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Finalists to battle at the Reading Rocks! Teen Battle of the Bands

Fort Myers, FL, March 3, 2016 –The Reading Rocks! Teen Battle of the Bands finals competition will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at the Southwest Florida Reading Festival, at Harborside Event Center, 1375 Monroe St., Fort Myers, and neighboring Centennial Park.

Seven bands entered the contest. The elimination round was judged by public online voting with input from a panel of judges. The top three bands moving to the finals are: Feels Trip, Stonewash and The Brittany Russells Band. These finalists will battle it out with live performances at 1 p.m. 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. The panel of judges will determine the first- and second-place winners and the Popular Choice Award will be determined by crowdsource voting at 3:15pm. The winners will be announced at 3:30 p.m.

The first-place prize includes an eight-hour studio recording session at Sonic Recording Studios, a professional photo from Laura Michele Photos and a feature article in Gulf Coast Times. The event is presented by the Lee County Library System and is intended to encourage involvement in reading and the arts among high school and middle school age students.

“Once again we are awed by the young talent in this community,” Festival Coordinator Margie Byers said. “We are excited about the upcoming live performances and hope the community will come out and support these bands.”

The contest was open to bands of two or more people who are residents of Lee, Charlotte, Collier and Hendry counties and are between the ages of 13 to 19 years old on the date of entry. The elimination round will be judged by a combination of judge’s panel (60 percent) and online voting (40 percent). To see all the entries go to www.ReadFest.org/BandBattle.

For more information about the Southwest Florida Reading Festival, call 239-479-4636 or visit www.readfest.org. The Reading Festival is 100 percent community supported through generous donations, sponsorships and grants. To help ensure the continuation of this free community event visit www.readfest.org to make a secure online donation.

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.