

Government shutdown

By Danielle Kirsh

The government shutdown of 2013 was one day shy of being the longest shutdown in the history of our country as both political parties refused to compromise on a fiscal agreement.

On Oct. 1, the federal government shut down due to a "funding gap." Approximately 800,000 government employees were furloughed and another 3 million were required to work without a known pay date.

In our area, military commissaries, stores and recreational buildings on bases were closed during the shut down after they sold all of their perishable items. As a result, other stores like Sam's Club offered military families to shop at their businesses without a membership until the government reopened.

The national child development program known as Head Start is funded by federal grants. Federal grants were no longer being renewed meaning Head Start was going to close, but on Oct. 8, the House of Representatives passed a bill to help fund the Head Start program.

Other programs like those that monitor the flu and pig vi-

ruses were also shut down.

During the shut down, 1.4 million active duty military members were not furloughed. President Barack Obama signed a bill before the shut down ensuring that all active duty military members would continue to be paid during the shut down.

The Federal Communications Commission was shut down with 1,716 out of 1,754 being furloughed. All activities that weren't immediately necessary for the protection of life or property were stopped.

The government shut down ended on Oct. 17 when the members of Congress came together to agree on the decision to reopen the government and remove the threat of default.

President Obama said in a statement released from the White House, "Despite the differences over the issue of shutting down our government, I'm convinced that Democrats and Republicans can work together to make progress for America."

With another deadline threatening government shutdown lurking right around the corner, America watches in anticipation to see if it will have to endure this process again.

Student Veterans Conference to address student veterans' educational needs

By Danielle Kirsh

The Inaugural Student Veterans Conference will be held in an effort to have active Student Veterans Association chapters at all universities in Virginia per the goal of Gov. McDonnell.

This conference is intended to build the relationships between student veterans and the people who work to serve them in the universities. The goal of this conference is to collaborate with student veterans and the schools' adminis-

trators to make campuses more military supportive state-wide.

Administrators want to learn more about the unique needs of veterans and be able to meet the needs at the universities. They also want to learn how to recruit and retain the student veterans on campus, while exploring the best practices from already established Student Veterans Associations and administrative supporters from the state. This conference also wants to assist the schools that don't already have a formal or-

ganization and build a student group on their campuses.

Three keynote speakers will be at this conference as well: Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security James Hopper, Executive Director of the Student Veterans of America D. Wayne Robinson and President and Founder of Wounded Wear Jason C. Redman.

The conference will begin Nov. 22 at 8 a.m. with registration and breakfast at the Ted Constant Convocation Center.

Enhancing your residential life on campus

By Danielle Kirsh

Housing and Resident Life is working closely with Facilities Management to make students' live more enjoyably in the residence halls.

Executive Director of Housing and Resident Life, Faith Fitzgerald, encourages students to give feedback on their experiences.

"We want to know the good and the bad," said Fitzgerald.

Housing and Resident Life has customer care days where they go in to the residence halls and ask how things are going.

Last semester, a student committee selected the new wall colors and flooring that were put in to the Babbette Smith North and South towers.

"We really do care about the students," Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald also said they are trying their best to accommodate the students' needs, but the money for renovations solely comes from tuition because

the University doesn't get state money.

Freshman Jalah Smith lives in the Towers and said, "Student input is really important since we're the ones living here."

Residence halls in the future are going to have study areas in the halls and academic success centers next to or near the residence halls. "Students will be able to eat, have fun and go to class," Fitzgerald said.

Director of Facilities Management Dan Young addressed many maintenance related problems over the summer.

Young said they addressed student needs by replacing the windows in the Babbette Smith North and South towers and by bringing in an exterminator twice to deal with any existing insect problems.

Smith said if there was one thing she could change in the Towers, it would be the elevators because they take awhile to

go from floor to floor.

Facilities Management processes nearly four thousand work orders a year. Each of those work orders is fixed by priority with emergencies being fixed first.

When a student sends in a work order, also known as a Fix-it; Housing and Resident Life will relay that information to Facilities Management. Housing and Resident Life will periodically check-in with the student who submitted the work order to see if their problem has been fixed.

Fitzgerald said, "We really want their experience on campus to be memorable, to help them persist to graduation."

Housing and Resident Life is always looking for new ideas to better the experience in the residence halls. If students have any problems, ideas or comments, they can email Housing and Resident Life at housing@nsu.edu.



In this Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2013 file photo, Luis Mendez, 23, left, and Maurice Mike, 23, wait in line at a job fair held by the Miami Marlins, at Marlins Park in Miami. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky, File).