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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## WEDU HONORED WITH **11** EMMY® NOMINATIONS

**Tampa, FL** — West central Florida's primary PBS station, **WEDU**, was recently nominated for **11** Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards – being one of the top television stations in the market commercial or public – with double-digit recognition. Starting its seventh season, ***A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack Perkins*** led the charge with 10 nominations; followed by one Emmy® nod for the WEDU special program ***Smart Health***.

"I'm extremely proud of the WEDU employees who work tirelessly to produce educational and entertaining community stories to life through our local programming. In these unsettling times, it's more important than ever that WEDU continue to focus on issues and people that matter most to us in our everyday lives – those in our own communities," said Richard 'Dick' Lobo, WEDU President and CEO. "It's an honor to receive these Emmy nominations as an acknowledgement of what WEDU can do best to service our community – tell great local stories."

Exclusively underwritten by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, ***A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack Perkins*** highlights the people and places that make Sarasota and west central Florida a richly varied community. ***A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack Perkins*** received Emmy® nominations in the following nine [categories](#):

### [Arts/Entertainment](#)

**Kaleidoscope of Dreams** (September 08)

**Tracy MacDonald, Matt Zodrow, Brad Clore**

*Kaleidoscope Theater is a partnership between The Community Haven for Adults and Children with Disabilities and the Asolo Repertory Theater. The participants in this unique program study acting, voice, movement and visual arts, culminating in a full stage professional production on the Asolo Main Stage. The disabilities of the performers range from mild to profound, but their ability to entertain and inspire the audience has no bounds.*

### [Education/Schools](#)

**Just Add Water** (January 09)

**Jen Noble, Matt Zodrow, Brad Clore**

*How do you teach children a lesson about the importance of our amazing marine environment...a lesson they'll never forget – easy, just add water. Aquarian Quest was founded by three long-time sailors; one of them environmental educator Robert Killian. See what we learn aboard this floating classroom.*

### [Health/Science/Environment](#)

**Little Salt Spring** (June 09)

**Colleen Hamilton, Brad Clore, Matt Zodrow**

*Prehistoric discoveries – archaeologist John Gifford of the University of Miami leads a team of volunteer divers in excavations at Little Salt Spring in North Port.*

### Human Interest

**Return to Flight** (December 08)

**Jen Noble, Brad Clore**

*Thanks to several pairs of hands and the vision of one woman, the place once known as the “Pelican Man Sanctuary” has been reborn. It’s now the new home of the Save Our Seabirds Sanctuary and founder Lee Fox couldn’t be more proud.*

### Magazine Program

**A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack Perkins** (Episode 604, April 09)

**Jen Noble, Jack Perkins, Matt Zodrow,  
Brad Clore, Spencer Briggs, Colleen Hamilton**

*Hair Raising Homecoming - He’s wacky, zany, but most of all fearless. Bello Nock is a seventh generation circus performer who calls the Gulf Coast home. Bello began performing at age 3 and over the years, progressed from clown to daredevil. Beach Pastor - It is a Friday night pilgrimage for many beach goers in Venice. Pastor Randy Burt of the New Life Community Center and Church presides over a sunset sing-a-long just alongside the Pavilion on Venice Beach. Triple J Ranch - Jay, Rhonda and their 13-year-old daughter, Morgan are World Champions at reining, roping and working cow horses. The Holmes Family rides like the wind on their three-hundred acre Triple J Ranch in Sarasota. Beach Tennis – A combination of three sports - tennis, badminton and beach volleyball. This friendly competition is catching on here on the Gulf Coast. This month’s postcard features more hair raising antics from Bello!*

### Nostalgia Program

**Carl East** (February 09)

**Colleen Hamilton, Brad Clore**

*Man with a Mission - Carl East is the heart and soul of the busy Community Center in the Newtown area of Sarasota. For 30 years, East has made sure the community center is a place where residents can go for a free holiday meal, where kids can find refuge through sports and where seniors can enjoy weekly classes and some camaraderie.*

### Photographer

**Pastor Randy** (April 09)

**Brad Clore**

*Pastor Randy Burt of the New Life Community Center and Church presides over a sunset sing-a-long just alongside the Pavilion on Venice Beach.*

**Triple J Ranch** (April 09)

**Brad Clore**

*Triple J Ranch - Jay, Rhonda and their 13-year-old daughter, Morgan are World Champions at reining, roping and working cow horses. The Holmes Family rides like the wind on their three-hundred acre Triple J Ranch in Sarasota.*

### Religion

**Sunset Sing Along** (AGCJ, April 09)

**Spencer G. Briggs, Matt Zodrow, Brad Clore**

*Pastor Randy Burt of the New Life Community Center and Church presides over a sunset sing-a-long just alongside the Pavilion on Venice Beach.*

### Writer (Short Form)

**Little Salt Spring/Carl East** (June 09/February 09)

**Colleen Hamilton**

*Prehistoric Discoveries –archaeologist John Gifford of the University of Miami leads a team of volunteer divers in excavations at Little Salt Spring in North Port. / Man with a Mission - Carl East is the heart and soul of the busy Community Center in the Newtown area of Sarasota. For 30 years, East has made sure the community center is a place where residents can go for a free holiday meal, where kids can find refuge through sports and where seniors can enjoy weekly classes and some camaraderie.*

**Smart Health**, an ongoing WEDU special program initiative dedicated to sharing advances in medical science and introducing the inspiring and courageous people behind them, received an Emmy® nomination for:

### Health/Science/Environment

**Smart Health** (Episode 107, July 08)

**Angie Moreschi, Ellen McVay**

*Shining The Light On Sunscreen - The American Academy of Dermatology estimates one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime. It's a stunning statistic, especially here in sunny Florida.*

*Alzheimer's Research - About five million Americans are living with Alzheimer's Disease, including more than 400,000 Floridians. It's a progressive disease that destroys brain cells, impacting memory and behavior.*

*New Breast Cancer Therapy - A growing number of women who are being treated for breast cancer are choosing a new radiation therapy with encouraging results.*

*Toddler Nutrition – What about our children? What's their biggest health threat? Now more than ever, it's their size.*

*Obesity in children has tripled in the last 25 years, setting them up for diabetes and heart disease. Helping them to eat right and stay active has never been more important.*

WEDU locally-produced programs have been honored with dozens of Emmy® awards in the station's 51 year history. The winners of the 2009 regional Emmy® Awards will be announced on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences annual ceremony taking place at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Orlando.

For more information about WEDU programming, TV schedules, channel guides, special events, outreach efforts and community partnerships visit [www.wedu.org](http://www.wedu.org) or call 800.354.9338. WEDU, a 501(c)(3) organization, is west central Florida's primary PBS station reaching 16 counties including the Tampa, St. Petersburg, Pasco, Polk and Sarasota areas through multiple media platforms including on-air broadcasting and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Through non-commercial programming people from every walk-of-life are invited to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; hear diverse viewpoints; and take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. WEDU, recently received its fourth consecutive four-star rating by Charity Navigator, an honor only achieved by 6% of charities nationwide, is financially supported by its local community, and provides the highest quality education, information, and entertainment programming, special events and outreach activities.

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