



Bulletin photo by Susan Carr

Miles and miles of the Sand Creek Conservation Community could be seen from the heights of the Re/MAX hot air balloon during the open house of the ranch. The dirtwork for the few roads and house site clusters has been started and can be seen against the green prairies of the ranch.

Ranch project coming together

BY MANDY JARRARD

Staff writer

mandy@buffalobulletin.com

Sand Creek Ranch founder John Jenkins of Buffalo is happy with the turnout at his grand opening celebration last weekend.

"I'm tired but pleased," Jenkins said. "It got crazy. I think we got somewhere around 600 people."

Jenkins and his family conceived the Sand Creek Ranch Conservation Community to provide an alternative to urban sprawl as developers buy up more and more area ranchland. After five years, the project is now nearing completion, and the general public had a chance to see how it's shaping up during a grand opening June 20 through 22.

Sand Creek Ranch consists of about 850 acres off French Creek Road northwest of Buffalo. Its development is meant to provide the mountain-West way of life, sought by many prospective real-estate buyers, without destroying it in the process.

Rather than slicing the property into as many home-sites as possible, Jenkins and

his team have worked around the natural assets of the area. Much of the land will continue to be put to agricultural use, while the remainder has been parceled out as home-sites in a manner Jenkins said optimizes the rural-living experience.

"There's a lot of people who helped on this thing," Jenkins said. "Not to sound like Hillary Clinton, but it took a village."

The grand opening event included tethered rides on the Re/MAX hot-air balloon, raffles, drawings, and tours of the ranch. About 70 interested parties received detailed showings of all corners of the ranch, and two sales were pending as of Monday morning, according to Jenkins.

"The most important thing is I think people understand a lot more, and I'm hoping a lot of friends and neighbors will be good ambassadors for the project," he said.

Sand Creek Ranch has been featured in the Wyoming Business Report, Wyoming Livestock Roundup, and New West Magazine as an up-and-coming project of interest.

"It's actually coming together," Jenkins said. "It's just neat to see it all happen after the long steady march."