



DOWNTOWN • 610 Quincy St. Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 394-6139 or (605) 394-4171  
NORTH • 10 Van Buren St. Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 716-4098

**CONTACT:**

Elizabeth Ruen  
Rapid City Public Library  
605-394-6139 x2212  
eruen@rcplib.org

**For Immediate Release**

## **Library Plans Events to Remember the 1972 Flood**

**Rapid City, S.D. – May 26, 2010** –The flood that swept through Rapid City the night of June 9, 1972 left behind a path of destruction and changed the landscape of Rapid City forever. In commemoration of the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the flood, the Rapid City Public Library will be hosting two events on Wednesday, June 9.

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the public is invited to view the Library's collection of flood information and online resources, talk to staff about the Oral Histories Project and look at enlarged before and after photos of areas impacted by the flood. The Oral Histories Project is an effort to record the memories and events of the night of the 1972 Flood, through the eyes and minds of those that experienced it first-hand, with recorded interviews and statements.

From noon to 1 p.m., Perry Rahn, a hydrologist who studied the aftermath of the flood, will share his memories and photos of the flood. Rahn will talk about the causes of the flood and what has been done to prevent it from happening again. He will also discuss the concept of the 100-year flood that is used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the probability of a 500-year flood. Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunches.

The library invites the public to view its website and wiki that commemorate the flood. The website features the work of the Oral Histories Project. The website also includes the Dewart Collection, a large collection of digitally preserved transcripts and audio news broadcasts of the

events of the night. The wiki allows individuals to provide their own stories and pictures by writing memories down in the wiki. The wiki also features more than 100 pictures comparing the aftermath of the flood to the landscape 20 years later, comments from former mayor Don Barnett, and other reports from KOTA broadcasting.

For those interested in sharing memories about the 1972 Flood, please call the Rapid City Public Library reference staff at 394-6139 ext. 7501. To explore the existing flood archive of photos, video interviews, memories and original documents visit [www.rapidcitylibrary.org](http://www.rapidcitylibrary.org) and click on "1972 Flood."

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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 named the Rapid City Public Library's downtown library as one of the nation's 10 greatest places to "Find a Nook and Read a Book."*

*Find video footage of RCPL events at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/rapidcitylibrary>*

*Find photos of RCPL events at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rcpl/>*