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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATE MUSEUM HOSTS OCTOBER FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY FAMILY EVENTS

This weekend visitors to the Alaska State Museum are invited to travel through the solar system and to explore Eskimo science during “First Friday” evening activities and a Saturday afternoon festival for families. This is also the last chance for residents to experience, for free, the museum’s two major temporary summer exhibitions.

Friday evening, October 2, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., there will be a series of presentations about “Our Place Among the Planets,” led by Dolly & John Kremers, volunteers with the Marie Drake Planetarium. This will be the first time the museum’s 3-dimensional Science on a Sphere exhibit has been used to feature extra-terrestrial geography since its installation this past spring. The Sphere will also play a sampling of the 300 available images and animations about Earth’s ecology and geology.

Saturday, October 3, the museum is offering a free Yup’ik Traditions Family Festival from 12 noon to 3 p.m. will be by "Ossie" Kairaiuak, a Yupik Eskimo raised in the subsistence village of Chefnak, Alaska. Kairaiuak is a member of the renowned Alaska Native pop music group “Pamyua.” The festival is geared toward students in grades K–8 but the whole family is encouraged to attend and participate.

The festival is based around the current exhibit “Yuungnaqpiallerput: The Way We Genuinely Live,” and provides an exciting opportunity for Juneau youth to learn about the survival technologies that allowed the Yup’ik people to thrive in the harsh sub-Arctic climate.

Kairaiuak will teach storytelling and drumming techniques. Multiple activity centers will allow youth to participate in cultural traditions and ways of learning and create their own dance fans, work with gut and grass, and replicate bent wood hats and snow goggles.

The other temporary exhibit, on display until October 24, is “Self Constructions,” recent contemporary artworks by Da-ka-xeen Mehner, an artist of southeast Alaskan Tlingit ancestry who teaches Alaska Native art at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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