



Have a Happy & Safe 4th of July

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ArapCo board OKs Xcel power conduit route

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

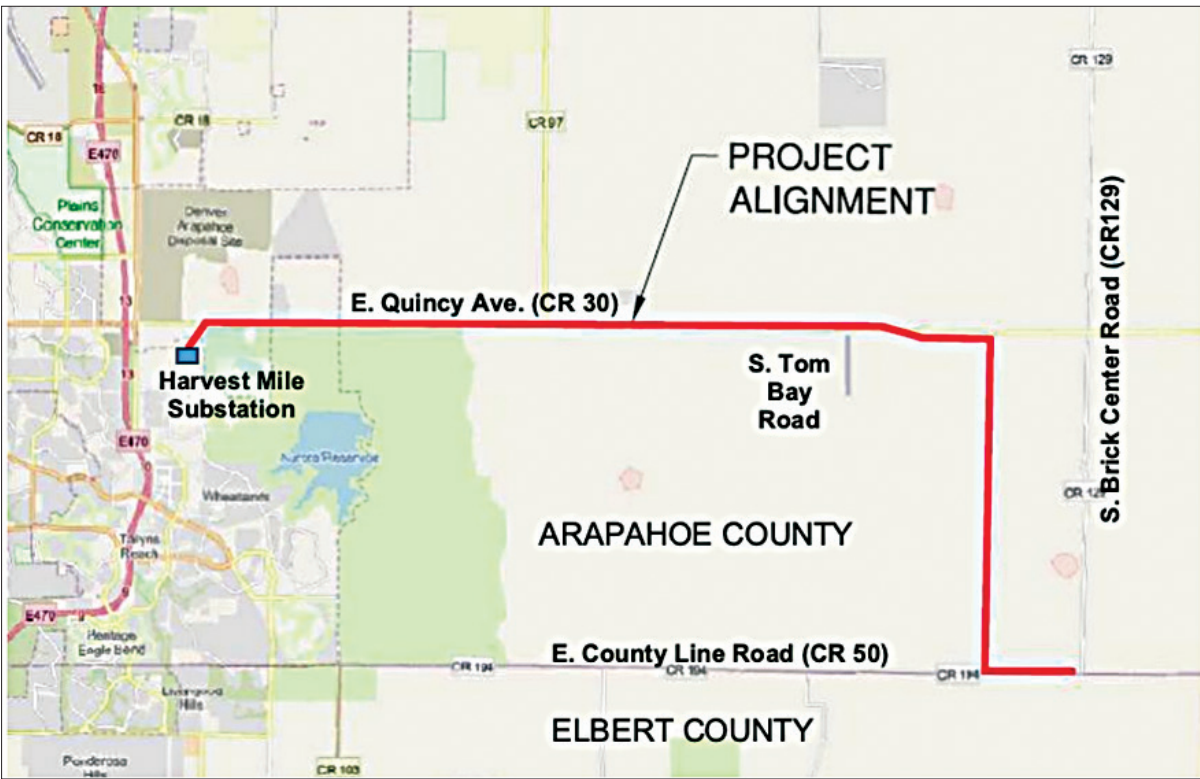
LITTLETON — Unlike their colleagues in charge of a county to the south, Arapahoe County Commissioners told the state’s largest power provider to go ahead with 18 miles of overhead power lines in an eastern unincorporated area as part of a \$1.7 billion infrastructure addition across most of eastern Colorado.

During their June 23 public hearing, commissioners voted 4-0 in favor of the 1041 application (Areas and Activities of State Interest) from Xcel Energy’s Public Service of Colorado subsidiary for Arapahoe County’s part of Segment 5 of the conglomerate’s Power Pathway Project. District 1 Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully was absent from the proceedings.

The proposed Arapahoe County route will hook up a 345kV transmission power line at Xcel’s existing Harvest Mile Substation at 4455 S. Harvest Road. From that location, power lines will run north to the north side of East Quincy Avenue when it will run about 11.5 miles east when it will turn south between South Tom Bay and South Brick Center (County Road 129) roads for five miles until reaching East County Line Road (County Road 50). From there, the line will run east before turning south into Elbert County.

A one-mile portion of the Arapahoe County route is located within the city of Aurora, and the city council for the municipality has already given its approval.

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MAP COURTESY OF ARAPAHOE COUNTY

The eastern Arapahoe County portion of Xcel Energy’s Segment 5 Power Pathways Project, including a connection with Elbert County, was unanimously approved by the board of commissioners during a June 23 public hearing.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A late night storm with heavy winds June 24 downed 14 power poles along Arapahoe County Road 38 between Xmore Road and Deer Trail. The road was closed most of the following day. Two dozen CORE Electric Cooperative customers were without power for 12-14 hours. **SEE PAGE 22.**

Byers 4th performance slated by Colo Country HoF nominee

by **Douglas Claussen**
Publisher & Editor

DENVER — A country western singer slated to perform at the Byers Fourth of July celebration was recently nominated for the 2026 Male Vocalist of the Year award by the Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame.

In 2025, Joe Wren, 20, a native and resident of Littleton, also won the Hall of Fame’s Best Country

**SEE JOE WREN
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by **Chase Woodruff**
Colorado Newslite

The message arrived on the morning of June 27 at the headquarters of Gen. Alfred Terry, who had marched west a month earlier with a column of 1,000 U.S. Army troops out of the Dakota Territory’s Fort Abraham Lincoln.

“I have had a most terrific engagement with the hostile Indians,” began Maj. Marcus Reno’s frantic dispatch.

DT fire board debates Sable pact

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — Options to insure more consistent daytime fire response and emergency medical service coverage for residents in and around Deer Trail are being pondered.

When the Deer Trail Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors meets for its July 13 business meeting, one of the primary agenda item is expected to be whether to move forward with a \$400,000 annual contract for the next three years with Sable Altura Fire Department.

During their June 8 meeting, board members voted 3-2 to pay Fire Chief Rich Loveless a \$58,000 salary; however, that might be a moot point if the proposal for two Sable personnel staged at the Deer Trail Firehouse during weekdays moves ahead.

Prior to last month’s vote — with Ken Dingman, Dawson Eldringhoff

and John Jolly saying yes while board president Kayley Dillingham and Phil Donovan dissenting — Loveless’ position was volunteer and unpaid. The move is expected to assist in covering gaps in service until Deer Trail volunteers or responders from neighboring jurisdictions are available.

“If we, the community, are going to spend some money, they are covered a little bit. We get increased coverage,” said Dingman, who noted the paid chief debate had gone on for about a year-and-a-half. “It’s time to stop flogging the mule and get off of the high center and, at least, hire a chief.”

Donovan said he needed confirmation that Loveless would have a time requirement at the firehouse, to which the chief said he was agreeable with. Dillingham had reservations that Loveless didn’t have proper certification when it comes to many of the calls he might be asked to respond to.

**SEE DEER TRAIL FPD
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COLORADO @ 150

July 1, 1876: New state constitution approved

Terry’s force made up one part of a three-pronged attack the Army had planned in its 1876 war against the Lakota Sioux, who had been deemed “hostile” after resisting settler encroachment on the Black Hills, sacred land reserved for them by an 1868 treaty. Reno was the senior officer under Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, whose seasoned 7th Cavalry force had been ordered to advance towards a Sioux village on the banks of the Little Bighorn

**SEE CO CONSTITUTION
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