

Elders party on



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Jamielynn Rowan, a caregiver for the Tribe's Adult Foster Care, helps Tribal Elder Opal Davidson choose a prize during the Elders' Christmas Party at the Elders' Activity Center on Friday, Dec. 13. In the background, Tribal Elder Alan Ham looks for a prize. About 100 people attended the annual party.



Kristy DeLoe, Tribal Food Services coordinator, gives Tribal Elder Floriene Hoff a gift from the Food Services staff during the Elders' Christmas Party at the Elders' Activity Center on Friday, Dec. 13. The staff made cinnamon-scented ornaments to gift to attendees.

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Little strummer boy



Photo by Dean Rhodes

Senior Help Desk Technician Roger Asbahr provided the musical entertainment at the annual Employee Christmas Luncheon held Thursday, Dec. 19, in the Tribal Community Center. Employees received a gift box of See's chocolate, enjoyed a pork lunch with all the trimmings and listened to Asbahr perform. A/V Network Technician Wendell Olson filmed his colleague while he performed such songs as "The City of New Orleans." Tribal Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr. attended and thanked employees for all their hard work and wished them a joyous holiday season.

CD package also features Chinuk Wawa poem

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marks one of the few releases that represent Pacific Northwest Native American flute culture in the Native American music world.

"There's a lot of Native American flute CDs out there that have southwestern cultural influence," Reibach says. "Most commercial Native American music products that you see out there are southwestern based. There's really not a lot of contemporary Native American music that highlights northwestern culture. So I looked at this as an opportunity to do that and when I explained it to the record label, they jumped right on board."

"The flute melodies on this album echo some of the Tribal chants and the drum songs of the Northwest. The tempo, the musical arrangements, it's an influence that has been in my life for many, many years."

The compact disc package also features a picture of Tamanawas beadwork by Ardyth Hoffer-Hallicola and a "Tamanawas" poem in both English and Chinuk Wawa.

Based on the song titles – the title song, "Round Dance," "Veterans Tribute" and "Remembering Our Past" to name a few – it is apparent to those who know Reibach that this recording reflects his lifeway.

One of Reibach's favorite songs is "Nick's Honor Song," written in honor of Tribal member Kathy Cole's son who walked on in 2008 at the age of 24.

Cole, who also helped Reibach translate his "Tamanawas" poem that appears on the CD, sat in on the recording of the song.

"I just felt a deep inspiration to

write a song that would honor her son," Reibach says. "I wish I could record an honor song for everyone that we've lost. In a way, that's what 'Nick's Honor Song' represents."

Reibach says he thinks of the new CD as returning to his original roots – subdued traditional flute melodies with little accompaniment. The CD closes with the song "Remembering Our Past," which is a traditional drum that features fellow Tribal member Bobby Mercier on vocals. Mercier also recorded a drum song that was featured on Reibach's first CD, "Peaceful Journey."

"Tamanawas" marks Reibach's 19th compact disc release since making his first CD with a home digital recorder in 2003 in the bedroom of his then Grand Meadows home. It also marks the end of his current recording contract and his future recording career remains up in the air.

However, between his commitment to the Tribe and part-time teaching at Oregon State University, he admits to having little time to maintain a professional musician lifestyle – writing, recording, touring, etc.

"Because of my other life commitments, I just don't have time like I used to be a full-time artist anymore," Reibach says. "You don't have to sell a painting to be a painter. I don't have to sell a CD to be a flutist. I still write music, melodies still come to me. If I were to never record again, I'll still be a flutist."

"Tamanawas" is available at Inner Oasis on Third Street in downtown McMinnville and through www.highspirits.com on the Internet. ■