Announcer: The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

Emily Yeap: Bears everywhere, welcome home to Missouri State University for #BearsHomecoming 2019, October 25th to 26th. From the Homecoming Parade to Breakfast with Boomer to It's On! and more, there will be many exciting events for alumni and friends. I'm Emily Yeap.

Lori Fan, Executive Director of Alumni Relations at Missouri Stat,e joins me today to highlight what's in store for this year's Homecoming celebration.

Lori Fan: It's going to be an exciting weekend for us this year, October 25th and 26th, with a lot of activities and a few brand new activities as well.

Emily Yeap: What's going on for October 25th?

Lori Fan: There's some affinity groups and reunions happening on Friday night including the Black Alumni Council is hosting a networking event and informational meeting for their new organization. The annual Bear Battalion Ball and Ring ceremony is taking place on Friday night, and of course Miranda Lambert is going to be in town at JQH Arena.

Emily Yeap: The Band of Bears Homecoming Parade kicks off events and activities on October 26th. It starts at 9 a.m. at John Q. Hammons Parkway. Following the parade at 10 a.m. is Breakfast with Boomer, a family favorite event. It will take place in the Foster Recreation Center and look different this year.

Lori Fan: We're introducing a bigger, better new and improved Breakfast with Boomer. Come out, bring the kids, enjoy the parade and then come join us. Some new items on the menu, kid friendly, a pancake bar, we'll have inflatables. The Discovery Center has partnered with us this year. They're bringing several hands-on activities to keep the kids busy and happy while they're waiting for their picture with Boomer. And then of course the Foster Rec Center is offering a free day pass to use the facilities for you and your families both on Saturday and on Sunday. So come and enjoy that for a couple of days over Homecoming. And the Discovery Center will also be providing a children's day pass.

Emily Yeap: Breakfast with Boomer is a sell-out event, so an online registration is required. The cost is $7 for adults and $5 for children ages 3-12. Children 2 and younger get in free. There will also be two brand new events on October 26th. Both take place in the Meyer Library at 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m., respectively.

Lori Fan: One is Watercolor Painting Bears. You can create your own masterpiece with alumnus Hilliard Moore, as well as get your chance to learn how to play our iconic Carillon with Dr. Jeremy Chessman on Saturday morning. That's Bears in the Belfry.

Emily Yeap: The cost for these two classes is $10. Spots are limited, so register early. A few more groups will also gather for their reunions.

Lori Fan: There'll be a variety of reunions taking place and activities on Saturday as well from affinity groups including Class of 69 and the Golden Bears Luncheon, which is for all graduates, 50 years or more ago. And that's always a really wonderful event, featuring Dean Tom Peters talking about the 60s on campus.

Emily Yeap: BearFest Village located north of Plaster Stadium in the grass plaza will come alive with food, music, fun and more from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The Bears football game versus Northern Iowa kicks off at 2 p.m. in Plaster Stadium. The much awaited It's On! will take place at 5:30 p.m. in Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts.

Lori Fan: It is going to be an epic event. Come on over to Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts and join us for a huge announcement, celebrity guest and after the big reveal, come on out. We're going to move to the heart of campus for a really wonderful food truck fair, fireworks, entertainment and much, much more. Something definitely not to be missed.

Emily Yeap: All attendees will receive swag bags and $8 in Bear Bucks to cash in at various food truck vendors. The first 500 people will also get a free T-shirt. Fan encourages alumni and community members to be part of #BearsHomecoming 2019.

Lori Fan: This is an event that celebrates all things maroon and white for everyone in the community; students, alumni, faculty, staff, and all of our friends and fans throughout the country. It's really a special time to celebrate all of the good things that are happening at Missouri State University. It's good to be a Bear this Homecoming.

Emily Yeap: To find out more about #BearsHomecoming 2019, visit alumni.missouristate.edu/homecoming. I'm Emily Yeap for the Missouri State Journal.

Announcer: For more information, contact the office of university communications at 417-836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online at ksmu.org.