Speaker 1:

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

Emily Yeap:

Homecoming is back on the Missouri State University campus this year. There’s a host of events and activities for students, alumni, and friends to enjoy. I’m Emily Yeap.

Debbie Branson, associate Director of alumni relations at Missouri State, joins me today to share what’s in store for this big maroon and white celebration.

Debbie Branson:

We are so excited about Homecoming this year because, you know, last year everyone stayed at home. This year, we’re hoping everyone comes to campus, and we’re really excited because this is the biggest MarooNation party of the year. We really, really want everyone to come back to campus and be here with everyone and enjoy the atmosphere.

Emily Yeap:

There will be the 50th anniversary celebration at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 15th in Kentwood Hall. Registration is required.

Debbie Branson:

As always, we’re celebrating the 50-year anniversary for the class that graduated. This year will be 1971. We’re also inviting back class of 1970 because they didn’t get to come to campus last year.

Emily Yeap:

A few other reunion events will also take place on Oct. 15thand 16th.

Debbie Branson:

On Saturday, we always host the Golden Bear Reunion, and that’s for all of our alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. And then, other special reunion groups – this year, the former members of SGA – are having a reunion. And so, we invite them to get onto the alumni website and find out details about that. And then, also, I know the Black Alumni Council is hosting a weekend full of activities, including their biannual meeting, and so, we encourage anyone who is part of that group, or interested in joining the Black Alumni Council, or just to come see what it’s about, to join us on Friday evening. And also, those details are online.

Emily Yeap:

Oct. 16th will be a busy day.

Debbie Branson:

We want to kick off Saturday morning with the Band of Bears Homecoming Parade. It’s exciting to see the area high school bands, the floats from all of the campus organizations, and just everybody having a really good time.

If you have little ones, you might want to consider going to Breakfast with Boomer. Families are invited to come with their young children, have breakfast. It will be served contactless, so we won’t be having a buffet line this year, but they can have their picture with Boomer and participate in some other activities that I know they will enjoy. We do ask that you register in advance because we do have limited space. The children’s age is $5 and adults are $7 dollars.

Then we move into Bearfest Village, which is the best tailgate party you would ever want to attend. We will have the Alumni Zone tent, and we just want to visit with alumni, meet up with them, give them some swag that they can take into the football game later on. And then, if they’d like to fill out their contact form to update their email address or their mailing address for us, or even if they just want to say, “it’s fine, I don’t have any changes," we’ll give them a ticket and then get in line and we’ll have volunteers on site grilling hotdogs for us, so, it’s always a big hit.

Emily Yeap:

At 2 p.m., the confident Bears Football team face off against Indiana State at Plaster Stadium.

Debbie Branson:

We expect the stands to be full. It is thrilling to have this much excitement over Missouri State Football, and we want everybody to be here and be part of it. So, go Bears!

Emily Yeap:

Branson encourages alumni and friends to be part of this celebration in one way or another.

Debbie Branson:

We invite everyone to come back any time, but if you miss out on the biggest MarooNation party of the year, then you’re really missing out. We know everybody cannot come back every year, and that’s why we have some virtual events. We offer a Homecoming kit. We offer the virtual scavenger hunt, which is happening again. That is called The Bear Games. So, we encourage them to celebrate at home in their own way. However, we know that when people come to campus it just brings back tons of memories, they run into tons of friends, and they’ll make new memories. So, coming back, seeing what’s new at Missouri State, and just feeling of belonging to your Bear family. That's what Homecoming is really all about.

Emily Yeap:

Visit alumni.missouristate.edu/homecoming for more details of all that’s going on. I’m Emily Yeap for the Missouri State Journal.

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For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Communication at 417-836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online at ksmu.org.