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For Release: April 26, 2017

Sedona's Great Sedona Chili Cook-Off is Heating UP!

Sedona, AZ, April 26, 2017 - The Rotary Club of Sedona is excited to announce the seventh annual Great Sedona Chili Cook-off on Saturday, May 6 at Tlaquepaque Arts and Crafts Village. This fun event is a part of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta weekend. Top chefs from Sedona restaurants are busy perfecting their special chili recipes, which can be sampled at festive booths in Tlaquepaque's Calle de Independencia. Also, the mayors of Sedona and Cottonwood, the Fire Chief of Sedona and Chefs from Verde Valley School are fired up to be a part of this annual competition.

Come and cheer on your favorite "hot" chili cook-off restaurants, **El Rincon Restaurante Mexicano, Café Paleo Brio, Garlands Oak Creek Lodge, Hideaway House, HP Café, Mesa Grill, Tamalisa Market, and Whole Foods**, who will vie for the 2017 Restaurant Chili Championship. There are also a number of other awards including the Restaurant Judges' Award and Peoples' Choice Award plus cash prizes and trophies. In addition, competing for the community's judge choice are Sedona's Mayor **Sandy Moriarty**, Cottonwoods Mayor **Tim Elinski**, **Michael Briggs** and **Mike Speilman** from Verde Valley School and **Kris Kazian**, Chief of the Sedona Fire District.

A panel of three judges, **Jeff Smedstad**, owner/Executive Chef of Elote, **Sam Williams**, chef of Garland's Indian Gardens Café & Market, and **Linda Goldenstein**, owner of Goldenstein Gallery, will determine this year's winners.

Chef Michael Briggs, who has 20 years' experience creating healthy, organic menus, claims that his passion is to cook with raw, fresh and organic ingredients. Chef Sam Williams, head Chef at Indian Gardens in Sedona, Arizona believes good food brings a community together. Sam is known for using classic techniques and modern plating styles while showcasing the natural flavors of an ingredient. He is passionate about supporting local growers and celebrating the bounty Northern Arizona has to offer.

Another exciting part of this event is the Rotary's Silent Auction where you can either buy it now or bid for your favorite items. Check it out at <http://sedonarotary.org/Page/the-great-sedona-chili-cook-off>.

This year the Rotary is using the proceeds from the Sedona Chili Cook-Off to fund charitable Rotary programs and activities that aid our youth. The primary local charity benefiting from this year's event is Imagination Library. The Imagination Library mails a free monthly age-appropriate book to approximately 1200 local area children, ages 0 to 5. The proceeds also helps fund Sedona Rotary Club's six scholarships for high school seniors to use for the college of their choice. Finally, the monies collected from the event will bring foreign exchange students to the U.S. as well as send a local student abroad.

Put Saturday, May 6 on your calendars now! The entrance fee is \$15 with no charge for children under twelve. There is a \$5.00 discount on event admission for parking at the Church of the Red Rocks. **LOOK FOR EVENT PARKING SIGNS. Shuttle service will be provided from Church of the Red Rocks and Trolley service from Uptown.**

Major sponsors for the Great Sedona Chili Cook-off are David H. Bill, DDS, Sedona Dental Arts, Goldenstein Gallery, University of Sedona, Azadi Rugs, John & Veronika Crawford, Roy Grimm, Paul & Mara Majane, David & Isabel Simmer, John & Andrea Terhune.

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