

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Chocolate & Spirits Festival to benefit reading fest**

Fort Myers, FL, Nov. 20, 2015 –The annual Chocolate & Spirits Festival will be held Friday, Dec. 4 in the Market Plaza at the [Gulf Coast Town Center](#), 9903 Gulf Coast Main Street in Estero. The public is invited to sample a variety of chocolate items from 6 to 8 p.m. The [Chicago Mob](#) band will provide live entertainment and bidding on silent auction items runs from 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Admission is free though a three dollar donation is requested. The event is sponsored by Blu Sushi, Bar Louie, Cantina 109 and the Gulf Coast Town Center merchants. Tickets may be purchased at the event for \$1 each and used to purchase chocolate samples and beverages. The number of tickets needed to purchase a chocolate item varies.

Chocolate items include: red velvet brownies, chocolate dipped petits fours, almond and chocolate croissants, chocolate martinis, turtle brownies, Kahlua brownies, chocolate Italian ice, ice cream, assorted wines, chicken mole sauce, candies and more. The silent auction has dozens of items and packages including a chocolate diamond pendant and necklace from Dunkin's Diamonds, tickets to Universal Studios-Orlando, Sea World-Orlando, the Miami Zoo, theater and symphony tickets, hotel stays, canoe/kayak rentals, dinners and much more. Proceeds from the Chocolate & Spirits Festival will benefit the Southwest Florida Reading Festival.

The festival is a free community event, scheduled for March 19, 2016, to showcase the Lee County Library System's programs and resources and promote reading and literacy. For more information, visit [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org).

### **ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA READING FESTIVAL**

Lee County Library System produces the Southwest Florida Reading Festival to inform the community about the resources and services available at their local Lee County libraries and to remind them these resources and services are free with a library card. The Reading Festival is free and serves all ages and a variety of cultures with presentations from best-selling authors. Some of the authors who have attended in the past include: Sue Monk Kidd, Susan Mallery, R.L. Stine, Janet Evanovich, Nelson DeMille, Erik Larson and several hundred more.

The Reading Festival's objectives are to promote reading and literacy; bring awareness of the library's programs and resources; foster partnerships between the Lee County Library System and the community. The Southwest Florida Reading Festival helps build a literate community and improve the local standard of living. The Southwest Florida Reading Festival helps children and teens to develop an interest in reading independently and therefore an increase in vocabulary and writing; increases family bonding and reading time; positively affects the attitude and behavior of families and the community regarding reading; develops a more educated and enriched community. For more information go to [www.ReadFest.org](http://www.ReadFest.org)