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SHUTDOWN: NO END IN SIGHT

Republicans talk layoffs, Dems dig in on health care demands

News services

WASHINGTON • The federal government was thrown into a shutdown Wednesday with no easy endgame in sight, as Democrats held firm to their demands to salvage health care subsidies that President Donald Trump and Republican in Congress have dismissed as something to possibly discuss later.

The White House threatened mass layoffs of federal workers, rather than simply the normal furloughs, in a matter of days, seizing the chance to slash government. Blame was being cast on all sides. No new talks were scheduled after the president failed this week to secure a deal with congressional leaders.

“Let’s be honest, if this thing drags on,” warned Vice President JD Vance during a visit to the White House briefing room, “we are going to have to lay people off.”

Roughly 750,000 federal workers were expected to be furloughed, and some fired, by Trump’s Republican administration. Many offices will be shuttered, perhaps permanently, as the president promises to zero in on programs Democrats like. Trump’s deportation agenda is likely to run full speed ahead, while education, environmental and other services

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MORE INSIDE
For now, federal shutdown’s impact appears minimal on Colorado government. **A7**

Rocky Mountain National Park open with limited visitor services. **A6**

Schools in Colorado spared, but risks grow if stalemate persists. **A7**



American flags fly in front of the U.S. Capitol at sunrise on Wednesday, the first day of the shutdown in Washington.

PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colorado Springs to feel the pinch more than most

BY MARY SHINN
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Most of the tens of thousands of federal employees and active-duty military members in Colorado Springs will see their pay delayed during an extended government shutdown, which could result in a more intense short-term economic impact than for other cities.

“One out of every 8 paychecks in the region could be delayed,” said Bill Craighead, program director for the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Economic Forum, noting that’s more of an impact than many communities will face nationwide because of the high number of federal employees.

While the workers will receive back pay, delays in pay or the prospect of a delay in

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Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., the Senate GOP whip, left, and House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., right, arrive for a news conference Wednesday with top Republicans on the government shutdown at the Capitol in Washington.

AFA, Peterson, Schriever see closures as civilians furloughed

BY MARY SHINN
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The Air Force Academy and Peterson and Schriever Space Force Bases announced Wednesday that some functions are closed because some civilian employees are furloughed.

The academy announced on its website that the planetarium will not host public shows and its visitor center will not be staffed. The center will be open for the public to walk through.

Civilian faculty also will be furloughed although classes will continue with uniformed teaching staff.

The uniformed teaching staff are responsible for teaching their own classes

as well as some of the classes taught by furloughed instructors, the website said.

“This is not sustainable if the government shutdown extends beyond one week,” the academy website said. Last spring, the academy employed about 491 faculty members, including 183 civilians.

The school is suspending intramural sports and fitness testing, but intercollegiate sports will continue, the site said.

Cadet laundry services are also suspended until the shutdown is lifted.

The academy will keep its dining facilities and child

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Report: Colorado is 50th among states in mental health care

BY DEBBIE KELLEY
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For two years in a row, Colorado has had nearly the worst rate in the nation of mental illness among children and adults, when compared with other states and the District of Columbia, according to a large-scale industry study.

Colorado ranks 50th — or second to last — for the prevalence of mental health conditions in the 2025 State of Mental Health in America reports, the most recent version being released Wednesday.

Vincent Atchity, president and CEO at Denver-based Mental Health Colorado, one of 140 affiliates of Mental

Health America, which produces the annual analysis, isn’t surprised.

Colorado has hovered near the bottom of the rankings for years in prevalence of mental problems and despite improving its standing to 14th-best in the nation for access to mental health care and treatment still has a long way to go, he said.

“We’ve known we’re in a state of distress for some time,” Atchity said of Colorado. “And we’re considerably worse off than this makes us look.”

The new data lags real-time; the report released this week compiles various statistics primarily from 2022 and 2023 to arrive at its conclusions.

And numbers of historically hard-hit sectors such as the homeless and incarcerated populations are not included, Atchity points out, which means substance abuse is even higher than what’s presented.

Colorado also ranks 50th-worst in

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