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METRO NEWS

Air traffic controllers,
FAA at odds on UFOsBy KRIS NEWCOMER
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The government is blaming a power outage, but some air traffic controllers say that's not what caused apparent UFOs to appear on radar at the Denver Air Route Traffic Control Center in Longmont.

"These unidentified targets looked like actual aircraft, with apparently normal speeds and altitudes," said air traffic controller Kevin Cain.

In comments released Friday, Cain said the UFO incident occurred Tuesday — luckily at a slow time of day. The Longmont center controls aircraft flying across Colorado and Wyoming and parts of five other states.

During the incident, Cain wrote that "some controllers had a dozen or more of these targets merging with actual aircraft targets over a half-hour period."

Mitch Barker, a spokesman for

the Federal Aviation Administration, said the problem was traced to a damaged component in the center's computer system. He theorized that the damage was caused by a commercial power outage in Grand Junction the day before false targets started appearing on Longmont radar screens.

But Cain said he doesn't blame the power outage.

Cain said he believes "the new computer just went haywire for that period of time."

Neither official so much as hinted that the blips on Longmont radar screens were representative of unidentified objects.

The FAA is sticking with the power outage theory, Barker said.

"Yes, I'm sure," he said.

"I'm not saying that's the official explanation. I mean, you can never say 'definitely,'" he said.

"Of course, I can't swear on the Bible or anything. But I'm sure."

Associated Press contributed to this report.

R-0 ZONING / from previous page

"You can have all kinds of strange vendettas with this ordinance," Donohue said. "People in violation are very afraid of doing something their neighbors don't like."

Donohue was targeted for the calls by real estate agent Sonja Leonard Leonard who distributed 2,000 fliers in Donohue's Capitol Hill district.

"Your zoning may be taken away!" the fliers read.

"Cathy Donohue and others put so much emphasis on making these lawbreakers legal," Leonard Leonard said. "The emphasis should be on people who have their pocket-books on the line, who've worked long and hard to get this zoning, and made this investment."

Leonard Leonard notes that there is plenty of R-1 and R-2 housing for non-families.

"If you take away the choice of R-0 housing for families, they would go to the suburbs. That would weaken the quality of schools."

At least three council members, including Ted Hackworth, Bob Crider and Bill Roberts, have spoken out against loosening the zoning regulations.

Council member Dave Doering, who proposed the change even though he has no R-0 neighbor-

hoods in his district, said most of his calls come from seniors and widows who can't afford to live alone and want to take in boarders.

"This is a citywide issue," Doering said. "I have constituents who might well choose to live in Park Hill (which has many R-0 blocks), but are precluded from doing so by present zoning."

At the city's zoning administration office, 11 inspectors handle complaints, said chief zoning inspector Kent Strapko. Only a few callers base their objections on the morality issue.

"It doesn't matter what motivates the complaint," Strapko said. "We're compelled to investigate."

Sometimes violators pretend the other person in the house is a brother or sister. (Cousins don't count as blood relatives, according to the ordinance).

The inspector then will separate the housemates and ask each their mother's maiden name. "Then they'll admit the truth," Strapko said.

After several weeks, the zoning officer usually returns to see if the occupants are conforming to the rules. He'll count the number of cars in the driveway and toothbrushes in the bathroom.

"That's the embarrassing part of this job," Strapko said.

ZONED OUT IN DENVER

The R-0 zoning ordinance has

plans to marry, said Howard Beck

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