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# MIAMI News-Record

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## MIAMI PARADE THEME IS 'MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS'

Entries are still being accepted for the "Music of Christmas" Rt. 66 Christmas parade, which will be held Saturday, Dec. 4 through downtown Miami.

The parade will follow Main Street from 5 North to 2nd Street South. It will begin at 6 p.m.

Entrants are encouraged to decorate their vehicle or float depicting a Christmas song, musical or movie, add music and use lots of lighting.

There will be awards for first, second and third places in best float, best vehicle, best pedestrian and best overall entries.

There will be an awards ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at the Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce office at 11 South Main.

Winners will be notified.

The entry fee is \$20 through Nov. 24 and \$30 after Nov. 24. All registration fees are non-refundable for cancellations or no-shows after Nov. 24.

No entries will be accepted after Dec. 1.

The entry fee can be paid by check, cash or credit card upon submission of the registration form.

Entry forms are available at the Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce, 11 South Main.

Types of entries are band (high school and college), spirit team (dance or cheer), equestrian units, decorated vehicles, floats or other entries.

Units will line up at 5th and Main starting



at 4:30 p.m. for row 1, 5 p.m. for row 2 and 5:15 p.m. for row 3.

Entrants will be notified as to their lineup number and row via email or phone call on Dec. 2 or 3

All entries should enter from B.J. Tunnell for check-in at Montana Mike's, where parade entry number signs will be distributed.

Bands will enter for lineup behind the O'Reilly Auto Parts building near Joe Pollock Field.

Horse entries will stage in the AT&T

parking lot, but check-in will be at Montana Mike's.

All horse entries will be located toward the end of the parade. There will be volunteers assisting with lining up.

Upon receipt of the number received at check-in, place it on the front window of the passenger's side of vehicles, visible to parade judges, who will be located on the west side of the street in front of the Coleman Theatre.

Participants are encouraged to not have a live Santa in their entry. The "real" Santa

will be riding in a fire truck at the end of the parade route.

However, dolls, stuffed and imitation Santas are allowed.

It's been requested that candy not be thrown to the crowd from moving vehicles, but candy can be handed out by entry volunteers.

For more information email info@miamiokchamber.com or call Takisha Estes at 918-542-4481.

All entries will turn left at 2nd and continue to B or C streets in an attempt to eliminate back-flow of the parade.

The 200 block of South Main will be reserved for buses and large van parking.

When all vehicles are loaded, they will be directed by the Miami Police Department to exit Main Street at Steve Owens Blvd.

### NEWS

## Route 66 centennial countdown back on track for 2022

Moira K. McGhee  
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America's Mother Road celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2026 and Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell wants to throw one of the biggest

birthday bashes ever for Route 66.



This is a moment in time for our state, for our tourism industry

- Pinnell

"The great American road trip is back," was one of the messages brought to the audience at the Lieutenant Governor's Travel & Tourism Summit held at the Coleman Theatre on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

"Americans are wanting to rediscover America," he said. "It's not just Route

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## PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO BRING OKLAHOMA SENIOR GAMES TO MIAMI

Carla Nielsen  
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There is good news for Miami and Ottawa County citizens, especially seniors, as the city begins to develop the plan to bring the Oklahoma Senior Games (OSG) to town.

The exciting venture got underway after representatives with the OSG spoke to the city council at a recent meeting where Janet Thornton, sponsorship and grant specialist, and Kathleen Fitzgerald, executive director, made a presentation about the possibility of Miami becoming a local game site



Buck and Janet Thornton of the Oklahoma Senior Games are shown on the cover of "Caregivers" magazine last year. Janet will be involved in helping to bring the games to Miami in the near future.

where seniors can compete to qualify for the state and national games.

The U.S. nationals are the largest single event for people over 50, bettering lives through education, fitness, and sports.

"It's not easy for a lot of seniors to travel very far, but they want to participate," Fitzgerald told the council. By having local games throughout the state it allows more to get involved.

"Miami officials would control the games and pick the events, and it would be a qualifying site for the state

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The weather was almost perfect for Thursday's Veterans Day parade. There were lots of flags, cars, trucks, motorcycles, horses and other units on hand for the event, which went down Miami's Main Street. The Miami High School marching band performed patriotic music, too. One of the participants was Glenn Pitts, who is believed to be one of Miami's oldest surviving World War II veterans. The parade was sponsored by the Ottawa County 4-H and the Ottawa County OSU Extension office.

### EVENT

MLT presents

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

helps kick off holiday season at Coleman

Carla Nielsen  
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A hilarious Christmas classic will be presented by the Miami Little Theatre at the Coleman Theatre Dec. 2-5.

Performances will be at 7 p.m. on Dec. 2-3 and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 4-5.

The Saturday matinee ties in with the annual Miami Christmas parade which starts at 6 p.m.

In the classic production, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids — possibly "the most inventively awful kids in history." Mayhem and hilarity ensue when the Herdmans collide head on with the Christmas story.

Adapted from the best-selling Young Adult book, this comedy has become a holiday staple across the United States and will feature plenty of great roles for children and adults, a few favorite Christmas Carols, and lots of laughs.

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# NEWS

## Route 66

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66. This could be the Jefferson Trail or the Chisholm Trail, but certainly Route 66 is in the middle of that. It's the Main Street of America; the Heartbeat of America is Route 66."

Pinnell said with the centennial in less than five years, there will be a lot of national attention and money put behind Route 66 so it just makes sense for Oklahomans to be promoting this milestone.

"This is a moment in time for our state, for our tourism industry," said Pinnell. "We're so much better, so much more authentic than most every other state when it comes to the tourism industry."

The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department was already promoting road trips. It launched RoadTripOK: The Ultimate Oklahoma Road Trip video series right before and during the COVID-19 pandemic that closed most entertainment venues. The series won a national YouTube award about six months ago and Lt. Governor Pinnell felt it was one of the best-produced



series in the country. You can still watch all 52 episodes on the TravelOK YouTube Channel or its website at [www.travelok.com/road-trip](http://www.travelok.com/road-trip).

Back to the Mother Road and its upcoming 100th anniversary, Pinnell plans on being the chief fundraiser for getting Route 66 and the communities along the highway into shape.

"We're going to raise millions of dollars," he said. "This isn't a one-day birthday party that we're throwing in five years. We're going to raise money, starting next year, to build

up infrastructure in those 46 towns across Route 66."

He invites communities to submit a wish list of what they'd like to see done before the centennial. He'd also like to know how much each community can raise to combine with what the state will raise to make these improvements.

Focus on Route 66 will actually begin in June 2022 with the inaugural AAA Route 66 Road Fest, which is a monstrous road rally across the state of Oklahoma. As the ideal host for the milestone celebration, Pinnell said the event is going to be a big deal with AAA's power and money behind it.

AAA's launching of the Route 66 Road Fest centennial celebration was

initially planned for June 2021 but it was postponed for a year due to the pandemic. Planning has resumed for the event, which is now set for June 18-26 of 2022.

The event kicks off a ramp-up to the highway's centennial in 2026.

The nine-day event begins at the OKC Fairgrounds and ends at Tulsa's SageNet Center at Expo Square. However, between these dates, visitors and residents of the state will experience the historic charm of all 420 miles of Route 66 in Oklahoma. The event is gearing up to be the ultimate Great American Road Trip and businesses and communities all along the trail can benefit as 1,000s of people travel through the

state looking to experience all the exceptional towns and attractions that Route 66 has to offer and distinguish it from any other highway in the world.

All proceeds from the Road Fest will be used to fund the AAA Route 66 Revival Fund. The fund has been established to support improvement projects along Oklahoma's stretch of the highway, from the Kansas border to the Texas Panhandle. Improvements can include beautification, signage, lighting, bike lanes and public restrooms or encourage businesses to preserve original tourist attractions or build new roadside stops.

To encourage travelers to take a day trip through Miami

or any of the other towns along the route, AAA has established a Route 66 Road Fest Ambassador program. Joining the program is free and provides some great exposure for businesses along Route 66 and the unique events they plan to hold to motivate visitors to come to Miami.

Ambassadors will in turn help promote the event with items from their official tool kit. These kits contain all types of advertising materials, including campaign logos, social media graphics, digital banners, links to key Road Fest website areas and event posters, stickers and flyers.

As an ambassador, you'll receive a listing on the Route 66 Road Fest Ambassador Page, mentions on the Route 66 social media platform and inclusion in the Route66GO App. It's a great opportunity to put Miami on the map and for local businesses to get some free exposure. Learn more about the Road Fest by visiting <https://route66roadfest.com> or join the ambassador program at <https://route66roadfest.com/become-ambassador>.

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