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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 31, 2011

**State Museum to celebrate Native American Heritage Awareness Month
with Artist Demonstrator Saturdays
November 5: Weaver Percy Kunz**

The Alaska State Museum will host weaver Percy Kunz on Saturday, November 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (with a short break for lunch) as part of the museum's November artist demonstrator series. Kunz weaves red and yellow cedar and also does Raven's tail weaving.

Percy Kunz was born in Sitka, and is Kaagwaantaan, from the Eagle Nest House in Sitka. She learned how to do Raven's Tail weaving from Kay Parker when Kay taught a class at UAS. "I love weaving," Kunz says. "My older sister sat me down and said, 'you are going to learn how to bead.'" Kunz said she didn't want to at the time, but "you listen to your older sis, so I did." Kunz says she never regretted that, and it helped her get a few good jobs, including teaching beading at the Tlingit & Haida culture club. It was while she was teaching beading there that Della Cheney was teaching cedar bark weaving at the same time. Kunz said she checked with her boss, closed up her beading class, and then went running to the weaving class and started her first small basket. Since then she has traveled with her teacher, Della, to Teslin to their first "Celebration." There, Kunz helped Chaney teach a weaving class where students wove hats.

On Saturdays in November when the Museum has an artist demonstrator, admission will be FREE. Other demonstrators in the program include Tsimshian carver Abel Ryan and Tlingit silver carver Ed Kunz.

Winter hours at the museum are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter 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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www.museums.state.ak.us

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