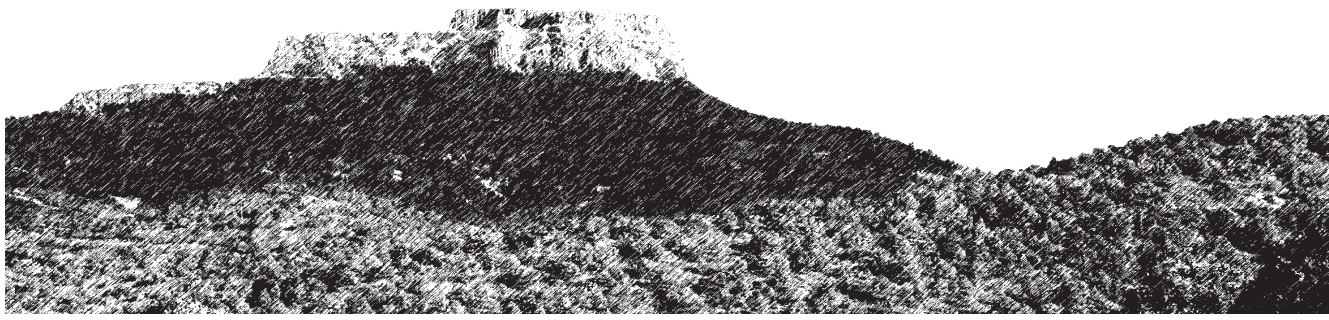


# OVER THE PASS



## CONNECTIONS

### “What change would you like to make in 2016?”

By Tim Keller  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

“Santa would like to start every day with a smile. We don’t take a vacation now. We only have 361 more days so we’re already at work.”

– Santa Claus, North Pole



“Reaching out to people and contacting those that I haven’t for years, people I felt close to at one time. You go your own way, concentrating on your own life. You forget sometimes what’s really important, connecting with friends.”

– Eleanor Rael, IT project manager



“I have a goal to be able to do a pull-up next year. I’m working toward that. It’s the getting to the stage where you even get to the pull-up, that’s the hard part. I’ve run half-marathons but building upper body strength is a challenge.”

– Laneha Everett, owner, Bar-K Corral Boutique



“Everybody has become ‘Hey you’ to me. I’m going to try to remember everyone’s names better. I’ve never been good with names but it’s gotten worse with age.”

– David Hadad, Sr., retired, Hadad’s Home Furnishings

## CSU RAMS FOOTBALL

### Inaugural Arizona Bowl has Mountain West flavor

JOHN MARSHALL  
AP Sports Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Mountain West Conference officials did everything they could think of to prevent two of the league’s teams from playing in the same bowl game.

After a barrage of emails, texts and phone calls to bowl officials, conference officials and school administrators, the conference still ended up with Nevada and Colorado State in the inaugural Arizona Bowl.

Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson wasn’t too pleased, issuing a long statement condemning the choice.

Once the Wolf Pack and Rams got over the initial disappointment of having to play another Mountain West team, they shrugged it off and turned their attention toward winning.

This was still a bowl game and a chance to end the season on a winning note, so it didn’t matter much who the opponent was at this point.

“When the bowls came out, there was a lot of talk about

the uniqueness of having a conference opponent in a bowl game,” Nevada coach Brian Polian said. “To be honest with you, we didn’t make a big deal of it.”

The first Arizona Bowl will be a bit of an anomaly. Tuesday’s game marks the first time two teams from the same conference will play in a non-playoff bowl since Nebraska and Oklahoma in the 1979 Orange Bowl.

But it’s not like these teams have years of tape on each other. Nevada (6-6) and Colorado State (7-5) did not meet this season and have met just twice since the Wolf Pack joined the Mountain West Conference in 2012.

Still, a bowl game is not like a regular conference game. Instead of a week to prepare for their opponent, coaches have about a month to come up with a game plan, which can lead to plenty of variations from what the teams normally would do.

“The wrinkles off of the base package is sometimes where the big plays happen,” first-year Colorado State coach Mike Bobo said. “And then you’ve got to be ready for more special plays in games like this. The coaches have free time, so you’ve got to invent some more things to run.”

A few more things to look for when Colorado State meets Nevada in the Arizona Bowl on Tuesday night at Arizona Stadium.

**TURNOVER BATTLE:** Nevada was one of the nation’s best teams at taking care of the football, finishing tied for seventh in the FBS with 12 turnovers (seven interceptions,

five fumbles). Colorado State was at the opposite end of the turnover spectrum, finishing tied for 115th with 26 turnovers lost. The Rams will need to hold onto the ball better since the Wolf Pack are so stingy with the turnovers.

**PACK RUNS:** It’s no secret that Nevada likes to run the ball. The Wolf Pack was 29th nationally with 205.8 yards per game and was one of two FBS teams to have a pair of 1,000-yard rushers. James Butler ran for 1,153 yards and Don Jackson finished with 1,029, giving Nevada a potent one-two punch. The key will be being able to have some effectiveness in the passing game to keep Colorado State from loading up against the run; the Wolf Pack are 111th nationally in passing offense with 172.1 yards per game.

**RAMS RUN, TOO:** Yes, this figures to be a run-heavy bowl game. Colorado State finished 34th nationally with 195.8 yards rushing per game and runs the ball close to 60 percent of the time. The Rams didn’t have a 1,000-yard rusher like Nevada, but has a speed/power combination in Dalyn Dawkins and Jason Oden.

**UP AND DOWN STEVENS:** Colorado State sophomore quarterback Nick Stevens had a mostly solid sophomore season, leading the Mountain West Conference with 21 touchdown passes (29th nationally) and throwing for 2,369 yards. But he’s also had some shaky games and has been prone to turnovers at times, throwing for 12 interceptions.

## MARIJUANA ISSUES

### Pot bank begs for access to nation’s banking system

KRISTEN WYATT  
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The booming marijuana industry went to a federal judge Monday seeking an answer to the problem that has vexed business owners trying to emerge from the black market: Now that pot is legal and taxed in some states, why can’t they put the proceeds in a bank?

A Colorado credit union designed to serve the pot industry — Fourth Corner Credit Union — was challenging a decision by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City to keep the pot bank from accessing the nation’s financial system. The feds’ rejection earlier this year means that the pot bank can’t take deposits or issue credit — leaving many marijuana businesses operating on a cash-only basis.

“What do you want us to do with the money?” cried an exasperated Mark Mason, lawyer for the credit union, which was chartered by Colorado last year but has been unable to start taking customers.

The credit union claims that although marijuana remains illegal under federal law, the Federal Reserve as a quasi-government institution lacks the authority to keep marijuana banks out of the nation’s financial system. Mason argued that a pot bank would serve the government’s interest in keeping better tabs on the drug money.

“They intend to take this money out of shadows and off of the street so that they can track it and trace it,” Mason argued.

But the Federal Reserve lawyer insisted the bank is too risky.

“It’s a risk the Federal Reserve has decided they don’t want to take on,” said Scott Barker, arguing for the Federal Reserve.

U.S. District Judge R. Brooke Jackson repeatedly said he sympathizes with the struggling pot businesses. Jackson twice called existing federal guidance on marijuana money a “nothingburger,” meaning that memos from the Treasury and Department of Justice don’t solve the federal-state conflicts caused by legalizing pot.

But he seemed hesitant to order the Federal Reserve to

give a pot bank access to the banking system as long as the bank is relying on memos from federal agencies, and not an act of Congress, to say pot shops should have a way to avoid dealing in cash.

“We think there ought to be banking and regulation. I get that. I agree with that. But that’s not the legal question here, is it?” Jackson said.

The pot bank’s lawyer argued that national marijuana legalization is inevitable, but Jackson retorted that the pot bank should take up its problem with Congress and not the courts.

“If I were in the Congress, I’d vote for you, but I’ve got to do the job of a federal judge here,” Jackson said.

The judge repeatedly tried to encourage the sides to work something out themselves, perhaps by agreeing that Fourth Corner would serve only people who believe marijuana should be legal, not taking money from businesses that sell pot.

Jackson pointed out that hundreds of banks already do take pot proceeds, even if they sometimes pretend they don’t know what they’re doing. For example, the state of Colorado uses Wells Fargo bank, meaning that tax proceeds from the sale of marijuana goes into the nation’s banking system already.

“I think there’s a certain unfairness to allowing these big banks to serve this business and keeping you out.

“But it’s not for me, I don’t think, to decide issues of fairness or policy. My job is to enforce and apply the law,” Jackson said.

The judge has no deadline to decide the case. He joked that if he issued a ruling Monday, the losing side would file an appeal “before I could go home and watch the Broncos game tonight.”

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