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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 21, 2011

Hats take center stage at the Alaska State Museum

JUNEAU – The Alaska State Museum will be open with extended hours on July 1 during the First Friday gallery walk with free admission from 4 to 7 p.m. Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections, will conduct a walk-through of the summer exhibit, “Just Old Hats: Headgear in Alaska History” at 5:30 p.m.

On display as a part of the “Hats” exhibit are many forms of headgear worn by Alaska Natives, Russians, Siberians and Sámi people over the past two centuries, as well as more recent fashions donned by military members, miners and everyday Alaskans. The exhibit will highlight details about how the hats were designed and used as well as their meanings and associations.

Notable pieces include a beret worn by former Gov. Jay Hammond, an Aleut hat in the form of a Russian sailor’s hat made from sea mammal gut, an elaborately painted bentwood visor by Aleut artist Gertrude Svarny, a beaded Tlingit headdress and many other ceremonial Alaska Native pieces.

Summer hours at the museum are 8:30 – 5:30 daily. Summer admission is \$5. 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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www.museums.state.ak.us

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