

Daily Camera



Residents take to streets in defense of science, 1B

Tribes seek cultural tourism, 10A

Congress must step in on climate rules, 1D

Sunday, April 23, 2017 • \$2.00 • dailycamera.com

Rabbit Mountain Open Space

Elk hunt triggers some dissent

By Charlie Brennan
Staff Writer

New calves could bring herd's ballooning population to 500

A Boulder County proposal to create a limited season for hunting elk at Rabbit Mountain Open Space is stirring the passions of people on both

sides of the issue.

Carol Walker has lived within a mile of Boulder County's Rabbit Mountain Open Space northeast of

Lyons for the better part of two decades, on property where she cares for three formerly wild mustangs, which she adopted.

A photographer specializing in photographing wild horses across the Rocky Mountain West, she sees the elk as her neighbors,

and is appalled at the idea that the counting would permit a limited hunting season as a program for managing a herd that wildlife officials

see as having grown out of control.

"I think there absolutely should never be hunting on open space. It is just too dangerous," Walker said. "I also worry about hunters. See HUNT, 6A



Boulder's long, elusive road to a municipal electric utility

In 1969, long before climate change was a major political issue, a 20-year franchise agreement between Boulder and the Colorado-based electric utility known as the Public Service Company was set to expire.

Public Service was discussing placement of a new excise tax on the ballot, revenue from which would pay for the installation of utility lines underground. The city feared that in the event the tax didn't generate as much money as the company expected, Boulder would be on the hook for remaining costs of undergrounding.

"Why should the city have to bear this burden?" then-City Manager Ted Tedesco said at the time. "What bothers me," said then-Councilman Ray Joyce, "is they won't pay for the undergrounding, and they'll benefit just as much or more than the average electric user who will have to bear the burden of the cost."

Many in the city were already discontent with Public Service, and believed that the company's local earnings were too high.

A consultant for the city found that the company was netting 7 percent profits statewide, but taking 8.2 percent profits out of Boulder.

Later in the 1969, the city received what was then a highly anticipated report on the feasibility of municipal ownership of the electric utility. It was done by R.W. Beck & Associates — the same firm that would work with Boulder again 40 years later, during exploration ahead of the current municipalization bid.

The original report said net revenues of a municipal distribution system would be adequate to pay off debt incurred in relatively short order, and that the city could use surplus revenues to slash customer rates.

It was heavily challenged by many who felt there were too

See MUNICIPALIZATION, 8A



Power lines snake their way over Grape Avenue, as seen in 1991. File photo

By Alex Burness • Staff Writer

FasTracks

Can a city sue RTD?

Longmont leaders of two minds on how to proceed in rail saga

By Karen Antonacci
Staff Writer

To compromise or not to compromise? That is the question Longmont leaders must consider when it comes to the overdue commuter rail line that was supposed to connect Longmont to Denver via Boulder.

Former Longmont Mayor Julia Pirnack is firmly in the no-compromise camp. She is trying to get \$5,000 together so that a former Colorado Secretary of State can explore whether anyone can viably sue the Regional Transportation District for the lack of a train in Longmont.

Pirnack said in an April 7 interview that since she was one of the people who pushed for Longmont to vote for FasTracks in 2004, she feels that RTD made a liar out of her because the commuter line promised in the FasTracks plan is currently not planned to reach Longmont until 2042.

"I was one of the people

See FASTRACKS, 14A

Weather

High: 72 | Low: 47

Pleasant and warmer
Complete details on Page 6C



Subscriptions 303-444-3444
Complete index, Page 2A

PATRICK DOLAN'S OFFICE
303-441-5642
www.patrick-dolan.com

CALL US TODAY!

RE/MAX of Boulder Inc.

Experienced • Professional • Knowledgeable

OPEN TODAY 1-4 PM!



2526 Lake Meadow Drive • \$824,700

OPEN TODAY 1-4 PM!



3777 Wonderland Hill Avenue • \$1,225,000

OPEN TODAY 1-4 PM!



14987 Nighthawk Lane • \$929,000

OPEN TODAY 1-4 PM!



2316 Powderhorn Lane • \$1,675,000

PLEASE SEE OUR FULL-PAGE AD IN TODAY'S REAL ESTATE SECTION