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For Immediate Release

Alaska's Fiddling Poet Coming to the Library

Rapid City, S.D. – Sep. 17, 2009 – Ken Waldman, Alaska's Fiddling Poet, will be appearing at the Rapid City Public Library located at 610 Quincy Street on Thursday, Oct. 1 for a free show and workshop. The fun starts at 6:30 p.m. with an interactive performance of fiddling music, storytelling and poetry for all ages. At 7 p.m. Waldman will teach a writing workshop for children ages 8 to 12. Joining Waldman will be, Rosalind Gnatt, a banjo player who lives in New York City and used to be a professional opera singer.

Since late 2005, Waldman has released six new books and six new CDs. Two of the CDs are double disc sets, and include almost a hundred original tunes. While some focus on instrumentals, there are plenty with Waldman's trademark mix of fiddle and poetry. He has also released two children's CDs.

Waldman's books are as eclectic as his music. In 2006 he released four books of poetry, in which he journeys from the political to the personal to the comic. In addition to the recent poetry collections, Waldman has a new children's book (with accompanying children's CD), and also has a book of prose, "Are You Famous?." "Are You Famous?" is part memoir, part travelogue, part artist how-to, and has been called a "Blue Highways" for our time. One chapter, titled "Two Gigs and a Tour," explains how Waldman set up an 11-day tour through South Dakota in spring 2005, which included shows in Vermillion, Sioux Falls, Pierre, Sturgis, Spearfish and more. This visit will be Waldman's first time back to the state since that tour.

In addition to his performance and workshop at the library, Waldman will make three other appearances in the Black Hills. He will be at The Festival of Books in Deadwood on Oct. 2 and Oct. 3 and at The Dahl the evening of Oct. 3.

Read more about Waldman at www.kenwaldman.com. Find out more about events held at the Rapid City Public Library by visiting 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/>