



Page by Page

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2011**Inside this issue:**

<i>Update from the Director</i>	2
<i>Staff Recommendations</i>	2
<i>The Newsletter's New Look!</i>	3
<i>Meet Your Librarian</i> Amelia Shelley	3
<i>NEW Calendar of Events</i> GCC, GWS, NC	4
<i>NEW Calendar of Events</i> Silt, Rifle, Parachute	5
<i>Children's Corner</i>	6
<i>Database Spotlight</i> Mango Languages	6
<i>Teen & Tween Spot</i>	7
<i>Literacy Outreach</i>	7
<i>New Castle Branch</i> Closure & Moving	8

*A large and eager crowd assembled outside for the Grand Opening.*

It was a moment a lot of people had been waiting a long time for... when Branch Manager Judy Martens (along with the support of a rather large group of children) cut the red ribbon and officially opened the new Rifle Branch Library for business. The new 30,000 square foot building took just 396 days to complete once the ground was broken on October 21, 2009. However, the building took a lot longer to plan, and the community had been eagerly awaiting a larger facility for some time.

Just before Judy opened the library for business with those large scissors, opening remarks were given by a number of local dignitaries. Library District Board President

Nella Barker, Principal Architect Bruce Flynn, the City of Rifle's Mayor Pro-tem Jay Miller, and County Commissioner Mike Samson all joined Library District Executive Director Amelia Shelley for their turn at the podium to say a few words about the value of libraries and the journey this branch took to become a reality.

The real excitement began after the speeches and ribbon cutting, when people walked through the doors for the very first time and started to explore all the building has to offer.

continued on page 3...

*All the children in attendance gathered around Branch Manager Judy Martens as she cut the ribbon.*

Food for Fines



The libraries are excited to announce the Food for Fines program will return during the month of February. Bring in non-perishable food items to any of the six branch libraries and receive credit on your library card account. For each item you donate you will receive a \$1 credit toward overdue fines that are currently on your account (not lost materials or fees). All items donated will be given to the local LIFT-UP. Last February there were 2,894 items collected by the libraries!

This program is the perfect opportunity for you to take care of those pesky fines, while also helping out your local community.

www.gcpld.org

Update from the Director

New Libraries Grace West End of Garfield County

The Rifle Branch Library opened to the public on November 20th and the building was an instant hit with the community. Over 1500 people visited the branch that day and it has stayed very busy ever since. Some of the features of the new building include study rooms, an early literacy installation for children ages birth to five, and a restored Roosevelt window on the second floor. The library staff are getting used to a bigger and busier building as well as having the District's administrative offices upstairs. A ribbon-cutting for the library's solar panels was held on December 9th and Governor Ritter was in attendance, as a sizable amount of funding for the project came through the Governor's Energy Office and the Department of Local Affairs.

The new Parachute Branch Library continues to please its patrons with a wide variety of materials and programs as well as a knowledgeable staff.

The facility is beginning to accept meeting room requests from the



community and has seen a sharp increase in participants at programs,

particularly storytime where they have had to add an additional session.

Next on our agenda is the New Castle Branch Library, which will move into its temporary home at 820 Castle Valley Blvd in early 2011.

The building, which was built in 1968, will see an additional 4000 square feet added to its ground floor. The goals of this project include access to the basement, the addition of a 100+ person meeting room and accessible space for the library's local history collection. The entire library will be remodeled as well with a total project cost of around \$2.3 million. The library remodel should be complete in by the end of 2011.

Currently in a holding pattern are the libraries in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, and Silt. Carbondale and Silt are both currently awaiting closure on land purchases and will hopefully see some progress around the first of the year. Silt is slated for a new 7500 square foot facility adjacent to the Silt Town Hall with a joint parking area. The existing library will remain and will be taken over by the Town for other purposes.

In Carbondale, the site is the corner of Sopris Avenue and Third Street, adjacent to Bridges High School. The library will be approximately 13,000 square feet and will share parking with the existing school

and businesses located nearby.

The Library District has been involved in a joint effort with the City of Glenwood Springs, the Glenwood Springs Downtown Development Authority, and Colorado Mountain College to select a location in downtown Glenwood for

a new library. Results of this analysis are expected before the first of the year.

All remaining library projects will be completed by the end of 2013 to take advantage of current cost savings associated with the slower economy.



Governor Ritter addresses questions from the crowd.

Sign up for the Newsletter

Did you know you can get this quarterly newsletter

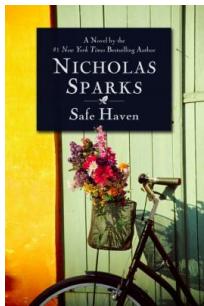
Page by Page

emailed or mailed to you when it's still hot off the presses?

Sign up by giving your name and address (email or postal mail) to any library staff member.

You can also email your request to gcpdadmin@gcpld.org. It's that simple!

Book Recommendations from Glenwood Springs Staff Members



Safe Haven

by Nicholas Sparks

Katie is a beautiful young woman with a secret past. She has escaped to Southport, North Carolina, and is starting over again. In Southport, Katie makes a couple of new friends: Alex, a widowed father of two, and Jo, her next door neighbor. As these relationships blossom, more and more of Katie's past is revealed, especially as she becomes more attached to Alex and his children. With the help of Alex, his children, and Jo, Katie begins to let her guard down and live a more carefree life, slowly letting go of her past, until her past finally catches up with her. I think Nicholas Sparks has done a wonderful job with this book, getting just the right amount of romance and suspense.

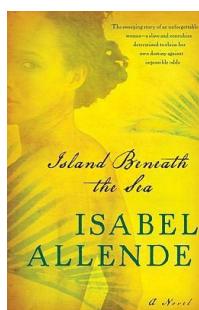
-Morgan Cooper

2

Island Beneath the Sea

by Isabel Allende

Set in late eighteenth century Haiti, the story is based around the life of a mulatto slave and her complicated relationship with her master who is a French-born sugar plantation owner. Her "true" love is a slave who runs away from the plantation and later becomes a leader in an uprising that changes the political climate of the country. The master flees Haiti and takes her child (who he fathered) to the safety of New Orleans. She leaves Haiti and follows him for the sake of her child.



I love a novel that transports me to another time and place so that I can experience an interesting and important time in history. This author tells a story that is both compelling and historically enlightening.

-Denise Wilson

The newsletter's new look!

We have redesigned the newsletter and hope the new layout and design makes it easier to find the local events that interest you on pages 4 & 5, while also keeping the news and in-depth stories you've come to expect in the rest of the publication. If you have any comments please send them to gcpadmin@gcpld.org.

Thank you!

Meet Your Librarian

Amelia Shelley Executive Director

When Amelia Shelley accepted the position of Executive Director of the Garfield County Libraries in 2007, little did she know that she soon would become an expert in building construction and financing. In Amelia's three years on the job, she has overseen the design and construction of new branch libraries in Parachute and Rifle and currently is working on projects in New Castle, Silt, Carbondale, and Glenwood Springs.



In bringing these beautiful new facilities to the library users of Garfield County, Amelia has worked tirelessly to win grant funds and develop agreements with local governments. The Rifle Branch Library, for example, was funded in part with state and local grants and is an outstanding example of cooperation between municipal entities, namely the library district and the City of Rifle.

Cooperation among groups has been a recurring theme during Amelia's tenure as Director. Amelia has orchestrated cooperative agreements between the library district, local governments, and special groups like the Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative. Amelia is active in her community as a member of the Rotary Club and serves on the boards of Literacy Outreach and Raising A Reader.

Amelia got her start as a librarian in a school library, earned a Master of Science in Library and Information Science degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and spent eleven years as a Manager of Youth and Outreach Services at the public library in Cheyenne, Wyoming, before joining the Garfield County Libraries.

Amelia's passion for early literacy and service to children is still evident. She actively supports the partnership with the Raising A Reader program, which brings preschoolers into the libraries, and is advising the Library Foundation on its new Books For Babies program to introduce books to children starting at birth. Recently the Garfield County Libraries were awarded a collection of picture books to promote early literacy, thanks to Amelia's nomination. One only has to visit the new children's areas at the Parachute and Rifle Branch Libraries to see how committed Amelia is to getting children interested in language and reading!

...New Rifle Branch (*continued*)

Most people rushed straight through to the main attraction: the library space. There they signed up to get library cards, found some of the 11,000 new books, browsed the magazines, enjoyed the computers, and learned about the self-check stations. There was so much to see and do—whether they went to the adult section, teen area, or to the children's section with the new early literacy installations.



A young boy enjoys a good story.

Other people rushed upstairs where they found a mural of old pictures from Rifle to greet them. The photographs were obtained from the Rifle Creek Museum before being painstakingly restored and then enlarged and mounted on the glass and walls circling the stairway.

Once upstairs, the public could explore the new 155-person Community Room, the smaller 25-person meeting room, and library administration offices. They could also see the new home of the beautifully restored Roosevelt Window.

During the day there were two musical groups who performed for the public. The first was a duet made up of a viola player, Dan Furth, and cellist, Bill Capps, who put together a classical arrangement. Next, the four members of the band Elements of Jazz performed.



People explore all the new building has to offer.

Also upstairs were refreshments and giveaways which helped mark the special occasion.

No matter where

people began their exploration, they seemed to genuinely enjoy their trip through the building. There was excitement in the air all day long. The Garfield County Libraries want to thank the estimated 1,500 people who attended the Grand Opening Celebration and also give a special thanks to the taxpayers of Garfield County for supporting this project.

Garfield County Libraries

Calendar of Events

Gordon Cooper Branch (Carbondale)

Children's Knitting - Every Thursday in January

Winter is the perfect time to learn to knit. Come join Elizabeth Yates of Yarn Garden and June Fox as they teach knitting basics to those in 5th grade and above. Registration is required. **4 to 5 p.m.**



Mother/Daughter Book Club - Every First Monday of the Month 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Teen Advisory Group (TAG) - Every Third Monday of the Month 4 to 5 p.m.

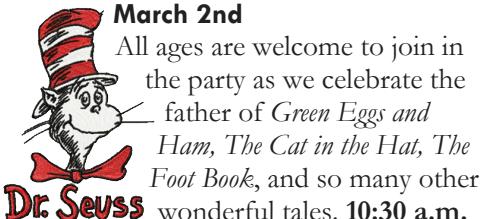
Happy Hearts - February 8th

Visit the library and make Valentine's Day cards. All ages are welcome, but children under 5 must be accompanied by a parent. **4 to 5 p.m.**

Solar Suitcase - February 10th

Sandy Pickard from Solar Energy International will share a story about "Light and Life". When Dr. Laura Stachel went to Africa to document high infant mortality rate, she didn't expect to find herself involved in a quest for light. Come and hear what she did that has changed not only the clinic she worked in, but also clinics in Haiti, Rawanda, and Mexico. **6:30 p.m.**

Dr Seuss' Birthday Celebration! - March 2nd



All ages are welcome to join in the party as we celebrate the father of *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *The Foot Book*, and so many other wonderful tales. **10:30 a.m.**

Journal Making - March 24th

Create a personal journal and allow your writing a space to really take off. This program is for those in 7th grade or above and registration is required. **4 to 5:30 p.m.**

4

Glenwood Springs Branch

Reading Buddies - Every Tuesday

January 4th through May 24th
(except for Feb. 22 and March 29)
Join us for reading and reading related activities. Buddy with a partner to practice and develop a love for reading. K-8th grade. **3:30 p.m.**

Tween Book Club - Jan. 5th, Feb 2nd, March 2nd - 4 p.m.

Teen Video Game Club - Jan. 8th Jan. 29th, Feb 19th, March 12th 1 to 4 p.m.

Teen Book Club - Jan. 12th, Feb. 9th, March 9th - 3:30 p.m.

Last of the Cowboys: a movie by Anita Witt - January 20th

The screening of this documentary is the first program in the 2011 Winter Lecture Series. **7 p.m.**



Jerry Barlow - February 9th
Celtic melodies characterized by wonderfully warm and expressive guitar stylings - plus a few jokes. **7 p.m.**

The History of Kannah Creek and Whitewater - February 17th

Part 2 of the Winter Lecture Series focuses on the people who homesteaded in the late 1800s & fought to survive the difficult landscape. **7 p.m.**

Eleanor Roosevelt: a Chautauqua Program - March 17th

Meet the first lady during the Great Depression through a series of vignettes. The third installment of the Winter Lecture Series is funded in part by Colorado Humanities. **7 p.m.**

An Evening with Federico Garcia Lorca - March 23rd

The Thunder River Theatre Company will present a very special bilingual Literary Night featuring this Spanish author. **7 p.m.**

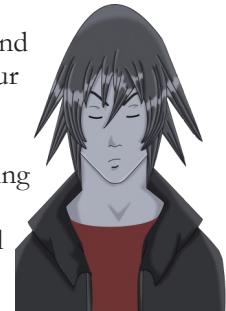
New Castle Branch

Storytimes - Every Wednesday (preschoolers) and Friday (toddlers)

Storytimes will continue on the regular schedule while the library is in its regular building, and once the library opens at the temporary location at 820 Castle Valley Blvd. **10:30 a.m.**

Drawing Comics and Manga - Every Monday and Wednesday

Teens and manga artists, join your peers at the library to learn techniques and share your talents. Bring a pencil, paper and your imaginations. All levels are acceptable. **4:30 p.m.**



Stitchers in Thyme - Every Third Thursday of the Month -



This is a group of all ages that meets once a month to learn new skills, work on ongoing projects, and just enjoy spending time together. **6 p.m.**

PAWS to Read - Feb. 8th, March 8th

You can sign up to have a reading session with a wonderful trained dog who loves being read to by children. Paws to Read provides a fun, stress-free environment where children practice reading aloud. Registration is required. **6:30 to 8 p.m.**



**LIBRARY

All six branches of the will be closed on

for Adults Teens Tweens & Children

Silt Branch

Classical Guitar Performance -

January 27th

Accomplished musician Javier De Los Santos will be performing classical guitar melodies for all to enjoy. Javier



is bilingual and will be performing music from a variety of cultural traditions. **6:30 p.m.**

Valentine's Day Cookies and Cards

February 10th

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the Silt Branch Library will be hosting an evening of cookie decorating and card making. The library will be providing the supplies to create these items so all you have to do is show up. **6 to 7:30 p.m.**

Kids Gaming Day - March 11th

Join us for a few hours during a day off school to play some Wii games, hang out, and eat some snacks. We will be playing the games at the Silt Community Center. **1 to 4 p.m.**



ACT Test Preparation - March 31st

High school age students looking to get an edge on test taking skills pay attention! The library is administering a practice ACT exam during Spring Break at the Silt Community Center. This is just like the real thing and will help prepare for the test that will be offered by schools at the end of April. Practice tests are wonderful way to boost test scores and confidence once it comes time for the actual test. Please register for this at the library. **10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

CLOSURES**

Garfield County Libraries
Saturday, January 1st.

Rifle Branch

Bedtime Storytime - Every Second

Tuesday of the Month

Wear your pajamas and bring your teddy bear for a fun-filled night of stories. **6:30 p.m.**

Gaming Day - January 15th

The library has a brand new Wii and Rock Band 3 system just waiting to be tested out. Bring your friends, neighbors, sisters, and brothers down to the library on Saturday the 15th and grab an instrument. Rock on! **1 to 3 p.m.**

Car Seat Safety and Booster Seat

Laws - January 27th

Attention parents of children up to 8 years old: find out how to keep your children safe and learn about CO's new laws so you can avoid getting ticketed. **6:30 p.m.**

Jerry Barlow - February 10th

Celtic melodies characterized by wonderfully warm and expressive guitar stylings - plus a few jokes. **7 p.m.**

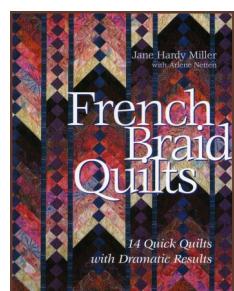
Valentine's Day Cookies and Cards

February 12th

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the Rifle Branch Library will be hosting an afternoon of cookie decorating and card making. The library will be providing the supplies to create these items so all you have to do is show up. Registration is required. **1 p.m.**

Dr Seuss' Birthday Celebration! - **March 2nd**

We will celebrate the father of *Green Eggs and Ham* (and so many other wonderful tales) with a breakfast of actual green eggs and ham, followed by a Dr. Seuss storytime. Registration is required. **10 a.m.**



French Braid Quilting - **March 19th**

\$25 fee
includes book.
Registration
is required.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parachute Branch

Beret's Gadget Clinics - Tuesdays and Thursdays in Jan. & Feb.

Learn about your eBook reader, or how to download free books from the gcpld.org website. Reservation required. **Tues-7 p.m. Thurs-10 a.m.**



Ask the Computer Whiz Kid - **January 4th**

Struggle with your PC? Bring your questions to the library. **6 p.m.**

Conquering Mouse Fear - Tuesdays **January 4th to March 29th**

Learn to love the mouse, internet, and your new email. Reservation required. **9 to 10 a.m.**

Make the Perfect Itty Bitty Purse - **January 8th**

Registration required and \$10 fee. Lunch provided. **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Page Turners Book Club - Every Second Tuesday of the Month **7 p.m.**

Red Blazer Girls Book Club - **January 12th**

5th to 8th grade girls discuss the book. **2 to 4 p.m.**

Ladies Who Do Lunch Book Club - Every Third Tuesday of the Month **12 p.m.**

Classical Guitar Performance - **February 5th**

Javier De Los Santos will be performing classical guitar melodies. Tickets are required, but free. **7 p.m.**

Learn to Knit Socks - Feb. 11th and Feb. 25th

Basic knitting skills required. **1 p.m.**

Breakfast with Commissioner Mike Samson - Feb. 15th - 9 to 10 a.m.

Reel Readers - February 18th

Read *The Painted Veil* then watch the movie on our giant screen and join a discussion afterwards. **6 to 10 p.m.**

Learn to Paper Piece - March 12th \$20 fee & registration required. **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

5



Look for New Kids Pages Online!

Explore All the Fox, Frog, Moose & Squirrel Have to Offer

The libraries are so excited to announce the rest of the kids' portion of our website is now complete! There is plenty of fun stuff - like jokes, polls, and quotes - to keep you entertained. There is information about what is happening at your



library. There are things to help you with your homework - even live tutors! And there is also information for your parents and teachers.

Explore, have fun, and if you have a good joke please send it in and watch for your entry (and name!) to appear online soon.

Find a Storytime to Fit Your Schedule

Gordon Cooper Branch (Carbondale)

- Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
- Friday 11:00 a.m. (lap sit)

Glenwood Springs Branch

- Tuesday 10:30 a.m. (toddler)
- Wednesday 10:30 a.m. (preschool)

New Castle Branch

- Wed. 10:30 a.m. (preschool)
- Friday 10:30 a.m. (toddler)

Silt Branch

- Wednesday 10:00 a.m.
- Friday 10:00 a.m.

Rifle Branch

- Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday 10:30 a.m.

Parachute

- Wednesday 10:00 a.m. (toddler)
- Friday 11:00 a.m. (preschool)



Database Spotlight

A New Tool to Help Learn a New Language

Bonjour... Hola... Nǐ Hao... Ohaiyogozaimasu

Most people know that each of these words is a form of greeting in its respective language. French, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese, in that order, to be exact. Most people probably wouldn't know how to say much else. Here is another thing they probably **don't** know. Internationally, nearly seventy percent of people are bilingual. In the United States, that number is only nine percent.

Why is that number so low? It's not because people don't want to learn a second language. Instead it's because people think it's too hard, or will take too much time, or will cost too much money. None of those reasons apply now because our library system recently added Mango Languages to its list of resources.

Mango is a simple, easy-to-use language learning program that is offered online and is the most effective way to learn a language. It's not just about learning words and phrases. It's fun. The courses are presented with an appreciation for cultural nuance and real-world application that integrates components of grammar and culture. Students learn actual *conversation*, breaking down complex conversational elements within an audio-visual framework that allows the user to draw important connections between pieces of information they have already learned.

Mango is available in two versions. One is Mango Complete: a 100-lesson course that is designed to provide a full understanding of an entire language and its culture. It is available in nine foreign language and three ESL courses.



The second is Mango Basic, which teaches everyday greetings, gratitudes, goodbyes and helpful phrases in a short period of time and is designed to appeal to a beginner in a new language. These courses, which require only two to five hours of time to complete, are currently available in 22 foreign languages and 14 English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

To start using Mango visit the library's website at www.gcpld.org. Click on "Research", and then "Languages/ESL". For more information, contact Amy Shipley at 970-625-4270. And, by the way, *An Revoir... Adiós... Zài Jiàn... Sayonara.*

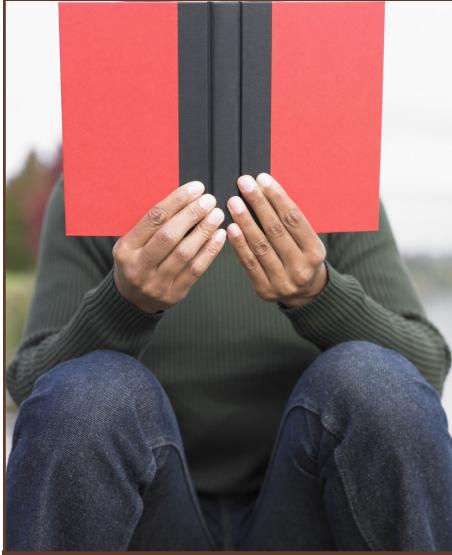
Teen & Tween Spot

Where's the programming



Are you looking for information on your book club, TAG meetings, or want to find out what new programs are happening at your local library? Well, the information is still available, it's just not *here*.

You can find everything on the calendar on pages 4 & 5. All programs specifically for teens and tweens are highlighted in blue.



ACT or SAT Got You Stressed?

We've Got the Practice You Need to Get the Score You Want

Standardized tests... those nasty things that play such an important part in your life. If the ACT or SAT is in your future you should start to think about taking practice tests. Practice tests can help you brush up on your skills and help you find areas you need to work on *before* you take the real test. Practicing can also help you reduce your stress levels on the day of the actual test because you know more about what to expect and can be more confident in your

own abilities. The Garfield County Libraries have online practice tests available anytime by going to www.gcpld.org, clicking on "Research" and then finding the "LearningExpress" database. You will need your library card number to login.

The Silt Branch Library is also offering an ACT practice test on March 31st. This will be administered just like the real thing. For more information see page 5 or call the library at 876-5500.



Literacy Outreach

Season of Giving and Learning

I know, I know. You, like I, are inundated with requests for money. So far this week I have received pleas for donations from two universities, PBS, Special Olympics, Doctors without Borders, and our local hospital. Last week I gave money to the Boy Scouts, the elementary school, and Habitat for Humanity.

Nope, the economy does not seem to be getting better and I can little afford to answer, "Yes!" to every organization that asks for my help.

So why would I send a donation to Literacy Outreach every year? I'll tell you why. It's because I know that this is one organization where every dollar I give

stays in my local county. It's because I know that, if someone learns to read, many other people will benefit. It's because I was a teacher and daily witnessed what it means to a family when parents can read and support

their children academically. It's because I have seen hundreds of tutors give thousands of hours – for free! – so that their

students can acquire that rudimentary and completely essential skill: reading. I have to admit that this year many of us can't give as much as we have in the past to any organization. But even if our check is small, it can help buy a book for a Literacy Outreach student. Just

think...if three times as many people as last year donated a little bit, then the work we do could continue without interruption! Our students can continue on their roads to economic stability, citizenship, and fiscal responsibility.

To those of you who, like many of us, are feeling pinched right down to the bottom of our wallets, I send this one thought:

Helping a person learn to read is one of the most important things we can do in our little corner of the world. It does, in fact, change our world, one family at a time.

We truly appreciate any help you can give and we will be good stewards of the trust you place in us. Our very best to you and yours.

-Terrie Drake, Literacy Advocate

www.gcpld.org



Garfield County Public Library District
P.O. Box 832
Rifle, CO 81650

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Library Branches & Hours

Gordon Cooper (Carbondale) 970-963-2889

Mon. & Wed. 10-8 Tues. & Thurs. 10-6
Fri. & Sat. 10-5 Sunday Closed

Glenwood Springs 970-945-5958

Mon. & Wed. 10-6 Tues. & Thurs. 10-8
Fri. & Sat. 10-5 Sunday 1-5

New Castle 970-984-2346

Mon. & Wed. 10-6 Tues. & Thurs. 10-8
Fri. & Sat. 10-5 Sunday Closed

Silt 970-876-5500

Mon. & Wed. 10-6 Tues. & Thurs. 10-8
Fri. & Sat. 10-5 Sunday Closed

Rifle 970-625-3471

Mon. & Wed. 10-6 Tues. & Thurs. 10-8
Fri. & Sat. 10-5 Sunday 1-5

Parachute 970-285-9870

Mon. & Wed. 10-6 Tues. & Thurs. 10-8
Fri. & Sat. 10-5 Sunday Closed

The libraries are closed on most
Federal holidays

Page by Page
Visit us at www.gcppl.org today!



It's New Castle's Turn to Move!

The Remodel Will Begin Soon

The New Castle Branch Library will be moving early in 2011 to a temporary location at

820 Castle Valley Boulevard (near City Market)

to allow for the remodel of the existing library building.

The newly remodeled library will re-open by the end of the year. Patrons will receive at least six weeks notice of the move, and materials will have extended due dates and no fines during this time. The library will be closed for no more than two weeks to accommodate the transition.

Thanks to all of our patrons for their patience as we continue to grow.

