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**WSRE MAKES A SPLASH WITH NEW KIDS' SHOW, FREE LECTURE  
AND FAMILY EVENT FOCUSED ON OCEAN CONSERVATION**



PENSACOLA, Fla., January 11, 2017 – WSRE is launching 2017—the PBS station’s 50th year—by making a splash with a special “Splash and Bubbles” broadcast on Monday, a free Public Square Speakers Series lecture in February, and a family event at Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park in March—all focused on ocean conservation.

**“Splash and Bubbles: One Big Ocean” PBS KIDS movie event premieres Monday.**

The first “Splash and Bubbles” movie event, “One Big Ocean,” airs on WSRE Monday, January 16 at 9 a.m. PBS KIDS first introduced “Splash and Bubbles” in November. The children’s show is produced by The Jim Henson Company and designed to encourage kids ages 4 to 7 to explore the undersea world. The series introduces the concepts of ecological balance and the importance of taking care of the ocean.

Following the adventures of two fish, Splash and Bubbles, children explore the world’s undersea habitats and learn about the different ways life looks and lives in the ocean. In “One Big Ocean,” they embark on an epic journey with their Reeftown friends, catching the currents across the sea to help a friendly young turtle. Along the way, they learn that all creatures are interconnected and how even a small gesture can greatly affect the friends and neighbors who share the one big ocean they call home.

**Marine scientist Ellen Prager presents “Sex, Drugs and Sea Slime” on February 23.**

WSRE’s Public Square Speakers Series presents marine scientist and author Ellen Prager on Thursday, February 23 at 7 p.m. in the Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio.

Prager is a former chief scientist at the Aquarius Reef Base research program in Key Largo, where her extensive study of how corals build the earth's reefs led to her book, "Sex, Drugs and Sea Slime," about the wealth of life in the sea and the need to protect it.

She also served as an assistant dean at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and is currently a freelance writer, consultant and science advisor to the cruise ship Celebrity Xpedition in the Galapagos Islands.

Her newest book, "Stingray City," is the third book in her Tristan Hunt fiction series for middle school readers, which combines humor and fast-paced adventure with learning about the ocean, marine life and ocean issues. Prager will sign books following her talk with copies of "Sex, Drugs and Sea Slime" and books from the Tristan Hunt series available for purchase.

"Dr. Prager is widely recognized for her ability to make science entertaining and understandable for people of all ages," said Jill Hubbs WSRE director of Educational Services. "There are several marine science academies in local high schools, and we hope to have a great turnout of those students and their families for her lecture. She will also be spending time with local middle school students during her visit, encouraging their interest in both marine science and reading."

Admission to all WSRE Public Square Speakers Series events is free, and reservations can be made online at [wsre.org/speakers](http://wsre.org/speakers).

### **WSRE PBS KIDS & Family Day is at Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park on March 11.**

The third annual WSRE PBS KIDS and Family Day at Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 11. Beloved characters from the PBS KIDS show lineup will be at the park to greet young fans engaged in hands-on children's activities including arts and crafts and a scavenger hunt.

In addition to PBS KIDS and Family Day, Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park will operate under regular park hours with their dolphin and sea lion shows, animal exhibits and aquariums. A portion of the proceeds from admission fees will benefit the WSRE-TV Foundation. Ticket and park information is available online at [gulfarium.com](http://gulfarium.com).

This event will be held rain or shine and is sponsored in-part by Gulf Power Company, Cox Communications, Lamar Advertising, Cat Country 98.7 and NewsRadio1620 and 92.3FM, and Emerald Coast Magazine.

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About WSRE, PBS for the Gulf Coast

**WSRE, a Public Broadcasting Service station, is locally owned and licensed to the Pensacola State College Board of Trustees. Since 1967, WSRE has served Northwest Florida and South Alabama with quality TV programs, educational media and community outreach reflecting the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of the coverage area. WSRE aims to help improve educational outcomes and provide access to enlightening, informative and entertaining content for all learners. Visit [wsre.org](http://wsre.org) to learn more.**