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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Rapid City library plans summer reading fun**

RAPID CITY – May 22, 2008 -- For parents with schoolchildren, the time between “Yippee! School’s out!” and “Mom, I’m bored” can be very short indeed. No need to panic, however. The Rapid City Public Library has a plan to keep kids engaged all summer with its “Catch the Reading Bug” program.

Kids can begin the summer reading program by picking up a 30-day reading log at either library (or they can download one from [www.rapidcitylibrary.org/SummerReading](http://www.rapidcitylibrary.org/SummerReading)) as early as May 27. If they read, or are read to, 15 minutes a day for 30 days, they can bring in their completed reading log to claim a prize and a fresh reading log. If they read every day all summer long, they can complete three reading logs and get prizes for each, plus be entered into a drawing for a deluxe 90-day reading prize.

The summer reading program is happening at both the downtown Rapid City Public Library, 610 Quincy St., and the new north library, which opened in January at General Beadle Elementary School, 10 Van Buren St.

The north Rapid City Public Library begins its expanded summer hours on June 1. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

At the end of each 30-day reading period, the libraries will host special events. And throughout the summer, the libraries will have special programs, each tied to the “Reading Bug” theme.

Story times, offered weekly during the summer at both libraries -- check the library Web site for details -- will have a variety of buggy themes. And in June, there will be crafts as well. The downtown library will feature a special bug art display courtesy of Earl Ray of Black Hills Foam Creations.

In addition, there will also be an outdoor family adventure, “No Family Left Inside,” encouraging kids and parents to discover more about bugs.

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Here's the lineup for the summer "Reading Bug" programs:

**Wednesday, June 4 -- Summer Reading Kick-off Celebration:** 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the downtown library; 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the north library. The staff from Reptile Gardens will bring in exotic bugs. Beekeeper Lloyd Zietlow will bring bees and honey. Bill Schaupp, U.S. Forest Service entomologist, will show bugs native to the Black Hills. Kids can have their picture taken with Mr. Toad and Mr. Frog (bring a camera!) and pick up their summer reading logs.

**Monday, June 16 -- Artist Lori Harrington presents "Finger Paint Bugs":** 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the downtown library; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the north library. Harrington will show how to paint a fantastic bug, and give it a big personality.

**Monday, July 7 -- Bob the Twister Guy:** 10:30 a.m. at the downtown library; 1:30 p.m. at the north library. He will perform ballooncraft, magic, comedy and fun, and he will bring Super Flea, the world's leading daredevil insect.

**Wednesday, Aug. 6 -- HOP Animal Architects:** 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the downtown library; 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the north library. The HOP Animal Architects display is an interactive exhibit on loan to the library in August from the Hands-On Partnership of Literature, Science and Art in South Dakota. There will also be crafts and treats.

**Sunday, Aug. 24 -- 90- day celebrations at both libraries:** *(Times to be announced in August.)* The summer reading program ends with a party celebrating the achievements of those who participated. There will be prizes, treats and special guests.

In addition, the Rapid City Public Library has summer reading events for adults. The summer Quick Pick Picnics will be at noon on the third Wednesday of June, July and August at the downtown library. A free lunch is provided, but participants must reserve a place by the Monday before each event. To do so, call 394-4171.

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*The Rapid City Public Library has served the Rapid City area since 1879, and now has two locations, the downtown library at 610 Quincy Street and the north library within General Beadle Elementary School at 10 Van Buren St. Both offer print and electronic resources for adults, young adults and children as well as computers and internet access and a variety of programs and events. In March 2008, USA Today selected the Rapid City Public Library downtown as one of the nation's 10 greatest places to "Find a Nook and Read a Book."*