though these powerful lyrics have been an influential part of American culture, people around the world are complaining. “Songs aren’t literature,” some say. “How can we award this prestigious prize to some of the greatest authors that ever lived and then give it to a songwriter?” others complain.

But does it really matter? Can we not expand our literary horizons to a different medium than we’re used to? Dylan being awarded this honor breaks down barriers for our typical pattern of thinking. Should lyrics be thought of as being a lesser form when it comes to artistic value? I would argue that this reaffirms that the answer is no.

Bob Dylan makes for a great recipient of an award that has never been given to anyone in his field before. It makes us consider something other than the obvious for deciding what influential forms of literature should be recognized.

Hats off to you Bobby, you crazy talented weirdo.

Reply to Sarah at thenews@bgnews.com

“Annie” is pure Disney magic

If you’ve not seen the 1999 classic “Annie” from ABC’s “The Wonderful World of Disney,” reevaluate your life choices and find a way to watch the movie. Because, if you don’t, you are missing out on one of the best things to come out of the 90s.

Let’s start off with the cast. Victor Garber, pre-“Alias,” as Oliver Warbucks? Check. Award-winning actress Audra McDonald as Grace? Yep, the movie has her in it, too. An almost unrecognizable Sarah Hyland way before her “Modern Family” days? Definitely. She plays Molly, one of the orphans. Alan Cumming, Kristin Chenoweth and Kathy Bates as the villains of the movie? Absolutely. Andrea McArdle, the original Annie, also makes an appearance in the movie as the star-to-be.

Disney clearly did their homework on who to cast in the movie.

If the cast isn’t enough to sell you on why you should immediately stop what you’re doing to watch the movie, maybe the songs will convince you. While “Hamilton” might be people’s go-to this Broadway and musical soundtrack of choice, the soundtrack for “Annie” is nothing to sneer about. I mean, hello, “The Hard-Knock Life” inspired a generation of kids to want to clean the floors of their house with sponges and rags, right? Or was that just me?

And, of course, there’s the under-appreciated “NYC,” where Daddy Warbucks starts to have his change of heart about Annie and features one of the best dance scenes of the entire movie. There’s a reason that my little brother and my father don’t let me hold two suitcases in my hands anymore because they know that I will start singing the song at the top of my lungs.

The villains also get a phenomenal song and dance number in “Easy Street,” which makes you want to find this magical street they speak of where troubles fade away and you can “sleep till noon.”

But, of course, if there’s one song that’s most well-known in that movie, it’s “Tomorrow,” the song about hope for the future while reminding you that tomorrow is only a day away.

If that’s not enough to sell you on the necessity to watch the movie, then maybe one small line of dialogue will be enough to convince you that the movie is worth watching. Toward the end of the movie, Annie comes downstairs and takes in all the holiday decorations that have been put up by the staff and says “leaping lizards, just look at this joint,” which may be the best expression of shock and excitement that has ever been uttered in a 90s movie. I remember one Christmas day when I was four or five, running up to my grandmother and saying that to her and she thought it was the most hilarious thing ever.

If none of that is enough to convince you, maybe a little bit of technical talk will convince you to watch the movie. The choreography won an Emmy, as did the directing of the movie.

And if those reasons aren’t enough to have you watch the movie, then leaping lizards, you must have higher standards than pure televised 90s Disney magic.

Reply to Lauren at thenews@bgnews.com
Ex-cons come to Bowling Green

Jennifer Verzuh
Digital Managing Editor

Less than a month ahead of “Orange is the New Black” author Piper Kerman’s speaking event at BGSU, the actress who portrays a fictionalized version of her on the Netflix series of the same name also stopped in town.

Taylor Schilling, along with co-star Kate Mulgrew, are making stops across the state to campaign for Hillary Clinton and Democrats in local and state elections. On Saturday, Mulgrew and Schilling appeared at the coffee shop Grounds for Thought to show their support for State Rep. Candidate Kelly Wicks at his canvass launch.

“I’m really here to talk about the importance of voting and electing Democrats up and down the ticket,” Mulgrew told a packed room.

She shared a story of meeting with Clinton, and expressed her support for Clinton, as well as Democrats across Ohio.

“I am almost breathless with excitement ‘cause she’s about to take the Commander and Chief seat,” Mulgrew said. “And I am delighted to be able to support you Mr. Wicks.”

Schilling said she was excited to see such a big crowd come out, and was “inspired by the enthusiasm and energy, particularly of so many young people.”

With her role on “Orange is the New Black,” Schilling said she has recently become more aware of what it means to have one’s civil liberties taken away, and the importance of being active on this issue.

“Indifference is not a luxury we can afford anymore,” Schilling said. “It is so valuable for each and every one of us to use our voices and protect our civil liberties and vote.

Wicks called Saturday the “biggest event of our campaign,” and expressed how fortunate they were to have Schilling and Mulgrew come speak to the community.

“They’re really working hard to encourage people to get involved and vote, not just for Hillary Clinton, but for Democrats up and down the ticket,” Wicks said. “It shows that whether you’re a student at BG or a super star on Netflix, your vote counts and it’s equally important to get involved.”

BGSU freshman Allie Godfrey said she personally didn’t see the event as doing much to educate or promote voting.

“I feel like this event is, at least in my opinion, more about meeting (the actresses) than raising awareness about voting,” a Democrat, Godfrey, said she probably wouldn’t have attended had it been a typical canvass launch without special appearances.

“I really like ‘Orange is the New Black,’ and I wanted to meet them.”
Police propose positive partnerships

By Amber Jones
Reporter

In the midst of police brutality and gun violence, the Office of Multicultural Affairs’ Ethnic Student Center and the Office of Residence Life’s SMART Program hosted Real Talk with Real Cops. The event was a panel discussion held on Friday Oct. 14. The panel discussion involved both the University’s and Bowling Green’s police departments and the University's student legal services. The panel was held to inform students of their rights and emphasize the officers’ responsibilities to build trust and foster positive relationships between students, community members and police officers.

The panel was composed of five people: University Chief of Police, Dr. Monica Moll; BG City Chief of Police, Captain Mike Campbell; BG City Lieutenants, Tony Hetrick and Dan Mancuso; and University Managing Attorney, Rodney Fleming.

Ana Brown, Coordinator for Diversity and Retention Initiatives, was the mediator of the panel and asked questions in regard to police force, policies and procedures, local issues and enhancing community relationships.

“We want to join the community and police officers to help solve the problems that are going on. We need to educate each other more and have forums where we can talk,” Dr. Moll said.

Because of current issues of gun violence and police brutality, the use of force was a central topic in the beginning of the panel. Police are allowed to use force if necessary and has to be documented in every situation, along with the level of force being used.

“The continuum of force is a chart that is color coded and two-sided for the officer and defendant. It starts at officer’s present, which is the lowest level of force for a police officer and goes all the way up to deadly force,” Lieutenant Mancuso said.

In some situations, a student may feel uncomfortable going to the police department to file a complaint about the use of force. Therefore, students can go to the Student Legal Services to get guidance.

“Some students are hesitant to go to the police station where the officer they felt did something incessant works, so they can come to the student legal service office with that complaint and sometimes it can even bypass the police and go to city council for further assessment,” Fleming said.

The panel emphasized de-escalation skills in a situation with police officers by communicating rather than using force. Police officers are also trained on practical use of force with live scenarios where they are tested to see if they use force appropriately or if force was even necessary.

“In order to minimize escalation in a situation, we have explicit bias training and blue courage training,” Chief Hetrick said. He continues, “with all the conflicts going on with the police and community, the state of Ohio is really focusing on the training on those topics.”

This training allows officers to understand how they should handle situations and make sure they are treating everyone fairly when they are enforcing the law and not allowing personal biases to affect their professional settings.

“The new crop of officers are all community oriented with great interpersonal skills, and in order to come together with the community, it has to be a collaborative effort,” said Dr. Moll. “We can’t keep seeing violent incidents on the news. The community and police officers can’t solve these issues alone.”

Reaching out to student organizations and community members has been an important mission for the University and city police in order to create dialogue and a relationship.

“Taking the initiative to go out in the community and put a face on the department has helped with problem solving and building relationships,” Captain Campbell said.

A panel discussion on “Exploring Ways to End Gun Violence” will be open to the public at the Wood County District Public Library Thursday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Falcons fall in Battle of I-75

By Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcon football team was defeated by the Toledo Rockets 42-35 on Saturday afternoon in the Battle of I-75, the first for Falcon’s head coach Mike Jinks.

“I’m proud of the kids and the way they competed,” Jinks said. “I enjoyed the environment from a personal standpoint, got a chance to see firsthand what all the fuss was about, it was a really neat deal.”

The team came into the game as the underdogs, with Toledo having a 31.5 point advantage in the spread, but it would take a late score for them to get the win.

“We got points and got stops and tackled people,” Jinks said. “That’s a good football team and nobody gave us a shot, they fought their tails off.”

The Falcons scored the first points of the game with 8:59 left in the first quarter, with a touchdown pass from freshman quarterback James Morgan to sophomore wide receiver Scott Miller with the extra point to make it a 7-0 game. However, Toledo responded with a touchdown of their own to tie the game 7-7 at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter was dominated by both defenses, with neither team scoring until 36 seconds remained in the half, when Toledo scored a touchdown to take the lead 14-7 at halftime.

“We’ve got to find a way to play better football in the second and third quarter,” Jinks said. “We’ve shown that we’ve got a little fight about us and we’ll play 60 minutes, we’ve just got to be in a better position late in the ballgames.”

The Falcons started off the third quarter by tying the game up with another touchdown connection from Morgan to Miller, however Toledo would take a 27-14 lead on two touchdown passes of their own later in the quarter.

The team responded in the fourth with a 57 yard pass from Morgan to Miller, but Toledo came back with another touchdown along with a two point conversion to make it a 35-21 game with 10:25 left in the game.

However, the Falcons cut the lead in half with a touchdown pass from Morgan to freshman wide receiver Marquis Zimmerman with 6:47 left, then tied it with 3:07 remaining on a Morgan touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Teo Redding.

The game remained tied until Toledo scored on a three yard touchdown run with 18 seconds to go, allowing them to take the 42-35 victory.

“We’re trying to build and take little steps defensively,” Jinks said. “They made big plays when they had to, (Toledo’s) a highly explosive offensive team and defensively we did enough to give us an opportunity to win the game.”

Despite the loss, the team was proud of how they played one of the top teams in the Mid-American Conference.

“This is who we are and who we can be,” Jinks said. “They showed up today and played with great passion... three or four plays one way or the other and we’ve got a chance to win the ballgame.”

The team will next play on Saturday afternoon at home against the Miami RedHawks.
Men’s soccer draw against MAC opponent

By Elias Faneuff
Sports Reporter

It was an exciting battle on Saturday night for the BGSU men’s soccer team, with the game resulting in a tie by a score of 1-1 against Mid-American Conference opponent Western Michigan University. BG remains undefeated at home and also in conference play. This was the second time BG got a tie in the regular season.

It was all WMU from the beginning as they stifled BG with their ability to take control of possessions and play stellar defense. In the first five minutes of the game, WMU’s Brandon Bye got off a header shot following a corner kick by his teammate Edu Jimenez. Bye’s shot would be cleared away by senior Jacob Roth from the goal line.

In the nine minutes, WMU got off three corner kicks. However, they failed to get a shot off on all three attempts. Meanwhile, BG struggled mightily to get a shot off as they were constantly getting pressured by WMU’s defense.

It wasn’t until around the 32-minute mark as senior Joe Sullivan found an opening in the 12-yard box and fired a shot towards the upper left corner of the net. WMU goalkeeper Drew Shepherd was able to reach high enough to get the save. This would be BG’s only shot attempt of the half.

In the final minute of the first half, WMU’s Tommy Clark was able to get his head on a cross, but it was easily saved by freshman goalkeeper Anthony Mwembia as the first period ended. In an uneventful first period for BG, they were scoreless heading into the second period. Also, this was the third straight game where it took the team 30 minutes to get off a shot attempt.

Within 45 seconds of the second period, Bye didn’t waste time getting off another shot attempt as he fired a low grounder towards Mwembia. His shot failed and Mwembia very easily got the save. Eight minutes later, sophomore Tate Robertson was able to retain possession at midfield and played a ball towards senior Pat Flynn. Flynn was able to shake through WMU defenders and got a shot off in the penalty area, but it would be saved by Shepherd.

It didn’t take long for BG to get on the board as freshman Chris Brennan was able to take advantage of a WMU miscue. Shepherd looked to clear to the ball out, but he misfired on his attempt and the ball spiraled in the air. Brennan quickly noticed this and went past Shepherd and a WMU defender to get the ball into the net. This gave BG a 1-0 lead with 33 minutes left in the second period.

Things intensified in last 12 minutes of the second period, as a BG player was knocked down to the ground and both teams would get into a heated scuffle. Following the scuffle, a yellow card was drawn towards WMU and a red card was drawn for BG. BG would have to go on the rest of the game with a man down.

A few minutes later, WMU took advantage and tied the game 1-1. WMU’s Zach Bock ran down the left side and set up a nice cross pass towards Jimenez at the top of the 18 yard mark. Jimenez would fire a shot that would be deflected by a BG defender. Mwembia was unable to adjust to where the ball was going after the deflection and the ball landed in the bottom right corner. This would be the final shot attempt of the second period and the game would head into overtime.

In the first overtime, WMU would get off three shot attempts, but only one would be a shot on the goal. BG’s only shot attempt in the first overtime came from junior Alexis Souahy following a corner kick set up by Roth. The kick sailed towards the middle of the box and Souahy would get off a header shot, but the ball sailed wide.

In the second overtime, WMU would get whistled for a foul as Brennan would get taken down by a WMU defender. This rewarded BG with a free kick and Roth would be the one to attempt the shot. Roth fired the shot and the ball curved towards the right, but Shepherd made the diving save.

With under a minute to go, freshman Robert Miller III would win the possession at midfield and would then cross towards Brennan from 18 yards out. Brennan set his feet and blasted a shot that sailed high over the goal. The final seconds ticked down and the game ended in a tie.

“First half, I’m not sure why, but we were on our heels and I’ll allow credit to Western Michigan,” said BGSU head coach Eric Nichols.

Nichols said they knew they were going to come out firing and we just didn’t seemed to be engaged in their matchups, but he was pleased with the response in the second half.

BG will look to get a win on the road on Tuesday night against the University of Kentucky beginning at 7 p.m.

Volleyball continues five game win streak

By Brandon Luthman
Sports Reporter

It was a great weekend for the Bowling Green volleyball team, as the Falcons won back to back sweeps against Eastern Michigan and Central Michigan. The two victories improved the Falcons to a 15-6 overall record, and a conference record of 5-3. Now, on a five-game winning streak, the Falcons are now third in the MAC East Division.

On Friday, the Falcons faced the Eastern Michigan Eagles. In dominating fashion, BG won in three sets; with scores of 25-17, 25-15, 25-9. Senior outside hitter, Jelena Sunjic, led the team with 15 kills, Alyssa Maloney and Isabel Kovacic contributed with six kills each of their own. In total, the Falcons tallied 37 kills to 23 for Eastern Michigan. Senior libero/defensive specialist, Madeline Garda, led the team with 23, increasing her nation-leading total of digs to 467. The Falcons also posted 7 blocks in the match up against the Eagles.

Head Volleyball Coach Danijela Tomic was impressed by her team’s all-around performance, stating, “I am proud of our team and how focused we were from the second half of the first set until the end of the match, our aggressive serving and offensive efficiency were the keys in our win. Getting EMU out of system from behind the serving line helped our blockers to have one of our better performances of this season. In addition, as a team, we were scrappy defensively, which helped create swing opportunities that were converted into kills.”

On Saturday, the Falcons rounded out their Michigan road trip with a match against the Central Michigan Chippewas. Winning in three sets, the Falcons outscored the Chippewas 25-14, 25-20, 25-18. The Falcons were hitting on all cylinders, as many players contributed to the team’s kill total. Sunjic led the way with 13, Kovacic contributed with 11, Nicole Slimko totaled eight kills, while Maloney pitched in with seven. Garda totaled 18 digs, as she continued to lead the nation with an average of 6.64 digs/set. The Falcons also posted a high hitting percentage of .343.

Freshman Isabelle Marciniak, had a breakout performance, as Coach Tomic expressed her praise for the setter by saying, “We are all very happy to earn two important wins on the road, we reached another milestone we set for ourselves, and we did it tonight with very good offensive execution. Our freshman setter Isabelle Marciniak ran a good offense, and the hitters made smart shots most of the time.”

With momentum building as the Falcons continue to extend their winning streak, BG is now on to a weekend of much-needed home games after a series of several road trips. On Friday, the Ball State Cardinals come to town to take on the Falcons in the Stroh Center. Finally, on Saturday, BG hosts the great Battle of I-75. Bowling Green will take on the Toledo Rockets in a much anticipated rivalry game between to the two conference foes. The Falcons will look to continue their successful winning streak as the MAC conference championship is quickly approaching.
USG plans community talk

By Keefe Watson
Campus Editor

USG will be hosting a town hall style meeting on Monday Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. The meeting will function as an opportunity for all students to bring questions and concerns to the attention of USG.

“The topics are going to be student safety and parking, so there will be the new police chief coming in and also a representative from parking services,” Vice President Richard Racette said. “They are going to present on the things that they want to present on and hopefully answer some questions for students.”

After the presentations from the police chief and parking representative, the floor will open for a town hall format.

“It’s going to be a really great opportunity to connect with students and talk about concerns,” Speaker Nadia Oehler said.

The meeting will be held in the BTSU Theater. Students will use their BG1 cards to swipe into the event in an attempt to measure student involvement on campus.

President Amanda Dortch addressed the racial slur that was painted on the University spirit rock late last week.

“Things like that do impact you here at Bowling Green State University,” Dortch said. “Keep your eyes and ears open and just be aware.”

On Oct. 20 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., there will be a reaffirmation of Not In Our Town in the Falcon’s Nest.

“I do encourage each and every one of you to really read that pledge, to really engage with this...to be an ally, to advocate and to stand against any and all hateful actions in Bowling Green, Ohio, which is your town,” Dortch said. “Do you want this to be a place of hate? I hope not.”

NIOT came to the University in 2013 after another hateful incident occurred, Dortch said. Attendees to the reaffirmation will include Mayor Dick Edwards and University President Mary Ellen Mazey.

Chris Bullins, dean of students in the Office of Campus Activities, visited USG Monday night.

Bullins focused on engaging students, parents and alumni.

This year, over 1,600 families registered for Family Weekend, and $35,000 was raised through costs associated with the weekend’s activities, Bullsins said.

There are now over 350 registered campus organizations, and over 330 of them held tables at campus fest this year.

“First year students who join a student organization at BGSU are retained into their second year at over 85 percent,” Bullsins said. “They also tend to do a half of a GPA point better than students who don’t get involved at all.”

During a Q & A time with Bullsins, increasing funding for organizations and improving OrgSync awareness and usability were discussed.

A USG chair update included that the degree audit and schedule planner programs accessible through MyBGSU are both being updated and will go into use in the next few weeks.

New officers were also sworn in Monday night, including the recently created international senator position.
stay within the preserve’s limits because a section of the preserve was restricted for hunting, something new to Oak Openings this year.

FTX not only give recruits a chance to test themselves, it also prepares the juniors for their upcoming training in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

“The juniors are our prime focus,” said Kolczynski. “They’re getting ready for camp in the summer, so there’s a little bit more responsibility placed on them.”

After the land navigation test concluded at 1 p.m., the recruits completed a five-mile march. This was used to teach the recruits to march as a unit as well as preparing them to march while carrying a full rucksack.

“It trains them how to move tactically through an environment,” said Pfleger, “and...builds their endurance in carrying the rucksack and the weight.”

Pfleger said the rucksacks weigh about 35 pounds with all the equipment.

Recruits were required to pack their rucksacks with whatever may have been needed for the overnight trip, including inclement weather, with extra clothes, rain gear, sleeping bags and MRE’s, or meals ready-to-eat.

While it was overnight training, the recruits did not sleep the whole night. They took turns sleeping and standing guard to secure the base from “bad guys” said Kolczynski.

“For (the recruits) to develop and become good second lieutenants they need to learn how to...stay in uncomfortable situations,” said Kolczynski. “They need to be able to overcome any kind of fears they would have.”

A recruit moves through Oak Openings Preserve to practice reconnaissance.

To learn how to move as a unit, the recruits had to attempt to complete a 5-mile march with a 35 pound rucksack.
AMP CEO addresses city council


Gerken said the workers were not being paid prevailing wage, but now that this discovery was made, employees will be paid such a wage.

AMP contracted NextEra, an energy developer, to handle the project, who in turn hired Blattner Energy, the site contractor.

Gerken accredited the discrepancy to a communication failure among the three companies.

“There’s a little bit of a glitch between the development and the construction,” he said.

AMP and NextEra had agreed to pay prevailing wage; however, Blattner Energy does not pay prevailing wages.

As the project continued, Gerken said “AMP was under the understanding that it was a prevailing wage site.”

Gerken said once this discrepancy was brought to AMP’s attention, AMP immediately engaged in a conversation with NextEra and Blattner.

As a result of this discovery, the businesses are working to address this issue.

“NextEra is amending their contract with Blattner,” Gerken said. “It’s not quite done yet, but it will be soon, within a week, where they are going to change it to be prevailing wage.”

Additionally, Gerken said the companies are working backward to ensure employees are being paid what was promised. They will compensate the employees for the difference between their previous wage and prevailing wage for their previous work.

The prevailing wage discrepancy was discovered during the city council meeting on Oct. 3 by Councilman Mike Aspacher.

Aspacher presented council with an email from Sept. 2, 2016 from AMP that reported the solar field as a prevailing wage project.

However, Brian O’Connell, city utilities director, told council he received definitive word from AMP that the solar field was not a prevailing wage project, contradicting AMP’s statements to Aspacher.

The solar project is a 20-megawatt solar field, the largest in Ohio, and is to be completed on Dec. 31 of this year.

Gerken said the project is still on time and was working smoothly until this prevailing wage contradiction.

He expressed his apologies for the confusion and thanked city council for shedding light on the unfortunate situation.

“They owned up to it, but I will say we should have been more on top of it. So I’m sorry that it caused you guys to be the ones to raise this question. We should have found it.”
SPRING 2017

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October 17 | Non-Degree Graduate Students
October 18 | Seniors
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October 25 | Sophomores
October 26 | Freshmen
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