



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First Friday Author Talk with Saankalaxt' Ernestine Hayes at the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum

JUNEAU – On Friday, August 4, at 7 pm in the lecture hall at the Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff State Library, Archives, and Museum at 395 Whittier St., Saankaláxt' Ernestine Hayes presents *What Shall We Do With Our Heroes?* She will discuss portions of her writing that examine our society's histories and heroes from a deeper perspective. This presentation is part of the Alaska State Library's Summer Lecture Series. In September, Jackson Polys (aka Stephen Jackson and Stron Softi) will give an artist talk about his work on the Seward shame pole that was raised in Saxman Totem Park in April.

Hayes belongs to the Kaagwaantaan clan of the Eagle side of the Tlingit Nation. She is a professor at the University of Alaska Southeast and the current Alaska State Writer Laureate. She is the author of several books, including *The Tao of Raven*, and *Blonde Indian*, which was a 2007 American Book Award winner. In 2016, *Blonde Indian* was selected as the first Alaska Reads statewide book club title, and Hayes traveled around the state to facilitate conversations about the themes in her work.

Prior to the presentation, the Alaska State Museum will be open free of charge from 4:30 to 7:00 pm for First Friday. This summer's special exhibit, *Decolonizing Alaska*, features artwork by 30 artists addressing resilience, adaptation, and cultural survival in response to dominant forces such as colonization and climate change. *Decolonizing Alaska* will be on view through October 13, 2017.

A person experiencing a disability who needs accommodation for events hosted by the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum can contact the Division's ADA coordinator at (907) 465-2988 to make any necessary arrangements.

The Alaska State Library provides research services for state employees, assists historical researchers and the public, manages Talking Book services for Alaskans with visual impairments, and collects Alaska-related books, photographs, manuscripts, newspapers, government documents, and periodicals. Hours at the Alaska State Library are Tuesday-Friday from 10AM to 4PM or Mondays by arrangement. For more information about the Library and its services, please visit <http://library.alaska.gov/>.

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