

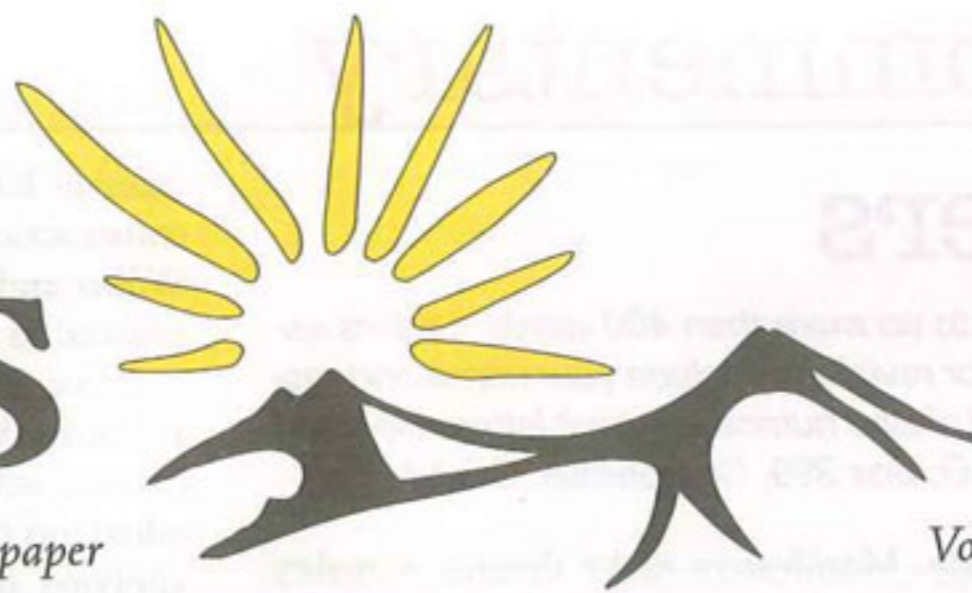
Chamber  
director  
resigns

Sweet success

Youngsters  
in fashion

# the Sopris

Carbondale's weekly, non-profit newspaper



# Sun

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## “Build it and they will come” phenomena expected

By Trina Ortega  
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If the new Rifle library is any indication, once a new Carbondale library is up and running in 2013, use will more than double from the current circulation at the Gordon Cooper Library.

“Circulation or use of the Rifle library has more than doubled. We’re just swamped, which is great. It’s now our busiest branch,” Amelia Shelley, executive director of Garfield County Libraries, said of the LEED Gold facility that opened in November 2010.

“It’s the ‘build it and they will come’ phenomenon when we put together a beautiful new building we succeed. Basalt is also a good example of that, and we expect the same for Carbondale,” Shelley added.

Shelley was among the library officials, architects and planners at the first of three community meetings where citizens are providing input about the programming and design of the new Carbondale library, which will be located at Third Street and Sopris Avenue.

A second open house takes place from 4-6:30 p.m. on Nov. 17 at the Third Street Center, and a final open house will be Jan. 12. All meetings are in the Calaway Room, with open house after-hours meeting time extending until 8 p.m.

“I was really happy with the turnout (on Nov. 8). It was awesome. And it was not age specific. There was a real cross-section of the community,” according to Andrea Korber of Land+Shelter.

Design-team members led presentations about modern libraries, the site and civic architecture, and citizens were

asked to write down their ideas on sticky notes and place them under a range of categories, including: site, community, Carbondale, learning, reading, teens, technology, children, and sustainability.

“We had a ton of comments about sustainability, about using natural light and incorporating good building practices. And we had a ton of comments about the view and the Sopris connection, which I think is an obvious one but it’s nice to hear people underscore that it’s important to them,” Korber said.

Library consultant Ozi Friedrich of the firm Humphries Poli stated that the first meeting was largely to gather programming ideas.

“What we were doing tonight was showing people the wildest ideas so we get the wildest ideas back,” he said.

His portion of the presentation included slides showing libraries from around the country with ceilings made of local woods and glass, fireplaces in a den-like setting, stations where kids can sit comfortably together with a laptop, music listening pods, study rooms, front porches, a reading “forest” for children, storybook doors designed by artists, and more.

The budget for the new library is nearly \$5 million and Korber said the building will be roughly 13,000 square feet. The entire site, which is immediately northeast of the Bridges Center, is 25,000 square feet and primarily surrounded by residences. As a reference, the size of the existing dilapidated tennis courts (where the structure will be built) is a not quite 13,000 square feet.

In its effort to create a building that is “of” Carbondale

(not just “in” the town), design team members talked to citizens about how to interface a civic building in a residential neighborhood; using local artisans to provide artwork; improving the foot and vehicular flow along Third Street and Sopris Avenue; and bringing to the surface the century-old ditch that now runs underground on the south side of Bridges Center.

Jason Jaynes of DHM Design highlighted how advantageous the site is, with its location on an east-west through street (from Highway 133 to Snowmass Drive), its proximity to Crystal River Elementary and Carbondale Middle schools, and its equal distance from Main Street and the Third Street Center.

“We recognize that the library enjoys a very valuable spot at the halfway point and has an opportunity to create and strengthen the connection between the heart of town and the Third Street Center,” Jaynes said, adding that the addition of a library at that corner will improve the transit from Main Street to Third Street, making it safe and comfortable for pedestrians and effective for vehicles.

The design team used the ideas generated at the first meeting to develop a conceptual direction, which will be reviewed at the Nov. 17 meeting. The final meeting in January will provide a look at design plans mid-process. Ground breaking for the new library is expected in summer 2012.

DHM, Land+Shelter and Humphries Poli are part of the larger design team led by Willis Pember Architects of Aspen. Other team members are Schmueser Gordon Meyer, Dan Richardson, KL&A, Beaudin Ganze, Group 3 Planners, and Mark Chain Consulting.