

CRYSTAL VALLEY

# The Third Street Center: 'A hope and a wish and a prayer'

Center has its grand opening June 19

By Sue McEvoy, Echo staff writer

Redstone resident Judy Olesen has worked in the local nonprofit world for more than 30 years. In March, she took over as capital campaign director for Carbondale's Third Street Center that has just met its completion date for construction and is welcoming tenants each day.

The Third Street Center is a 501(c)(3) organization that has renovated the 49-year-old vacant Carbondale Elementary School in order to provide a home to more than 20 nonprofit organizations that serve seven local counties, several artists sharing spaces and a few like-minded for-profits.

"The Third Street Campaign has special meaning for me," says Judy. "I served on the early boards of two tenants, Mountain Valley Developmental Services and YouthZone. Over the years, I've also consulted with several of the groups - Carbondale Council on Arts and Humanities, Solar Energy International and Wilderness Workshop."

Starting with a land swap between the Roaring Fork School District and the Town of Carbondale in 2008, the former 45,000-square-foot school building continues to be renovated into a center with green innovations committed to managing long-term costs for tenants and reflecting Carbondale's commitment to sustainability.

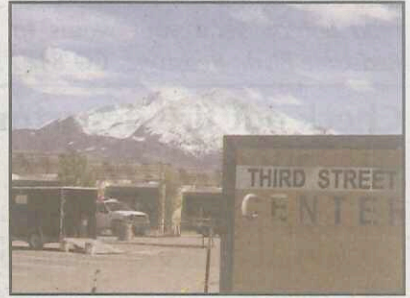
With a total renovation budget of \$4.8 million, the Third Street Center has been the dream and combined hard work of many Carbondale and Roaring Fork Valley design professionals, elected officials, private citizens and nonprofit leaders.

Colin Laird, who is the center's interim executive director, put together a pre-development feasibility study for the center. Now, he says, occupancy at the end of June is 80 percent. The remaining 20 percent consists of the former school's gymnasium, kitchen facility and one other room.

"This was done by what at that time wasn't even a nonprofit," says Judy, "but it was done on a hope and a wish and a prayer. There was, I think, a real vision that was behind the inception of the entire project that really is emblematic or representative of the kind of community that Carbondale has historically been."



Above, A group of the Third Street Center tenants gathered in front of the center. They all invite you to the grand opening on June 19 from 4-9 p.m. The Third Street Center sits in front of Mt. Sopris at the end of, well, Third Street in Carbondale. Right, Judy Olesen, the capital campaign director for the center, stands in the Arts Round Room, which will host First Friday art openings, theatrical performances, music and dance performances, as well as other public offerings.



Jeff Dickinson's firm, Energy and Sustainable Design, charged with carrying out the architectural design for the center, brings three architects to the project, certified in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Green upgrades to the building include photovoltaic panels, multiple skylights, solar tubes, high-efficiency boilers, solar thermal systems to heat domestic water and improved energy recovery ventilators to improve indoor air quality.

Several of the tenants are already established environmental and energy organizations including Clean Energy Economy for the Region, Community Office for Resource Efficiency, Green Weaver, SOLEnergy, and Solar Energy International (SEI). In addition to the educational opportunities the center holds, SEI created a space to conduct classes starting in May.

Alexandra Jeurnika is moving her Coreducation Pilates studio to a new space in the center. Hoping to open in early July, she will offer Pilates, ballet and possibly yoga.

"What I like the most about moving into Third Street is the fact that all the surrounding businesses within the building are made up of enthusiastic, earth-conscious warm-hearted and welcoming indi-

viduals," Alexandra says. "I am ready to be a part of a community that is filled with such magnetic energy."

Other tenants like Senior Matters, Carbondale Council on Arts and Humanities, Mountain Valley Development Center and Ballet Folklorico will find a home dedicated to controlled energy costs, affordable rental space (\$9.75 square foot), a community room, conference room and shared communications center.

"The kinds of collaboration, the kinds of networking, the synergy that go on among nonprofits when they share a home, I think will help to enhance the services that can be provided to all of their clients throughout the Roaring Fork Valley," adds Judy.

After taking over in March for Third Street Center Capital Campaign Director Kristen Loden, Judy is now working closely with the center's board of directors, tenants and other volunteers to accomplish the \$1.875 million fundraising campaign.

The Third Street Center is having its grand opening on June 19 from 4-9 p.m. and the entire community is invited for food and beverages, kids' activities, guided tours of the building, music and dancing. Check it out!

## WHO WE ARE

### Mary Ann Wofford Redstone



Mary Ann, top right, and family. Photo courtesy of the Wofford Family

*Who We Are is a Q&A about a Crystal Valley resident. Our objective is to give community members better connections and familiarity with each other.*

**Age:** 31

**Occupation:** Bus driver and teacher's aid at Marble Charter School

**Where do you live?** Redstone

**Birthplace:** Pocatello, Idaho

**When did you move to the Crystal Valley and why?** We moved here in December 2005. My husband Bob finished school in Ft. Collins and found a job in Aspen.

**What three things would you like people to know about you?**

- 1) I love to bake and cook when I have time.
- 2) I love going to the library.

- 3) I love to read aloud to our whole family at night - Bob and our three kids.

**Which living person do you most admire?** I admire people who can give their time and money away. I recently heard about a family that makes \$300,000; they live on \$50,000 and give the rest away. Another lady is collecting 200 cans of food a week and giving it to the homeless. What would it be like if we were all that selfless?

**What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?** When I had my kids, my mom told me, "Your kids don't have to be held all the time." It stopped me from going overboard.

**What is your favorite thing to do in the Crystal Valley?** I love to hike and camp with the kids and sit by the river. I love living on the Boulevard because I get to see people all the time. I like meeting the tourists who come through and hearing a little bit about them.