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For Immediate Release

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Local artist teaches ‘Bug Art’ at library program for kids

RAPID CITY – June 5, 2008 -- She just loves creatures. From tiny bugs to powerful horses, South Dakota artist Lori Harrington finds her inspiration in the animal life around her. “I’m a real animal-crazy person,” she says.

She also loves sharing her artistic talents and inspiring kids to discover theirs, and she’ll do just that when she presents the “Finger Paint Bugs” art class for kids at the Rapid City Public Library. It takes place Monday, June 16th at both library locations: 10:00 a.m. at the downtown library (610 Quincy St.) and 1:30 p.m. at the north library (10 Van Buren St. within General Beadle Elementary School).

Lori will show kids how to make fabulous finger paint bugs – pretty bugs, scary bugs, fantasy bugs - any kind of bug that they like or can imagine. It’s part of the library’s “Catch The Reading Bug” summer reading program, which offers a summer full of reading incentives and events, many involving bug themes. Kids of any age who read, or are read to, for at least 15 minutes a day for 30 or more days can track their reading experiences on a Summer Reading Log, then turn it in for prizes at either library.

While reading is the obvious focus of the Summer Reading Program, the library offers a multi-dimensional experience for kids and families this summer. In addition to Harrington’s art program, kids can enjoy Bob The Twister Guy and his balloons on Monday, July 7 (10:30 a.m. downtown; 1:30 p.m. north) and explore the HOP Animal Architects exhibit on Wednesday, August 6 (10:00 a.m. downtown; 1:30 p.m. north). They can also participate in the library’s “No Family Left Inside” family adventure, and win a prize for completing 10 fun family activities outdoors – and, yes, there are bugs involved.

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There's also a great bug display in the upper stairwell of the downtown library (610 Quincy St) with a much-larger-than-life spider, bee, bookworm, lady bug and praying mantis courtesy of Earl Ray and the talented artists at Black Hills Foamwork.

Family Adventure booklets and Summer Reading Logs are available at either library or can be downloaded from the Rapid City library's Summer Reading webpage at www.rapidcitylibrary.org/SummerReading, where there's also a full list of Summer Reading Program events.

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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."

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/>