

THE SCENE

Festival

Jammin' on the Rocks

Promoter rekindles spirit of One Love Festival

By Lorin McLain

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Piñon Pines Bar and Grill is keeping the festival vibe flowing this weekend with a reggae/poetry/acoustic performance fest, running all day and well into the night on Saturday.

Acoustic acts are scheduled to start playing on the outdoor stage around 12:30 p.m., along with several poets also on the bill.

The Overtones start playing inside at 4 p.m.

Music and poetry continues outside until about 10 p.m., and will proceed inside until about 1:30 a.m.

Pottery and jewelry artists, a glass blower and other vendors will set up shop as well.

Ralo, festival organizer and event coordinator at Piñon Pines, said she wanted to put on a big event involving live reggae, along the lines of a



Reggae band Kindred performs at Jammin' on the Rocks, along with Purple Kush and The Overtones.

COURTESY

themed event like Bluegrass on the Rocks and May's Metal on the Rocks.

Purple Kush, The Overtones, and Kindred are the featured

reggae acts and are all from Phoenix.

Purple Kush and Kindred will play two sets inside; The Overtones are scheduled to play one.

Ralo booked 12 acoustic performers – a few from Prescott, the rest from around the state, with the exception of a songwriter from Austin.

"The spoken word poets are all slam masters. They're not slacker poets. They've all done slams, competed nationally," she said.

"They're all characters. In my opinion, you could see any of these people hanging out with the great poets of the '60s like Bukowski, Kerouac, Ginsberg – they're of that quality, but they're definitely new-millennium poets," she said.

Many of the poets perform together as The Scalliwags, combining music and poetry.

They're scheduled to do their thing around 3:30 p.m.

Ralo met many of the artists she booked for this festival through networking while putting together earlier projects like the Earth Mother Mind Jam and the One Love Festival in Jerome.

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Slam artist reveals conflict of native heritage and urban living

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"Incredibly unique" is how Jammin' on the Rocks organizer Ralo describes poet Cleopache, who explores the perspective of living as a product of both the Old West and New West.

A mix of Navajo and Apache

Cleopache will publish "Concrete Tipi" later this summer.

COURTESY

heritage, Cleopache – whose real name is Jules Dinehdeal – grew up in a family of six siblings who moved to Phoenix from a Navajo reservation near Tuba City.

Dinehdeal describes her poetry as "free versed," melodic spoken word with a message of positivity.

"The delivery is pretty much best with musicians as a backup, but I do enjoy slam poetry," said the poet, who performs frequently with musicians, such as the improvisation music and

poetry group Scalliwags, also at Jammin' on the Rocks.

Dinehdeal will publish her second book of poetry, "Concrete Tipi," later this summer.

Dinehdeal reveals her perspective as a Native American living in today's urban city culture.

"I have issues about discrimination. I have issues about housing, trying to get a job, and having personal issues about raising a family, and trying to relate my heritage to my family

living here in the city," she said.

A mother of two college-aged children, Dinehdeal said she started hitting poetry slams in her 30s, particularly motivated by the death of her father, and in the last 10 years has worked in organizing music and poetry events at theaters and galleries in the Phoenix area.

Dinehdeal said she is also working on a spoken-word CD with music written by her brother, who died from a brain tumor at the age of 38.

