

Miami Herald

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Steph Sez

SEPTEMBER IS A BUSY MONTH



STEPH SEZ
Stephanie
Sayfie Aagaard

September serves up something for everyone!! We've got the NBA playoffs happening, It's Hispanic Heritage Month, Hunger Action Month and yes, Miami Spa month is wrapping up in September too!

MCM

Miami Children's Museum is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a month-long virtual party sponsored by Florida Dairy

Farmers! Yes, the whole month of September, MCM has curated a wide variety of activities that celebrate Hispanic culture and shed light to the impacts that Hispanic Americans have made in the United States. You can join in on the fun and learn some impressive things about Hispanic culture in the process! Put on your dancing shoes and take some dance lessons with Diana, a MiChiMu Theatre Troupe member, whip out your apron and learn how to make arepas and tostones in special themed cooking classes, learn how to speak like a native with Spanish lessons from the team, make musical instruments, try a sensory craft and etch lines like the Nazca, create beautiful Panamanian molas, and so much more! There will also be special story times featuring books by Hispanic authors, games and art projects. *Va a ser muy divertido...* It's going to be a blast!

It's all happening online at www.miamichildrens-museum.org! Though temporarily closed to the public, Miami Children's Museum offers an exciting "Museum at Home" online program that continues to bring all the experiences of the Museum to the safety and comfort of one's own home. Among the ways to access the program and participate are: Website: miamichildrens-museum.org/museum-at-home Facebook: facebook.com/miami.childrens.museum Instagram: [@miamichildrens-museum](https://instagram.com/miamichildrens-museum) Twitter: [@MiChiMu](https://twitter.com/MiChiMu) YouTube: Miami Children's Museum

Miami Children's Museum offers bilingual and interactive exhibits, programs, classes and learning materials related to arts, culture, community and communication. Miami Children's Museum is dedicated to enriching

the lives of all children by fostering a love of learning through play and enabling children to realize their highest potential. Through arts and educational programs, the Museum seeks to include and target all audiences in Miami's changing and diverse community by being the "town center" for Miami-Dade County's children and families.

RESTORE PLAY

The FOX Sports Films' documentary, "TUA," takes an exclusive look at the past year of former University of Alabama and current Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, as he works to overcome a career-threatening injury ahead of the 2020 NFL Draft. The documentary, the newest in the Sports Emmy®-Nominated MAGNIFY series, premiered on FOX last week. To celebrate, FOX Sports is teaming up with Good Sports Inc. for its "Restore Play" initiative to donate \$111,111 worth of brand-new play equipment to Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade and Boys & Girls Clubs in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama and honor Tua's new #1 jersey. The new equipment will keep kids active and allow them to follow in Tua's footsteps!

This donation will assist Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade with its In-Person Virtual Learning program and after-school care program for the 2020-21 school year. These positive programs are important to keeping area youth engaged during this critical time.

FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA

Standing ovation for Publix Charities who presented Feeding South Florida® with a \$300,000 donation to kick off Hunger Action



Children enjoying the new play equipment at the Boys & Girls Club of Miami-Dade. Photo Credit: Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade.



Robyn Hankerson and Sari Vatske display the Publix donation to Feeding South Florida. Photo credit: Feeding South Florida.

Month. Feeding South Florida serves an estimated 1.4 million neighbors facing food insecurity in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Feeding South Florida has seen a 600% increase in the need for food support in the four counties that it serves since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and Publix Charities' donation will help increase capacity and meet this elevated need. This donation will be used to support additional food distributions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Hunger Action Month is a nationwide initiative created by Feeding America® that takes place throughout September and is designed to raise awareness about the issue of hunger in America.

Since the pandemic hit our world, numerous farmers around the Southeast saw their buying partners dry up and found themselves dumping or plowing over product they could no longer sell. Meanwhile, food banks throughout the region were experiencing substantial increases in need. To bridge the gap, Publix implemented a program to purchase surplus produce and milk from farmers and deliver it directly to food banks. Since then, Publix has purchased and delivered more than 11 million pounds of produce and 500,000 gallons of milk

to Feeding America member food banks throughout the Southeast, including 1,443,316 pounds of produce and 106,920 gallons of milk to Feeding South Florida. Way to go Publix.

STEPH SEZ SCOOP

Sooooo excited! I just interviewed a true legend, an icon in the world of sports and philanthropy, and a leader on and off the court, NBA Hall of Famer and Miami HEAT World Champion Alonzo Mourning! Yes! Check out my Virtual Chat the one and only Zo on You Tube at BalHarbourShopsMiami! We chat about the NBA bubble, Collectors Weekend at Bal Harbour Shops, giving back, HEAT playoffs and more in the Bal Harbour Shops Virtual Series' segment, 6 Questions with... Alonzo Mourning.

And.... for my Steph Sez Book Club members, we hosted the Steph Sez Book Club Virtual Chat presented by Bal Harbour Shops and Books on Instagram Live with best-selling author, Meg Cabot (author of *Princess Diaries*) where we dove into the inspiration and characters for her new novel, *No Offense*. Don't miss out and watch the full live chat and Q & A with the author and I on the BalHarbourShopsMiami YouTube channel.

STEPH SEZ SCOOP



Josh Pascual at QandA: The Secret to Steaks Featuring Josh Pascual, Founder of Josh's Premium Meats. Photo credit: Seth Brownarik/WorldRedEye.com.



Jonathan Babicka and Brent Wright at #WREcares x Little Lighthouse Foundation Back to School. Photo credit: Seth Brownarik/WorldRedEye.com.



The team worked together for the #WREcares x Little Lighthouse Foundation Back to School. Photo credit: Seth Brownarik/WorldRedEye.com.



New sports and play equipment was donated to the Boys & Girls Club of Miami-Dade. Photo Credit: Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade.