



How Close to Meadow Mountain Elementary Showers High 55; low 35 See Weather, PAGE B24

## BUSINESS

# The Rib is finally cooking in Eagle

Lots finally available at Adam's Rib Ranch south of Eagle

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**BRUSH CREEK VALLEY** — Fred Kummer says it right out loud: There are times he wanted to quit.

But he didn't. Lots at Adam's Rib Ranch went on sale recently as the Tom Weiskopf golf course nears completion. The golf course is scheduled to open next spring.

"I feel wonderful about all that green grass up there and recognizing that in very few months folks are going to be hitting golf balls through some of it," Kummer said in a telephone interview from his St. Louis office.

So, Fred, in the two decades or so you've been wading through this, was there ever a time you wanted to forget it?

"Lots of moments," he said. "But in Colorado and that particular part of the world, all you need to revive your enthusiasm is to go back and take a look at it. If you do, you realize how beautiful we allow it to be and can make it more relevant to people's use."

"I think that's what we've finally done, and that's wonderfully gratifying."

### Welskopf's the man

Adam's Rib Ranch sits on 1,662 acres of the Brush Creek Valley. It's home to Adam's Mountain Country Club, featuring a championship Tom Weiskopf-designed golf course. It's surrounded by federal land. The clubhouse will be 40,471 square feet, including a restaurant and bar, a veranda, a 3,200-square-foot fitness/spa area and a gift/golf shop.

Kummer commissioned a 24-foot bronze sculpture of an eagle to stand in front of the clubhouse. It's being designed by artist Lorenzo Ghiglietti of Wilsonville, Ore., who has also created artwork for the Vatican, White House, Kremlin and Britain's Royal Palace.

"This will be a truly memorable course to play. It will challenge both expert and novice alike, with holes that are both spectacular in nature and forgiving in play," Welskopf said. "I have never believed in one signature hole. Each hole is individually unique from every other."

Kummer said he chose the right guy to design the project's centerpiece.

"Tom Weiskopf was wonderful to deal with," Kummer said. "Instead of assigning an underling to do the bulk of the work, like some other golf-course designers, Weiskopf does it himself."

Kummer is founder of St. Louis-based HBB Corp., which owns and runs hospitals and hotels. He appreciates Weiskopf's hands-on approach.

"He reminds me of my wife. She's a real gardener. She loves being in the dirt. Tom Weiskopf is the same kind of guy," Kummer said.

"I'd follow him around, and



Special to the Daily  
Lots at Adam's Rib Ranch are available. The project has been pending through the approval process for almost 25 years. The clubhouse will be almost 41,000 square feet.

it's great to see him work with these people. The actual people doing the work have such respect for the man. I don't believe that happens when you hire some other designers. This guy is literally the man in charge."

### Changes keep coming

Whether change is good or bad, change will always come, Kummer said.

"You can manage change in a rational way, but you can't hold it back," he said. "If you're going to be involved in big and interesting things, you're going to have obstacles."

"This has been more interesting than most other things I deal with."

Kummer is 77. He fell a few

years ago and doesn't get around quite as well as he wants to. He said he's getting better, and he might even get to swing a club or two when he's out. He doesn't get to Eagle County as much as he wants to but said that will also change.

"Most people don't get to the places they love the most as much as they want to," Kummer said. "I get a kick out of seeing other people use the things I've created."

### Park place

The project is much different than Kummer's original vision of a ski area in the valley south of Eagle. Some Eagle residents fought him hammer and tong for more than two decades. He finally abandoned that ski-area idea

for golf-course communities. As part of the long negotiations, he sold a huge chunk of the property that's now part of Sylvan Lake State Park.

Former Eagle County Commissioner James Johnson had high praise when Kummer sold East/West Brush Creek to the state of Colorado for a state park, saying that naming the park after Kummer should be considered.

"Naming the park after Mr. Kummer is not out of line," Johnson said. "I would like to thank you for what you have done for the people of Eagle County, Colorado and the nation."

Kummer sold the 1,800-acre parcel to the state for \$14 million, about \$3 million less than it is worth, according to an appraisal done by the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

### Adam's Rib Ranch

- Ninety-nine custom homesites spaced throughout the community's 1,662 acres.
- Lots range in size from 3.57 to 9.85 acres.
- Two larger parcels of 35 acres and 35 or more acres.
- Architectural design guidelines apply.
- Prices start at \$800,000.
- Three custom homes ranging from 3,800 to 4,200 square feet.
- Available in 2006.
- Five guest cottages will be available for rent by owners, members and their guests; 2,226 square feet.
- Tom Weiskopf designed championship golf course.