

Looking Wolf performed 10-song set



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council Secretary Jack Giffen Jr. greets Tribal Elder and past Council Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison with a hug during the reception of the 25th Restoration Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 22.

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25 years," Russell Leno said. "I didn't think I would ever see the day."

"Dreams come true, I guess," Provost added to a round of applause.

The Restoration Celebration dinner featured chicken breast with huckleberry sauce, baked salmon

with hazelnut crust, pot roast with demi glaze, garlic mashed potatoes, rice pilaf, various salads, roasted butternut squash, green bean almondine and fry bread with huckleberry butter.

At 6 p.m., Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach took the stage with his band, which included Grammy Award-winning producer George Noriega on guitar,

to perform a 10-song set.

"I am honored to be with my people," Reibach said. "What an honor to jam for you guys."

Earlier this year, Reibach received flutist of the year honors from both the Indian Summer Music Awards and Native American Music Awards.

The set included Noriega's version of the John Lennon classic

"Imagine," solos by Native flutists J.J. Kent (Oglala Lakota) and Tim Yett (Cherokee), a heartfelt anti-addiction song by Tribal member Steve Hudson, and a rocking, set-ending version of Bob Dylan's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door," which featured Tribal Royalty and Vernon Kennedy (Burns-Paiute) dancing around the Events Center.

Kent, Yett and Noriega received commemorative Pendleton blankets.

While the Events Center stage was reworked for Coolidge's performance, the short-form version of the Tribe's 25th Restoration video was shown on Events Center screens. The video, narrated by Tribal Elder Bob Tom and featuring the music of the Tribal Canoe Family and Reibach, received a round of applause.

Coolidge took the stage at 7:42 p.m. and performed an 18-song set, which included some of her pop hits ("Superstar") and Native-themed songs ("Muddy Road" and "Amazing Grace" sung in Cherokee). Toward the end of Coolidge's set, Tribal Council members Steve Bobb Sr., Kathleen Tom, Chris Mercier and Jack Giffen Jr. presented her with a 25th Restoration Pendleton blanket as well.

Coolidge also sang "Happy Birthday" to Tribal Elder Nora Kimsey, who will turn 100 on Dec. 2.

As the 25th Restoration celebration neared its end, Tribal Council members also presented a Pendleton blanket to Tribal Elder Mike Larsen, who acted as master of ceremonies for the celebration.

And Larsen, like Provost, summed up the celebration with one quote.

"The best thing we can do," Larsen said, "is move forward together." ■



Almost 1,500 Tribal members and their family members and guests attended the 25th Restoration Celebration at Spirit Mountain Casino's Events Center.