

MUSIC & MOVIES

'Centerfold' frontman **J Geils** dead at 71



In this Aug 6, 2011 photo, J Geils, left, and Peter Wolf of J. Geils Band perform at the Fleet Boston Pavilion in Boston. — AP

J Geils, the blues rock guitarist whose band topped the charts with the party-ready 1981 anthem "Centerfold," died Tuesday, police said. He was 71. The rocker, whose full name was John Warren Geils Jr, was found unresponsive when emergency personnel were called to his home in Groton, Massachusetts, police said in a statement. Police said they were investigating the cause of death but had ruled out foul play. Leading The J Geils Band, the guitarist adapted blues influences to create a hard-rocking, fun-loving rock sound that appealed to a largely working-class male audience. "Centerfold," a tale of a man who is

stunned that a girl he fancied in school has posed in an adult magazine, spent six weeks at number one on the US chart, led by a video that enjoyed heavy airplay in the first days of MTV.

The J Geils Band was sometimes compared to another Massachusetts band, Aerosmith, but did not have the same staying power. The J Geils Band had another hit with "Freeze Frame," the title track off the album that featured "Centerfold," but the band dissolved several years later. Underlying the split were tensions pitting Geils against keyboardist Seth Justman and guitarist Peter Wolf, who together wrote

much of the music. The band members fought to keep the use of the name The J Geils Band despite performing without Geils. He retreated to Groton, best known for an elite private high school, and pursued a passion for restoring racecars. Although Geils occasionally still performed, he focused on jazz and more classic blues, saying he had grown tired of the harder-charging rock. The J Geils Band has been nominated to but not entered the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. — AFP

Fleetwood Mac members announce new album

Members of blues-rock powerhouse Fleetwood Mac on Tuesday announced a new album that will bring together all of the band's classic lineup-except Stevie Nicks. Guitarist Lindsey Buckingham said the album would be the first by a duo of him and keyboardist Christine McVie, who rejoined Fleetwood Mac for a 2014-15 global tour after staying out of the spot-

light for years. Entitled simply "Lindsey Buckingham/Christine McVie," the 10-track album will come out on June 9 followed by a US tour. The duo will release a first single, "In My World," on Friday.

The duo in a statement said that the two started working on new material when McVie joined rehearsals for the tour and "their natural creative

chemistry was reignited." Recording the album at the Los Angeles studio where Fleetwood Mac made its 1979 album "Tusk," the pair was joined by two band mates-drummer Mick Fleetwood and bassist John McVie. Notably absent from the recording sessions was Stevie Nicks, who has gone on to become the most identifiable member of Fleetwood Mac with a successful solo career led by her unique sandy voice.

Buckingham, in a 2014 interview with Billboard magazine, had said that Nicks was busy with other commitments when the others headed to the studio. The part-British, part-US band was notorious for internal tensions which played out in the music. Nicks was romantically involved at times with Buckingham and Fleetwood, while Christine McVie was formerly married to John McVie. Fleetwood Mac has not released a studio album since 2003's "Say You Will," on which Christine McVie was absent, but the reunited lineup with Nicks has become a major draw on the live circuit. Fleetwood Mac and The Eagles will headline a new festival called The Classic in Los Angeles and New York in July. — AFP



This file photo shows (From left) John McVie, Christine McVie, Stevie Nicks, Lindsey Buckingham and Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac posing on stage on NBC's "Today" at the NBC's Today Show in New York.



CHEMISTRY ONSTAGE MAKES FAITH HILL AND TIM MCGRAW A TOP TOUR

The love story of Tim McGraw and Faith Hill started on a tour two decades ago and that sparkling chemistry onstage has made them one of the genre's biggest headliners. The country couple with movie star glamour has sold over 63 million albums in the US between their two careers, has earned two Grammys for duets they sang together and has three children. This year, they are releasing their first-ever duet album together and started their third installment of their highly successful Soul2Soul World (it launched last week). "I haven't been on a stage like this in 10 years and that is no lie," Hill said of the tour. "I can tell you right now I am fired up."

During an Associated Press interview with the couple before their rehearsal at the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas earlier this month, Hill and McGraw were giddy with anticipation. "She's ready to turn it loose," McGraw said. "Age is not an issue," added Hill, who together with her husband will be turning 50 during the tour that runs through October. The Mississippi-born Hill and the Louisiana-born McGraw fell in love when she opened for him on his 1996 Spontaneous Combustion tour and they married that year.

In 2000, the first Soul2Soul tour grossed \$48.8 million, making it the best grossing country tour in North America that year, according to Pollstar. The Soul2Soul II tour was even more successful, grossing \$88.8 million in 2006, and made it the 3rd highest grossing North American tour that year.

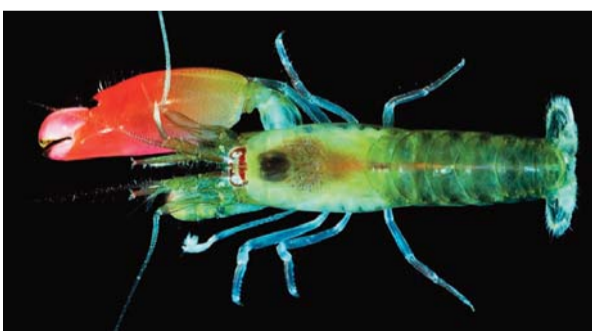
McGraw credited their success on the road to the fact that they are very different singers who push each other to expand their ranges onstage. "Faith, I would say, is more of an R&B, sort of gospel-inspired singer," McGraw said. "And I think I am more a '70s rock, arena rock, Merle Haggard meets arena rock kind of singer. She brings me a little bit more to the R&B side, and I bring her more to the arena rock side, and I think it creates a sort of magic."

Their first duet together, "It's Your Love," was on McGraw's 1997 "Everywhere" album, which was followed by "Just to Hear You Say That You Love Me," from Hill's multi-platinum album "Faith." Since then, they have had several popular duets, including their latest, "Speak to a Girl," which jumped into the Top 10 of Billboard's Hot country songs chart after they performed it on the ACM Awards. But they say they don't always agree in music, or in marriage, but McGraw said commitment is key. "Look, there is no secret," Hill said. "Either you like one another or you don't. You want to stay married or you don't. You work at it, or you don't. Simple as that. It is not always easy and there are moments that are rocky." "But you don't walk away," McGraw said. "I would rather live a life in rocky road ice cream than vanilla any day of the week," Hill said. "Honestly, vanilla gets boring after a couple of days." A smiling McGraw adds: "So I am not vanilla!" — AP

NEW SONIC BLAST SHRIMP NAMED AFTER PINK FLOYD

A newly-discovered shrimp species with a bright pink claw and the ability to produce one of the loudest sounds in the ocean has been named after legendary British band Pink Floyd, zoologists said yesterday. "Synalpheus pinkfloydi" has a bright pink claw that, "just like all good rock bands," can produce large amounts of sonic energy, according to a post on the blog of the University of Oxford's Museum of Natural History. Zoologist Sammy de Grave, a lifelong Pink Floyd fan who works at the museum, said the shrimp's discovery off the coast of Panama was "the perfect opportunity to finally give a nod to my favorite band".

By closing its distinctive claw at rapid speed, the shrimp can produce a sound strong enough to stun or even kill a small fish. A description of the shrimp appeared in the journal Zootaxa yesterday and the Oxford team featured the shrimp in fictitious covers for the legendary British rock band's albums "Animals" and "The Wall." "I often play Pink Floyd as background music while I'm working," de Grave said. "But now the band and my work have been happily combined in the scientific literature." — AFP



This photograph received from the Federal University of Goias yesterday, shows the newly-discovered bright pink-clawed pistol shrimp which has been named as 'Synalpheus pinkfloydi' in the scientific description of the species. — AFP

Alabama country music star **Cook** suffering from Parkinson's



Jeff Cook

Jeff Cook of the country music group Alabama said on Tuesday he has the nervous system disorder Parkinson's disease and will be stepping back from touring with the band. Cook, 67, who plays fiddle and guitar, said he was diagnosed four years ago with the disease, which robs sufferers of balance and causes tremors. "For me, this has made it extremely frustrating to try and play guitar, fiddle or sing," Cook said in a video statement for The Tennessean newspaper. "I'm not calling it quits but sometimes our bodies dictate what we have to do, and mine is telling me it's time to take a break and heal."

Alabama, which also includes Cook's cousins Randy Owen and Teddy Gentry, broke in to the national country music

scene in the 1980s and has sold some 75 million records. The band was named entertainer of the year - the top award - three times by the Country Music Association and was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2005. The band said it planned to continue to record as a trio and with hopes Cook will join them on stage from time to time. Cook's announcement followed recent speculation that he had a substance abuse problem. "That's the part that hurts so bad, for people to think that he's intoxicated or something," Owen said, saying that the trio had kept the diagnosis secret for years. — Reuters

'The Lost City of Z' is a mesmerizing adventure

Modest and majestic at once, the films of James Gray patiently burrow their way into the souls of their characters and, maybe, into you. Gray is painterly and exacting - some might say to a fault. But his movies' revelations are complex and contradictory - full of life's messiness - and their formal textures break open with moments of transcendence. So, yeah, I like them - particularly his last one, "The Immigrant," and his new one, "The Lost City of Z."

Romantic sense of exploration

Both are period films with a pulse and a now-ness the genre often lacks. Each plunges us into the passages of early 20th century strivers and leaves us with a shattering final image of departure. Like the tide, they overwhelm and then

recede. "He's been rather unfortunate in his choice of ancestors," is how one character explains Percy Fawcett's predicament early in "The Lost City of Z," based on David Grann's nonfiction book. Fawcett (Charlie Hunnam) is a British officer but decoration has eluded him, and his deceased, disgraced father has soiled his name.

Though craving action, he's assigned in 1906 on a map-making mission to the "blank spaces" of Bolivia where the British are meant to act as "referents" in a territory dispute with Brazil. The expedition into the Amazon jungles soon fills him with a romantic sense of exploration (his wife, Nina, played by Sienna Miller, reads him Kipling's "The Explorer"), and he travels across the Atlantic in search of glory and redemption. Success, he's told, would change his lot "considerably."

On the boat to South America, Fawcett meets his aide-de-camp, Henry Costin (an excellent, heavily bearded Robert Pattinson), who initially eyes his leader warily. "You might be a little too English for this jungle," he says as they step through flies and snakes. They and their small team travel up a river and it immediately feels as though "The Lost City of Z" has swum into the currents of Werner Herzog's "Aguirre, the Wrath of God" and "Fitzcarraldo" and Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now." The ominous notes are many: a glassy-eyed rubber baron (Franco Nero) whose business the British are there to protect; a native guide who warns that the river "is always danger"; the onset of hunger among the thinning crew.—AP

Musicians from Prince bands to speak at anniversary event



Prince

Musicians who played on stage with Prince will speak at a four-day celebration of the "Purple Rain" superstar at Paisley Park. Organizers of "Celebration 2017" announced speakers for the event on Tuesday. It's scheduled to run April 20-23, being held during the anniversary of Prince's death. Among the speakers are Lisa Coleman, Wendy Melvoin, drummer Bobby Z, keyboardist Matt Fink and bassist BrownMark from Prince's 1980s

band, The Revolution. Other speakers include Levi Seacer from Prince's 1990s band, New Power Generation, keyboardist Morris Hayes, costume designer Stacia Lang and singer Shelby J.

Tickets are nearly sold out. Only certain general admission passes are still available, at \$549 each. Each day will include performances on Paisley Park's soundstage. Prince died April 21, 2016, of an accidental overdose. — AP