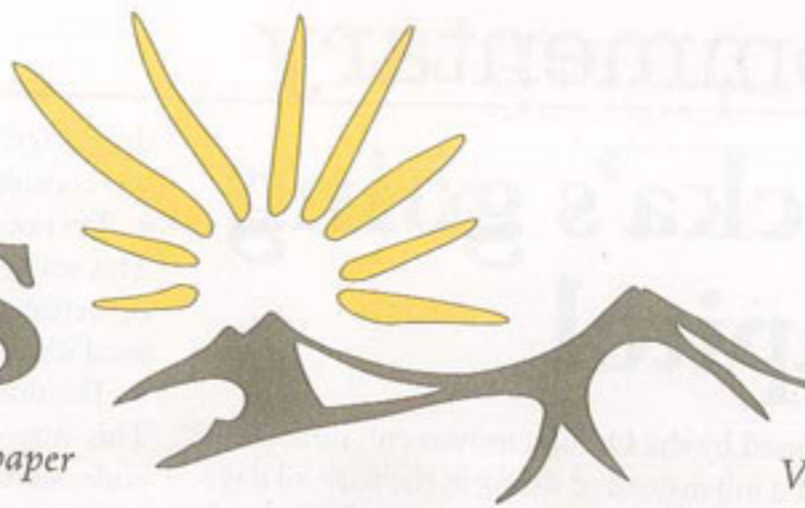


# the Sopris

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## Board seeks input on new Carbondale library

*Sopris Sun Staff Report*

The Garfield County Public Library District and its design team have set out to engage the community in the new Carbondale library design process.

Three open house community input meetings are planned for the coming weeks to support collaboration throughout the project.

"I'm passionate about getting the community to these meetings because I want every single person to feel like they've made a contribution to the new library," said Gordon Cooper Library Branch Manager Marilyn Murphy. "I want them to feel like they've participated throughout the whole process. This is their new library."

The first open house takes place Nov. 8 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Third Street Center Calaway Room. Displays will remain up until 8 p.m. for those who need to come later in the evening. The first meeting is designed to gather ideas about community needs and goals. Each meeting will build upon the others throughout the process.

The second open house, also at the Third Street Center from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 17, will check back with the community about the design's conceptual direction.

The third open house (at the Third Street Center) takes place from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 12 to show the direction the library design team has developed.

"People need to come and provide input because we might not think of some things that they come up with. This particular [design] team is very good at conducting community meetings, gathering input, and

incorporating citizens' ideas," Murphy said.

The design team is comprised of Willis Pember Architects with support from library architect Humphries Poli, Land+Shelter, DHM Design, Schmueser Gordon Meyer, Dan Richardson, KL&A, Beaudin Ganze, Group 3 Planners and Mark Chain Consulting.

"The physical building is important," Murphy said. "Libraries really have evolved their role in the community. They are now considered the community's 'living room.'"

Murphy said the new library will continue to house hard-bound books, as well as e-books (such as books for Kindle or Nook), audio and downloadable volumes, and offer access to statewide and university libraries. Additionally, libraries such as the Gordon Cooper fill a niche for those seeking Internet access help with job applications and resumes, and computer classes.

"The library is truly the cross-section of the community — we have moms, educators, students, Latino families, wealthy and working-class patrons. All of the community is welcome. Whatever a person is looking for is accessible through our library," Murphy said.

The new library will be located at the corner of Third Street and Sopris Avenue, where the old tennis courts now sit. Ground breaking is anticipated for the summer of 2012.

The Garfield County Public Library District operates libraries in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, New Castle, Silt and

Parachute. The district is funded through property taxes and a sales tax.

The Carbondale library is named after Gordon Cooper, one of the original Mercury astronauts who spent 34 hours in space in 1963 and flew a later mission as

well. He is portrayed in the Tom Wolfe book and movie about the original U.S. astronauts titled "The Right Stuff."

Cooper was born and raised in Oklahoma but his mother moved to Carbondale in the 1950s. He died in 2004.



Emily Seubert (right) tosses leaves with her son, Gabriel Campbell, at Gianinetti Park on a recent afternoon. Leaves are falling fast but there still seems to be plenty of piles for tossing or kicking your way through. Photo by Lynn Burton