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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAY ACTIVITIES AT THE SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

SITKA – The Sheldon Jackson Museum is celebrating the annual rite of spring with four exciting events: Sheldon Jackson’s birthday, International Museum Day on May 18, the Native Studies exhibition of artwork by fourth grade students, and a hands-on Unangam (Aleut) visor-making workshop, the first session in the museum’s new family-friendly third Saturday public program series, At Saxán (Love of All Things) Saturdays.

Festivities for International Museum Day and Sheldon Jackson’s birthday run all day on Saturday, May 18th, and admission will be free of charge. The students’ exhibit may be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily through Sunday, May 19th. The Unangam (Aleut) visor-making hands-on workshop on May 18th will take place at 1:00 p.m. and is free, but requires registration. Parents and families are particularly encouraged to come see the art created by their children.

Every year, fourth-grade students from Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School visit the museum as part of their study of Alaska Native cultures. The students make their own art reproductions ranging from Aleut hunting visors to Eskimo masks and octopus bags to birch bark style baskets. The items go on display at the museum each May in conjunction with International Museum Day and the birthday of the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, who founded the museum in 1888.

Teachers whose students visited the museum participated in this year’s study of Alaska Native cultures are Kristine Hole, Mindy Bartolaba, Carolyn Mork, Jeremy Peterson, and Kristin Karsunky.

This year is the 179th birthday of Sheldon Jackson, who was passionately interested in collecting and preserving the material culture of Alaska Natives for future generations. The museum that bears his name now houses more than 6,000 artifacts including pieces from all of Alaska’s Native groups.

To register for the workshop or for more information, please call the museum at (907) 747-8981 or visit http://museums.alaska.gov/sheldon_jackson/sjhome.html.

The Sheldon Jackson Museum’s summer hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except holidays. Summer admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka and the Alaska State Museum in Juneau is available for \$15.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.state.ak.us

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