

share her experience, so Make-A-Wish arranged with **WPTV-Channel 5** for her to interview the mermaids for a newscast, asking them about their favorite food and music and if they can dance with tails.

During their visit, the Kuhns visited Gumbo Limbo Nature Center and the Palm Beach Zoo. And one other plus: The trip marked the first vacation for the entire family.

So much for rust. When Gulf Stream Bath & Tennis pro Roger Ashcroft hired **David McNamara** four years ago, he took note of his new assistant's people skills and teaching ability but noted he wasn't fully



McNamara

fit. Thanks to Ashcroft's intense fitness regimen and at his urging, McNamara decided to enter his first high-level tournament in

more than five years, the USTA National Men's 40 Clay Court Championships in Atlanta.

"I thought what the hell," said McNamara, whose highest international ranking had been 431. "But because of who I am I didn't want to just go play. I still have enough of a competitive ego that I thought I could win. I wanted to make sure I was ready."

McNamara dispatched the Nos. 5, 3, 1 and 2 seeds for the championship.

But he wasn't finished. In late August he traveled to Philadelphia for the USTA National 40 Grass Court Championships. After a first-round bye, he beat the top three seeds to win again.

The national hard court championships begin Nov. 27 in La Jolla, Calif. McNamara is pumped.

"The new national rankings came out today," he wrote on

Aug. 28, "and I am now No. 2 in the nation. Closing in on No. 1."

"It needed to be done," **Luke Therien** said, so a couple of months ago the Boynton Beach restaurateur shut down the **Banana Boat** for renovations. "When you're open 365 days a year, there's a lot of wear and tear."

Therien opened Banana Boat in 1978 with a New England nautical look that was retained in do-overs in 1990 and 2000. Not this time, however.

"We tried to sharpen our brand with a Florida Caribbean look," he said. "We want to make sure we're capturing all the people coming to South Florida."

He added sliding glass doors that bring in a lot more light and open up the place and a new boat-shaped bar. The expanded docks can handle eight boats. Florida and Caribbean artwork from local artists cover the walls, and live music continues every Friday through Sunday.

Palm Beach County is among the most prosperous regions in the nation, yet almost 200,000 residents live in poverty. Every month the **Palm Beach County Food Bank** serves more than 100,000 individuals through food pantries, soup kitchens and other services. But that food doesn't come for free and the money to buy it comes from a wide variety of activities and programs. One is **Empty Bowls Delray Beach**.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 3 at Old School Square, patrons will pay \$25 for a specially decorated bowl they can fill with any or all of a variety of soups from at least 16 local restaurants and artisan bread from Old School Bakery. Soup providers, including Abe & Louie's, Artsy Artichoke, Atlantis Golf Club, Bedner's, Burt & Max's, Cabana El Rey, Caffe Luna Rosa, The Colony Hotel, Deck 84, The Elks

Club, Henry's, Lucille's BBQ, Purgreens, Salt 7, Sweetwater, and The Regional Kitchen will serve up a variety from chicken vegetable and potato bacon to red seafood chowder and split pea and coconut curry.

Barb Lentz, owner of the Art-Sea Living Studio in Boynton Beach, has hosted a series of "play and paint" events where guests have designed and painted bowls. For tickets or more information, visit www.oldschoolsquare.org/events/empty-bowls.

Hard to believe they've been performing for almost 50 years, but the **Pointer Sisters** are still jumpin' for our love and they'll no doubt be steppin' out at the Nov. 4 gala for the **Chris Evert/Raymond James Pro-Celebrity Tennis Classic** at Boca Raton Resort & Club. Playing celebs at the 28th event include musician **David Cook**, **Dr. Phil McGraw**, **Robin Givens** and race driver **Helio Castroneves**. (www.chrisevert.org)

Alex Dreyfoos and **George Elmore** have been making their marks in business and culture for half a century. Dreyfoos is the former owner of WPEC-Channel 12, entrepreneur, inventor and the force behind the Kravis Center. Elmore, founder and president of Hardrives, served as chairman of the Palm Beach County Cultural Council.

Together they have moved and shaken the county into a cultural destination, and they'll share behind-the-scenes stories and anecdotes from 5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 6 at "Putting It Together" for the council's first **"Culture & Cocktails"** event of the season at The Colony Pavilion in Palm Beach.

The Jan. 8 event will take a slightly different heading with "Heavy Perspectives: From Metallica to Modern Art" with former Metallica bassist and

Rock and Roll Hall of Famer-turned artist **Jason Newsted**. His paintings will be on display at the Cultural Council's HQ in Lake Worth from Dec. 1 to Feb. 3. For reservations and ticket pricing, call 472-3330.

Jethro Tull ... almost. The classic rock band's best-known member, **Ian Anderson**, plays Mizner Park Amphitheater Nov. 10. **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** sets up at the Kravis Center on Dec. 5. At the podium: a promising young trumpeter out of New Orleans — **Winton Marsalis**. **Ambrosia** and **Fly Amero** (Orleans) perform at Boston's Nov. 9.



Liberace

Remember **Liberace**? Even on old black-and-white TVs, his costumes were outrageous. Now fans and those who are just curious can check out 15 of the flamboyant pianist's outfits in all their sequential splendor in "Bling: The Brilliant History of Glitz" at **The Wick Theatre's Costume Museum** in Boca Raton. The exhibit, in collaboration with the Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts, runs through May 20. (995-2333)

A familiar Palm Beach face has a hand in Forum Productions-Greenhouse

Theater Center's 2017-18 season opener at Mizner Park Cultural Center. *Rose: The Untold Rose Kennedy Story* was written by Kennedy family biographer **Laurence Leamer**, author of *Madness Under the Royal Palms — Love and Death Behind the Gates of Palm Beach*, and a winter resident. Performances are Nov. 29 through Dec. 23.

Speaking of Mizner Park, **Festival of the Arts Boca** is still more than two months off, but early bird tickets are only \$39 and the lineup for Feb. 23-March 4 has something for everyone, opening with soprano **Kathleen Battle** (Feb. 23) and violinist **Itzhak Perlman** (Feb. 24). Other standouts include Council on Foreign Relations President **Richard Haass** (Feb. 26), X Prize founder **Peter Diamandis** (Feb. 28), a screening of *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* with live orchestra (March 4) and the multi-talented **T Bone Burnett** (March 1).

If they can obtain clearance from the Trump administration, **Grupo Compay Segundo**, the Cuba-based band that tours the globe and still plays Saturday nights at Havana's Hotel Nacional, will play the festival Feb. 25.

And for something completely different on March 2: How about **New Worlds**, an evening of music, poetry and prose? The ensemble features German cellist **Jan Vogler**, Chinese violinist **Mira Wang**, Venezuelan-American pianist **Vanessa Perez** and Illinois actor **Bill Murray**. Classical composers, Broadway, poetry, prose, heaps of Americana. Rave reviews.



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Dining

A stack of blueberry delights at John G's

The Plate: Blueberry pancakes

The Place: John G's, Plaza del Mar, 264 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan; 585-9860 or www.johngs.com.

The Price: \$6.85 (cash only)

The Skinny: I love John G's. The gazpacho is some of the best anywhere, served on ice with elaborate pepper garnishes. The Greek salads are good, too. And I know folks who go there when they have a yen for fried fish.

But I like the place for breakfast.

My mom will tell you there's nothing like their bacon — crisp and juicy and smoky all at once. And the cinnamon-nut French toast has its fan base.

But I'm partial to the blueberry pancakes.

The lighter-than-air pancakes are bursting with blueberries, and the batter is not too sweet, so the berries shine. A regular stack almost is too much for me, but I manage.

Now, about that bacon. ...

— Scott Simmons





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