



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Greater Leavenworth Museum Opens New Story Basket Exhibit

Leavenworth, Washington - November 26, 2021 - Exciting changes are happening to the First Peoples Exhibit at the Greater Leavenworth Museum. The first of these changes is the installation of the exhibit of story baskets by local tribal member Julie Edwards. Her story baskets are the result of a one-year apprenticeship with Colville artist and master basket weaver, Joe Feddersen. The mentorship was funded by the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation. Funding of this exhibit is made possible by a generous donation pledged from Mara and Brian Bohman, and Gro Buer and Bruce Williams.

Julie is a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes and a descendant of the Wenatchi, Moses Columbia, Entiat, Nez Perce, and Yakama tribes. Her book *Weaving; Baskets and Stories*, which contains photos of all nine baskets in the basket exhibit, will be available in the Museum store next month. Julie is gifting the proceeds from the sale of her book to the Greater Leavenworth Museum to support our p'squosa (Wenatchi) exhibit. The publication of Julie's book is made possible by a Woods Family Music and Arts Grant received through the Community Foundation of North Central Washington.

Julie's story basket exhibit is the first step in the Museum's expansion of the First Peoples exhibit to better educate and share information about the history, both past and present, of the p'squosa (Wenatchi) tribe and its members. Mara Bohman, Rachel Bishop, and Wenatchi tribal members, Bernadine Phillips, Lucy Luevano, Mersaedy Vasquez, along with Julie Edwards, have been meeting to collaborate on updating this exciting exhibit. Chris Fiala-Erich, an award-winning independent museum curator who designed, constructed, and installed the current exhibits and displays at our Museum, plans to expand the exhibit area significantly within the current museum space by an additional 225 square feet. The completion of this exhibit expansion is planned for early 2023.

The Greater Leavenworth Museum, a 401(c)(3) non-profit organization, is committed to the collection and preservation of the rich heritage and history of the people and events that helped shape Leavenworth & the Upper Valley. Located at 8th Avenue and Front Street in downtown Leavenworth, the Museum is currently open Friday-Sunday from 11:00a.m.-4:00p.m. on the second floor at 835 Front Street.

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Video of Julie sharing from her book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixnSHPIQJ8A>

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