

Coming full circle

Reibach returns to Native American flute with 'Message From the Sun'

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

After three years of rocking out, playing guitar, singing, entertaining at the Tribe's 25th Restoration celebration and fighting drug and alcohol abuse among Native American youth, Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach has returned to what originally made him famous in Native American music circles.

The Native American flute. Reibach recently released "Message From the Sun" on High Spirits Music based in Arizona.

Returning to predominantly Native American flute music and arrangements, "Message From the Sun" features Reibach playing more than a dozen flutes, from solo flutes with a gentle canon sound to double flutes to three flute harmonies to pairing flute with upbeat world percussion.

"The experience of recording this music was the most amazing journey," Reibach says. "It was like a voice building up inside over the

past three years and finally being released.

"We wanted to make a Native flute CD that combined the purity of ancient, indigenous sounds with original melodies that would keep the listener interested. I am so thankful to be part of it all."

"Message From the Sun" opens with an entrancing flute-percussion melody called "Breath Giver." It also features "Grace," which interweaves the well-known melody of "Amazing Grace" in its musical sojourn.

Reibach's last Native flute recording, "Unity," was released in 2007 and received national honors, including being the only Native American flute recording to ever win Flutist of the Year honors at both the Native American Music Awards and Indian Summer Music Awards in the same year.

Starting in 2008 with the rocking "Looking Wolf Project," Reibach experimented with incorporating Native flute into predominantly rock 'n' roll arrangements.

The musical experiment was well

received by the Native American music community as Reibach was named Artist of the Year by the Native American Music Awards in 2009 and the rocking "Breakin' Free" received Record of the Year honors in 2010 at the NAM-MYs. "Breakin' Free" was Reibach's arrow-head effort to connect with Native American youth about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

With a more contemplative compact disc now in release, Reibach, who is also the Tribe's Land Manager, says he will be touring select venues this year, playing large festivals and performing arts centers with percussionist Nathan Myers, Native American dancers and a captivating slideshow.

His next concert will be 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, at the Unity Church auditorium, 1777 Fabry Road. S., Salem. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for those older than 60 and younger than 12. Call 503-364-0156 for more information.

Reibach, 44, also continues to



spread his heartfelt message based on Native American tradition of "One Heart."

"In short, it is the belief that we are equal regardless of the color of our skin, Tribal affiliation, language we speak, income, gender, faith, nationality," Reibach says. "It is the recognition of unity through diversity."

"Message From the Sun" can be purchased from www.highspirits.com. Reibach is also in the process of collecting all of his music, from Native American flute to rock 'n' roll, at his Web site www.looking-wolf.com. ■

Saddle Club open

The Grand Ronde Saddle Club is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday near the former Grand Ronde Food Bank west of Grand Ronde Road.

The Saddle Club is closed on Thursday and Sunday.

Everyone is invited to visit the horses and go for a ride.

For more information, contact Tribal member Clint Folden at 503-559-1977. ■

Ranger District seeks input

The Sweet Home Ranger District is seeking input on the Cougar Rock Restoration Project that the district hopes will enhance huckleberry production in what once was a traditional gathering area near Cougar Rock.

The Forest Service plans to girdle as many as 100 trees within the area and retain about 200 trees per acre. Opening the canopy will increase the amount of light for huckleberry production.

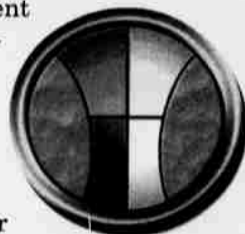
The stands are at about 4,500 feet and the average tree is 9 inches at chest height.

To comment or for more information, contact Sweet Home Ranger District Operations Staff Officer Ken Loree at 541-367-3490.

Comments are due by Feb. 28. ■

Executive director wanted

Potlatch Fund is a Native-led leadership development and operating foundation based in Seattle, Wash. Potlatch Fund's mission is to inspire the Native tradition of giving and to expand philanthropy to Northwest Indian Country. In particular, Potlatch Fund focuses on Native communities operating within the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.



Potlatch Fund is seeking a dynamic Executive Director to maintain its high standard of community-based leadership and guide it to an even more vigorous future. The ideal candidate for this position will have significant experience with and knowledge of Indian Country.

A successful candidate will have a proven track record of strategic planning, fundraising and the vision needed to cultivate a growing base of diverse local volunteers, as well as inspiring staff and community leaders in support of Potlatch Fund's mission.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of application outlining skills/background; a résumé and letters of reference to: Executive Director Position, Potlatch Fund, 801 2nd Ave., Suite 304, Seattle, WA 98104. Telephone inquiries can be placed to current Executive Director Ken Gordon at 206-624-6076 or the Board President Kirby Jock at 253-926-0276.

This position will be open until filled.

More details online at www.potlatchfund.org. ■

WANTED

Tribal members (18 and over) living within the 515 (4) county service area to be part of the Tribal Member Review Board (TMRB)

Be part of building a stronger future for a family, a child, the community, and the Tribe. Volunteer to be a TMRB Member. A little bit of your time can make a huge difference in a child's life.

The Tribal Court provides all the training, you will review the case file, attend the review, hear from all parties, and make findings and recommendations to the Court and the Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Program about the case.

Help preserve the Grand Ronde Culture by helping the children to reconnect to the Tribe, their heritage and the Grand Ronde Community.

For more information, please contact Julie Beckhoff at 503-879-4633 or email jbeckhoff@grandronde.org

A volunteer today for a better tomorrow, change a child's life forever.

Ad created by George Valdez