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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Juneau Museum Day Area Museums and Historic Sites Celebrate Art, Culture, History

At the beginning of each summer season, Juneau's museums and historic sites invite the community to enjoy a full afternoon of new exhibition openings and activities for the whole family in celebration of Juneau Museum Day. This year Museum Day will be held on Saturday, May 15 from noon to 5 p.m.

The Alaska State Museum, the House of Wickersham, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, the Last Chance Mining Museum, the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, and Aunt Claudia's Doll Museum will be open with fun for the whole family. Additional Museum Day festivities will also be held at the Canvas Art Studio. Free shuttle van service between the sites will be offered all afternoon, and there is plenty of parking available at the State Museum at 395 Whittier Street, and at the Last Chance Mining Museum at the end of Basin Road, for participants who chose to park there and ride the shuttle.

The Alaska State Museum will have artists, whose works are featured in the museum's summer exhibitions, demonstrate and conduct activities with youth. The summer exhibitions are: *From Gift to Gallery: New Acquisitions 2004-2009* which includes over 100 of the approximately 500 objects acquired during the past five years. Among the wide variety of materials shown are: military artifacts of the Aleutian Campaign of WWII, a set of miniature ivory firearms, dolls, raven's tail weavings, and artifacts newly recovered from Alaska and Russian shipwrecks. Paintings by Juneau artist Sue Kraft are featured in her solo exhibition called *Familiar Places*, and the statewide juried photographic exhibition *Alaska Positive 2010* features the works of Alaskan photographers and encourages photography as an art form.

Aunt Claudia's Doll Museum houses Claudia Kelsey's collection of more than 500 dolls and miniatures from all over the world including 18th and 19th century dolls. The museum is located at 114 S Franklin Suite 105, above Hearthside Books.

Juneau-Douglas City Museum will open *All Things Eagle and Raven*, an exhibit celebrating these two birds and their connection to our everyday lives. The exhibit features scientific elements about the life and habits of each of these birds as well as their significance within the Tlingit culture, and as symbols in a greater national context. The ever popular Hands-On-History returns as School Time, featuring an oversized chalkboard, old fashion school desks and a variety of activities including how to determine your weight in gold! Museum Day events include: Live performances of Eagle and Raven songs by Yees Ku Oo at Noon and 4:00pm. From 1:30-3:30, Blueberry a common raven from the Juneau Raptor Center will greet visitors with handler Sandy Harbanuk. Make your own raven or eagle hat activity available for kids throughout the day. The Juneau-Douglas City Museum's summer hours are weekdays 9am-5pm and weekends 10am-5pm. Admission is \$4 and youth 12 and under are free. Annual passes are available for \$20.

The House of Wickersham was built in 1898 and purchased by Judge James Wickersham in 1928, where he lived until 1939. The house is intended to be a house museum and is currently displaying an assortment of items from Wickersham's extensive collection. The House has been undergoing renovations for the past few years and the first floor has yet to be renovated and restored; funding for that will hopefully be received in the near future. Summer hours are Monday thru Friday from 10:00a.m thru 3:00p.m for the season. There is no charge. For more information, call State Parks at 465-2483 or the House at 586-9001.

St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church volunteers will be on hand to share information on the oldest original Russian Orthodox Church in Southeast Alaska and to offer an opportunity to view the beautiful iconography and learn about the history of this Juneau treasure. Please watch for work on and/or around the Church. Summer hours are 9am-5pm Monday through Thursday and Saturday, and Noon-5pm on Friday and Sunday. Hours subject to change.

Last Chance Mining Museum guests are invited to pan for gold and wander through the old mine ruins and hear stories of the mining days from volunteers.

The Canvas Art Studio, on Sat, May 15th, from 10am-2pm the Canvas will offer a free history inspired art project for all ages. Join artist Barbara Lydon in the Canvas studio for a glimpse into Juneau's past through the arts. Museum Day participants, please don't drop kids off for this activity, but join them in creating art and exploring Juneau's history.

We look forward to seeing the community at these Juneau Museum Day festivities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.state.ak.us



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