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“Loowit’s Legend” Illustrator, Diana Thewlis, To read at Kazoodles Toys in Vancouver

Hood River (March 7, 2012) -- Illustrator Diana Thewlis of Vancouver, WA will read “Loowit’s Legend: The Story of the Columbia River Gorge,” as part of Vancouver-based Kazoodles Toy Store's sixth birthday celebration

Kazoodles will celebrate its store-opening in 2006 by featuring local authors and illustrators, as well as hosting other kids events. Games, crafts, prizes, face painting, balloon animals and a costumed princess also are on the birthday docket at the store, 13503 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd. in Vancouver. Kazoodles is open 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Reading in the book section will benefit the Humane Society for Southwest Washington.

"Loowit's Legend" is a recently published children's book retelling the regional legend of the Columbia River Gorge. Beginning at 11 a.m., Diana will read the book and describe the process of creating the watercolor illustrations. Written by Erin K. O’Connell, the book is published by Parallel45 Publishing in Hood River.

Diana will be joined by several other authors at the event, including Camas Police Officer Tim Dickerson with his book, “Napping With Daddy,” and Aron Nels Steinke with “The Super Crazy Cat Dance” and “The Super-Duper Dog Park.”

The authors and illustrators are part of a read-in that gives kids a jump start on Kazoodles’ annual summer reading program, where kids are rewarded for their reading by getting to choose blankets for cats at the Humane Society. The blankets are knitted or crocheted by volunteers.

Portland’s Dragon Theater Puppets and Princesses will be on hand from 2 to 4 p.m. for face painting, balloon animals and a princess appearance. Kazoodles is a local, independent business owned by Bob and Mary Sisson.

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About the Illustrator

Illustrator Diana Thewlis holds degrees in Commercial Art and Illustration. With a wide variety of illustration experience, her current emphasis is on illustrating for children. She began teaching at the Academy of Art University in 1992.

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About Parallel45

Parallel45 is a Pacific Northwest publishing company specializing in the creation and marketing of children's picture books with unique, regional appeal. Their products strive to embody the spirit of the Pacific Northwest and capture the inherent beauty and uniqueness of the region. In the first year of the company, the primary focus will be the production of a children's book titled: *Loowit's Legend, the Story of the Columbia River Gorge*. www.parallel45publishing.com

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For more information, please email: press@parallel45publishing.com