



## Library's grand opening is final chapter for voters' bond



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Student worker Melissa Rodriguez, left, receives returned library books from Michele Wright Wednesday at the newly remodeled Greenleaf Library at Copper Mountain College.

With the re-opening of the Greenleaf Library Wednesday at Copper Mountain College, the final project in Measure C is complete.

Voters approved the \$19.7 million bond in November 2004 allowing the college to expand, improve and renovate college facilities.

The festivities Wednesday were a cooperative effort among the college's foundation and the Basin chambers of commerce, represented by executive directors Jet Tucker from Joshua Tree, Cheryl Nankervis from Yucca Valley and Cynthia Truitt from Twentynine Palms.

After the ceremonial ribbon cutting, Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society students offered tours of the newly remodeled library and McDonald Hall, the student services building.

The expansions, remodels and replacements paid for with Measure C funds are too numerous to list. One of the first projects, completed in 2006, was a \$621,000 expansion of the school's nurse training program.

The two biggest line items were in 2011: a \$5.8 million utility upgrade and a \$3.3 solar and energy management system that supplies about a third of the school's energy needs.

The 30-year bonds, which show up on property taxes at \$25 per \$100,000 of assessed value, will be paid off in 2033 and 2034.

The school's expanded library has copies of textbooks for all current classes available for use in the library. Students can print from the computers at no cost.

“That’s a huge asset for us,” Susannah Garner, a student tour guide and Phi Theta Kappa treasurer, noted.

The library also has an absolute quiet room for proctored testing and has full disability access.

Taking in the festivities with obvious satisfaction was Owen Gillick, an original member of Friends of Copper Mountain College. Gillick’s support for a local community college dates back to the 1970s when land for the future school was purchased from the Morongo Unified School District.

Gillick and other local visionaries stood on the patch of open desert when it was “nothing but creosote and some rabbits.” After a pause to reflect, Gillick added, “And tortoise, we found out later.”

Sitting in the grassy quadrangle outside the library with wife Audrey, Gillick observed that a student at the school as recently as five years ago might return to the campus today and not recognize it, so much has changed, grown and improved.

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