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CLOSED FOR BUSINESS

How the government shutdown might affect Ball State students



John Lynch
Reporter

Ball State may be more than 540 miles away from Washington, D.C., but the effects of a partial government shutdown may still affect students and faculty alike.

The shutdown, which began Dec. 22, 2018, started after Congress did not pass a budget that included President Donald Trump's request for \$5.7 billion for the construction of a wall along the U.S. -Mexico border, according to

an Associated Press report. As of Jan. 24, the current shutdown is the longest in the history of the United States at 34 days, according to the Congressional Research Service.

Among the most noticeable effects of the current shutdown is the lack of pay many federal workers face as their departments remain unfunded.

Ben Acker, a Ball State journalism/TCOM major, knows the effects quite well. His father, James Acker, who works for NASA in the oceanography field, is among the affected employees. Acker's father is currently working remotely with limited pay.

"It's kind of a weird thing because he's usually not at home, especially over break, so it's like, 'Why aren't you at work? Oh, yeah, that's right, it's because the government's shutdown,'" Acker said. "It's happened before, but this has obviously been the longest one."

According to a report from the Senate Appropriations Committee, 420,000 federal employees will be required to work without pay to fulfill essential roles while another 380,000 will be furloughed or sent home on leave without pay.

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