



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:

John Pappas – Outreach Coordinator
Rapid City Public Library
605-394-6139 x2229
jpappas@rcplib.org

For Immediate Release

Library Awarded Grant for Community Archives

Rapid City, S.D. – April 5, 2010 – The Community Archives Coalition in Rapid City, of which the Rapid City Public Library is a member, was awarded an Outside of Deadwood grant. The \$11,562 in funding will aid the Library in its ongoing efforts to recognize and identify important local records pertaining to the history of the Black Hills, and to make them available online for public interest and access.

Each year the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission awards up to \$250,000, over the course of two funding rounds for projects outside of Deadwood and within the State of South Dakota that have a demonstrated relationship with Deadwood's history.

The coalition, spear-headed by the Rapid City Public Library, aims to collect local information into a central gateway where citizens from Pennington County and the Black Hills can experience information that educates, inspires and enriches while encouraging community participation.

"Community memory plays a central role in how our neighborhoods and towns develop," said Greta Chapman, library director. "This is digital citizenship; the ability to access needed local information and to contribute to it as well. Existing sites such as the RCPL Flood Wiki, the 1972 Flood website and the DUSEL Wiki allow members of the community to join and share their

own information, photographs, manuscripts and maps to shed light onto our own shared past. By doing this we are able to see our community archives grow and expand.”

This project falls in line with the library’s Strategic Plan stated goal of “continuing to develop intuitive, mobile and user-friendly library services for all ages” and meets the desired objective to “develop and carry out a partnership plan to implement a city and county-wide digital archive of historical documents for digital access.”

You can access any of the Rapid City Public Library’s online resources at www.rapidcitylibrary.org.

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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/>