



MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education & Early Development
Date: January 31, 2022

Thru: Commissioner Michael Johnson
Telephone: (907) 465-2911

From: Patience Frederiksen
Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums
Subject: Agenda 14B. Libraries, Archives and Museums Standing Report

Staffing

- **Daniel Cornwall** has transferred from Library Development back into the Information Services unit of the State Library.
- **Lisa Cook** and **Brian Wallace** joined the State Museum as a Museum Protection and Visitor Services Assistants.
- **Kate Enge** joined the State Library as the OWL Librarian 1.
- **Sue Conrad** was promoted from a seasonal Museum Protection and Visitor Services Assistant into a full time Museum Protection and Visitor Services Supervisor at the Sheldon Jackson Museum.

Events

October - Freya Anderson, head of Information Services and the Historical Collections was interviewed about copyright for the *Archiving Alaska* podcast. Freya has organized frequent statewide trainings on the topic for librarians and educators. She discussed Copyright First Responders Alaska, which she founded, and the challenges and opportunities copyright can pose to archives, special collections, and Alaskan institutions.

<https://archives.consortiumlibrary.org/2021/10/29/archivingak-s2-e8/>



October 9 – Closing events for the *Spirit Wraps Around You* exhibit included a demonstration of Raven’s tail weaving by Kay Field Parker and two exhibit tours with Curator of Collections Steve Henrikson. To celebrate the robes and their weavers, members of the All Nations dance group Yées Ku.oo donned a selection of the robes and danced them back into accessible storage, where most will be returned to their owners and clans. This emotional closing ceremony was designed by weaver Lily Hope. The ceremony is posted at <https://lam.alaska.gov/sway> and at ktoo.org/show/at-the-apk/ More than 150 people visited the State Museum on October 9, the day the exhibit closed. Staff began working with art shipping companies to

return the robes to their owning museums in Toronto and Salem MA.

Caption: Nancy C. Barnes donning the Egyptian Thunderbird Chilkat Robe woven by Clarissa Risal.

October 17 – 20 Freya Anderson put up a virtual exhibit table advertising the Talking Book Center during the virtual Youth and Elders conference, which directly precedes the annual AFN statewide conference.

October 29 - Christopher Russell delivered another intriguing story prompted by his explorations in the [Alaska Digital Newspaper Project](#), which has been digitizing historic Alaskan newspapers. His October 29 blog post, [A daring Filipina Spy](#), explores the story of Josefina Guerrero, a Filipina spy and member of the underground resistance against the Japanese in World War II. Guerrero carried messages, delivered food to U.S. POWs, mapped enemy defenses, delivered critical information to U.S. forces, and helped save numerous American soldiers and civilians during the Battle of Manila. Ms. Guerrero was usually called “Joey” by the Marines and in the press. She suffered from Hansen’s disease, better known as leprosy, and used her condition as a cloak of invisibility. To read more about her exploits and how veterans and others rallied after the war to get her the medical treatment she needed and deserved for her service, read: [A daring Filipina spy](#) on Alaska’s Digital Newspaper Project Blog.



November 5 – *Atomic Island*, an exhibit by photographer Ben Huff, portrays the abandoned WWII and Cold War Naval outpost on the Aleutian Island of Adak. The island, instrumental in the disruption of a mainland advance during WWII, and later a nuclear submarine surveillance post, was abandoned by the Navy in 1997. At its height, Adak housed over 6,000 people; today fewer than 100 call it home. Huff’s lecture about his travels to Adak and his process of making photographs was recorded for broadcast on KTOO 360TV, at ktoo.org/show/at-the-apk/.

Caption: Abandoned military housing on Adak Island.



Caption: Ben Huff consulting with students taking polaroid photographs of historic photos.

November 20 – In a time-warping workshop, Ben Huff displayed photographs of Juneau from the Historical Collections, then trained attendees on how to use Polaroid cameras to create a visual story. He led eight intrepid students on a photography walk on a very snowy day. The camera batteries drained quickly in the cold weather. The students discovered that the black-and-white film worked best in the low light and that snowflakes falling on Polaroids made interesting star effects.

December – The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum announced their *Winter Artist Series*:

December 7 – June Pardue, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq teaches a seal ornament class

January 8 – Jan Wayland (author) and Robert Hoffman (illustrator), Tlingit discuss their second collaboration on the book *Raven House Mouse Goes to Culture Camp*

January 22 - Jessica Towns, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq teaches an earring making class

February 5 - Albert Laine demonstrates Chilkat weaving, talks about weaving techniques, and the dedication and lifestyle necessary to weave a robe

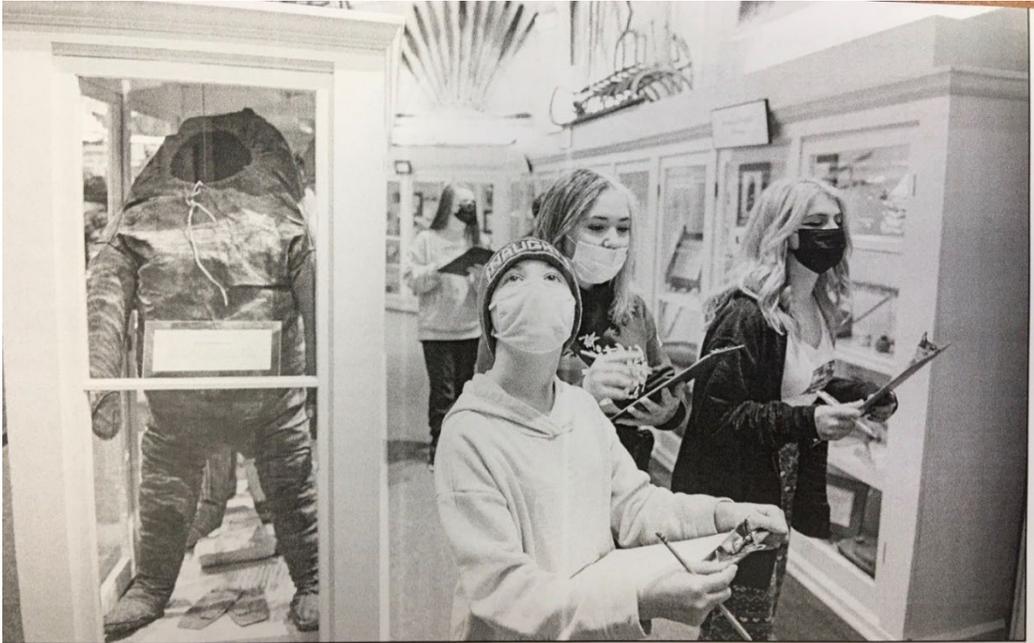
February 19 - Preston Singletary is set to be the speaker at the Friends' annual meeting

December - Read Popular Magazines Online for Free

More than 92% of Alaskans have access to the [Alaska Digital Library - OverDrive](#), which provides online access to ebooks and audiobooks. Readers can now access more than 3,800 popular magazines through the Digital Library. To read these magazines and books on your tablet or phone, simply download the *Libby* by *Overdrive* app. To set up your Libby account, you will need your library card number the first time to verify that your library subscribes to Overdrive and to prove that you are a cardholder. This one-year pilot project was funded through an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Alaska State Library.

Caption: Image of Libby App on a smartphone

December 8 – From the *Sitka Sentinel*



Connecting with History

Blatchley Middle School students enrolled in Alexander Allison's language arts class go on a scavenger hunt in the SJ Museum Tuesday. The class read the 1960 Newbery Prize-winning novel "Island of the Blue Dolphins," by Scott O'Dell. The fictional book is based on the true story of

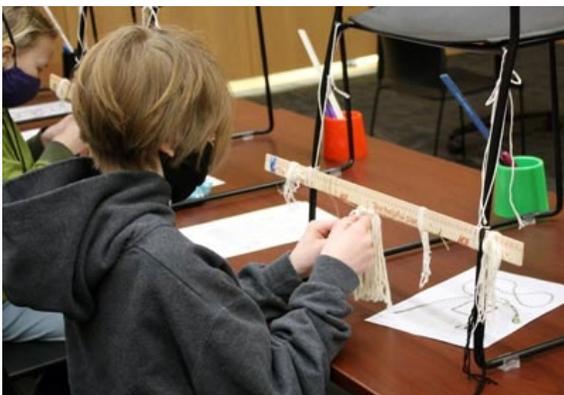
a Native girl stranded on the southern California island of San Nicolas for 18 years until she was found in 1853. The children's novel involves Russian and Aleut hunters who would be using equipment similar to the artifacts found in the SJ Museum. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Caption: Newspaper photograph of students at Sheldon Jackson Museum engaged in a scavenger hunt based on Scott O'Dell's Newbery Prize winning novel *Island of the Blue Dolphin*.

December 11 – Claire Imamura, youth workshop coordinator reports: "Kay Field Parker led an amazing Ravenstail necklace bag workshop at the APK in Juneau for 14 tweens and teens. She made looms out of yard sticks and brought a team of experienced weavers to assist. Participants learned basic weaving techniques, wound their own cord, and made buttons to decorate their bags. It was a busy morning, but everyone left with a beautiful necklace bag! Huge thanks to Kay and her weaving helpers, Leah, and the Friends for making this workshop possible."

Captions for pictures below:

Left: Using a ruler loom tied to chair legs



Right: Girls showing off their finished woven bags.





January 13 – Juneau researchers credit holdings at the State Archives and the Historical Collections as sources they used to develop an evening event described in the *Juneau Empire*. Ed Schoenfeld and Betsy Longenbaugh’s event will focus on Robert Stroud, the Birdman of Alcatraz. Stroud was a pimp in Juneau, when in 1909, he murdered a client who underpaid a prostitute for her services. [True crime with a side of dessert | Juneau Empire](#)

Caption: Robert Stroud, Birdman of Alcatraz, at time of his arrest in Juneau