

Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach featured on show

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Vicki Creel, aka Redwillow (Oklahoma Cherokee), co-producer for KBOO-FM radio's emerging "Indian Country" show, started posting almost as soon as she finished her interview with Grand Ronde Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach.

"Friday is running up close, folks," she wrote on the KBOO-FM radio blog at www.kboo.fm. "I'm so excited to be airing the dynamite interview and performance with Jan Michael Lookingwolf (sic)! I KNOW you will like it!"

"Had a blast there," said Reibach, after "Indian Country" aired on Friday, July 23.

"The show was one of the very best," Redwillow wrote in another post.

"Jan Michael Lookingwolf was a pleasure to have into the studio today," she wrote. "We were honored to have the 2009 NAMMY Artist of the Year in to support Native American programming!"

Redwillow discovered Reibach at the Salem World Beat Festival in 2009.

"I heard him and that was the first time," she said, "and I absolutely fell in love with the way he does Native blues."

Reibach dedicated songs at the festival to his mother, who is bipolar, a consideration that hit home with Redwillow.

"He is a wonderful supporter for Native American programming and for the community in general," she said in an interview after the show. "I can't say enough about him, the way he gives back to the community, not just Native Americans, but everybody."

"He is a great musician but also a statesman — and I don't use that word lightly — who actually looks at the general welfare and trying to do things for the greater good. I just really respect that."

"Indian Country" follows a 30-year predecessor, "Indian World," on KBOO produced by Mohawk Elder



Courtesy photo

Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach

John Talley, who hosted "everyone from Jim Pepper to you-would-not-believe," said Redwillow.

As Talley retires, Redwillow and fellow producers Samantha Cusi (unenrolled Cherokee) and Louis Sowa (unenrolled Comanche), are developing this new program in hopes of landing a regular spot on KBOO come fall.

The effort will be helped, Redwillow said, thanks to their new connection with Reibach's record label, Spirit Wind, which he shared with Redwillow.

"We are going to have more talent come through the radio show because of that connection," she said. "New stuff, new kinds of Native American music. All very exciting."

In her blog posts, Redwillow also

commented on Reibach's instruments. "On his guitar was a Tribal mandala with the word, 'UNITY,' and his flute was made of oak with a beautiful raven's head carved in it."

"Jan talked about his Tribal connection, community service, music and mental health to name just a few of the topics we hit on."

"You will love what you hear! Tune in to 'Indian Country' to hear Lookingwolf's music and interview."

Reibach is the Native American Music Association's 2009 Artist of the Year and the 2008 Flutist of the Year, among many honors.

"I've probably done 35 to 40 radio interviews in the last year," Reibach said, including "Native America Calling." "Most I do over the phone, a lot on my cell phone as I'm driving to work, but to be able to do it live, that was cool."

During the KBOO interview, Reibach talked about "our region and our Tribe, the experience, being based in the Northwest."

Although Reibach's band is with him for most performances, he also goes solo, with guitar and flute and that rough and easy voice of his, as he did on KBOO.

He sang "Live As One," his new single, accompanied by his guitar, and "Unity," one of his classics, on the flute.

Reibach's newest release is "Breakin' Free," an edgy rock recording with his band that has "a nice mix of top 10 chart sounding rock songs with vocals and some hard hitting instrumental tracks with his legendary Native flute solos."

"Breakin' Free" is part of an effort by Reibach to give back to Native communities by supporting drug and alcohol prevention for Native youth. The new CD and anti-drug abuse posters were distributed to reservations across the country this year. His band is touring reservations and playing concerts for youth as well.

KBOO can be found at 100.7 FM in Corvallis, 91.9 FM in Hood River and 90.7 FM in Portland. ■

'These guys are not going away'

CASINO continued
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Measure 75 and advised that the companion constitutional exemption, which did not qualify for the ballot, is now unnecessary.

Greg Chaimov, an attorney at the Portland firm Davis, Wright, Tremaine and former chief counsel to the Oregon Legislature, opined that language already in the state Constitution gives voters the authority to approve a private casino. The constitutional ban only applies to the Legislature, he added.

However, Chaimov said that if voters approve Measure 75 and depending on how the state responds, it is still likely that the courts will be asked to rule on whether a constitutional amendment is necessary.

Steve Berman, who represented

the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance on the disputed constitutional amendment, said Chaimov's legal interpretation is a "very novel and creative legal argument ... but I don't think it holds any water."

Grand Ronde Tribal member Justin Martin, who is a lobbyist for the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance, said that it is "absolutely critical" that Oregonians "know that these numbers they're throwing out there just do not jibe with reality."

Martin said that projections show Oregon state and local governments standing to lose millions in lottery revenues if the casino is built in the metropolitan Portland area.

Private and state studies have projected a loss to state revenue of anywhere from \$26 million to more than \$110 million even with the 25 percent cut of a Wood Village casino's revenues.

"These guys (Oregon City attorney Matthew Rossman and businessman Bruce Studer) are not going away," Martin said. "They stand to make hundreds of millions of dollars a year if this goes through."

Private casino supporters have already spent \$1.5 million trying to get the two proposals on the November ballot. They also recently spent \$40,000 for a public opinion survey.

The proposed \$250 million casino and entertainment complex in Wood Village also is projected to have a severely detrimental effect on gaming revenues for Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian Tribes, particularly Grand Ronde and its Spirit Mountain Casino, which is currently the closest casino to the Portland metro area.

The drastically reduced revenues

would not only affect Grand Ronde Tribal services, such as educational scholarships, health care and Elder pensions, but the Tribe's philanthropic work through Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

"We're going to continue to let Oregonians know what we've done in our community and beyond," Martin has said, "with the Community Fund, job creation and the economic impact we've had in and around our community."

One of the biggest concerns for those in Polk and Yamhill counties, where Spirit Mountain Casino is the largest employer, is the potential of transferring good-paying, permanent jobs from rural Oregon to the Portland metro area.

The Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance issued a statement on Aug. 23 as well, vowing to fight Measure 75. ■