

'Raven's Tail' weaving class

KETCHIKAN — Cheryl Samuel, author, researcher, artist and teacher, will instruct students in the ancient geometric-style weaving called "Raven's Tail" at the Totem Heritage Center Saturday through April 6, according to the Ketchikan Museum Department.

Hundreds of years ago, Northwest Coast Native people turned their basketry techniques to use in weaving mountain goat hair into Raven's Tail robes.

This weaving style predates Chilkat weaving and can be seen in old paintings during the time of Russian con-

tact with the Tlingit Indians. Knowledge of how to weave Raven's Tail robes had disappeared and only 11 of these blankets were left in the world. None were located on the Northwest Coast when Samuel began her study of this lost art.

Through trial and error and the assistance of apprentices Delores Churchill and Ernestine Hanlon, Samuel rediscovered the original weaving style.

Those who want more information on the class may contact Jeanne Gerulskis at 225-5900 in Ketchikan.