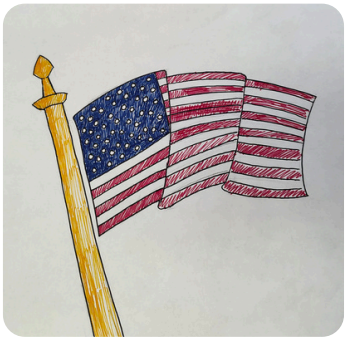
Stampeeding to Excellence *Building a Better World, One Student at a Time*

The Mustang Times

ISSUE # 5 DONIPHAN WEST HIGH SCHOOL NOVEMBER 13, 2026









Veteran's Day

by: Aliza Tracy and McKinley Hennigan

Doniphan West students and staff, along with various community members, recently came together to honor our country's veterans. The audience enjoyed a special band performance by the high school band, a veteran slideshow, and a speech by veteran Bill Noll. This assembly was enjoyed by many, including Doniphan West substitute and Air Force veteran, Peggy English.

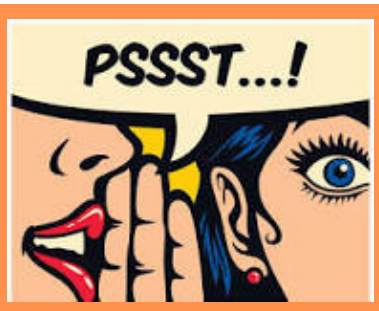
When asked about her thoughts about KAY Club´s annual assembly, Mrs. English shared that she thought it was put together well. ¨I felt honored to be able to stand up, and take my place along with the community´s veterans.¨ Mrs. English also felt that the event was organized well, and hopes it will continue to be a celebration of our veterans for years to come.

Many appreciate this chance for our community to come together and recognize our veterans and the sacrifices they have made for our country. Doniphan West sophomore Trace Caudle is one among them. Upon being asked about the moment that left the strongest impression on him during the assembly, Trace stated, ¨It inspired me to be respectful and patriotic.¨ Like many others, Trace's favorite part of the assembly was hearing Mr. Bill Noll speak about his time in the Army. ¨His speech influenced me to potentially join the military.¨





Come listen to Mrs. English sing!



Have a story you think we should cover? Send your tips to kbuschbascher@usd111.org



Miss Melanie and her grandson

Staff Spotlight

by: Mahayla Labrozzi

We've all been up to the front office for one reason or another, and a face we can always expect is Mrs. Melanie Hill. Whether you need to check out of school or drop off money, Mrs. Hill is a face you can always count on seeing. She's one of our beloved secretaries and arguably the glue that holds our school together.

A surprising amount of her schedule is dedicated to us. She states, "My life revolves around that calendar." She's in the office from dawn til dusk, and outside of it, she often keeps score at sporting events. When she *does* have free time, she loves to spend it with family, especially her new grandson.

She has held her position here for seven years, but in the past she has worked as a bookkeeper, a city clerk, and an EMT, for many years.

In all the time she's worked here, this year has stood out as one with many changes. As many of us know, our staff body had a major turnover this year, with notable adjustments in the office specifically. Despite these difficulties, Mrs. Hill is embracing her new coworkers just as she did last year, adding "It's very refreshing, I enjoy the people I work with, I love it!"

In closing, Mrs. Hill is a dependable and reliable part of our community. She helps out students and her coworkers whenever she can and is essential not only to just the front office, but the entire school.

Basketball

by: Mia Potter and Alexis Thacker

This year our coaches for boys basketball are Copper leach and Derek Shelton. Girls basketball coaches are Levi Watts and Kyra Johnson.

We interviewed some coaches and seniors about winter sports and how they think it will go, asking them questions about cheer, basketball and wrestling.

Mrs. Schawang, the dance and cheer coach she says “I think winter cheer and dance is going to go well. They have made new dances and cheers, and they have a good head start for basketball.¨

Overall she thinks winter sports will go well.

Andi Foster is one of the senior girl basketball players. She says ¨I think basketball will go great this season. I'm really excited. I wish we had more players but it will be a good challenge to overcome.¨

Andi also says she will be sad at the end of this season, because this is her senior year, but she is excited to play basketball. She thinks the season will go good.

Levi is the girls basketball head coach and he says ¨I think winter sports will go well. I expect boys basketball to improve. I think the girls' team will do well. I really like our team. I think wrestling will do good because they did good in the past so I think they'll do good again. I think the basketball girls team will do good and the age groups will mesh well together. Just because we have less girls doesn't define how good we can play.¨

Levi also agrees that we have less players doesn't define how good they will play.He really likes the team this year. He thinks winter sports will go well this year.

Derek,the boys head coach, says ¨I think Boys basketball will go good this year. We will be a young team but I think we will be exciting to watch.¨

Overall though Derek thinks winter sports will go well.

This year the people that we interviewed think that winter sports will go well this year. This will be an exciting year for the Doniphan West Mustangs!

Thanksgiving Traditions

by: Malle Meyer, Jillian Keebler, and Josie Reno

Thanksgiving is a time when families and friends come together to celebrate and be thankful. Many families have traditions like eating turkey, watching football, baking desserts, and spending time together. Everyone celebrates differently, but Thanksgiving is all about making memories and being thankful for what we all have. We interviewed four students (Trace Caudle, Zek Letherman, Jackson Cole, and Maddex Meyer) on their Thanksgiving traditions and these were their responses.

One thing that most people have in common on Thanksgiving is eating tasty food. We asked the boys what their favorite Thanksgiving food was. Both Maddex and Zek said they love cheesy potatoes, and Zek added rolls as well. Trace said chicken noodles is his favorite, and Jackson said his favorite is stuffing.

One tradition we asked about was watching the Thanksgiving Day Parade. Maddex said that they do. Trace and Zek both said that at least a few members of their family watched the parade. Jackson said this is not a tradition they participate in with his family.

When asked if their family watches football on Thanksgiving, unsurprisingly, all of the boys said yes.

We then asked, Do you go to another family member's house for Thanksgiving?

Jackson and Zek both said they don’t, but Maddex said “Yes, we either go to my aunt's or my mom's house, but on the day of Thanksgiving we eat at home.” Trace said they have thanksgiving “at my rich uncle’s house.”

We also asked them if their families say what they are thankful for before eating? We were surprised to learn that they all gave the same response, none of their families participated in this tradition.

Finally, we asked the boys if they dress up or wear comfortable clothes on Thanksgiving? Trace said he wears comfortable clothes. Maddex said that he wears a suit and tie. Zek and Jackson both said they don’t dress up, but wear normal clothes.



Student Spotlight

by: Brenna Neibling & Kynleigh Jolly

McKinley Hennigan is a junior this year at Doniphan West High School, and an important part of our school community. She is seventeen and when she finishes high school, McKinley is interested in becoming an occupational therapist.

She is a part of many clubs, including scholar’s bowl, NHS, BPA, Kay Club, Stuco, and she plays saxophone in the D West band. She is the president of KAY Club and enjoys the fact everyone works together to get the end result they have in mind. This week, KAY Club, in conjunction with National Honor Society and FFA, coordinated the veterans day assembly, with Mckinley doing her part in the set up.

When she has free time, she likes to go on walks and watch TV. McKinley is an outstanding student and is kind to everyone. Overall she is in many clubs and she is an excellent student and peer.



Wrestling Season is Almost Here!

by: Addy Rhodd and Arianna Lewis

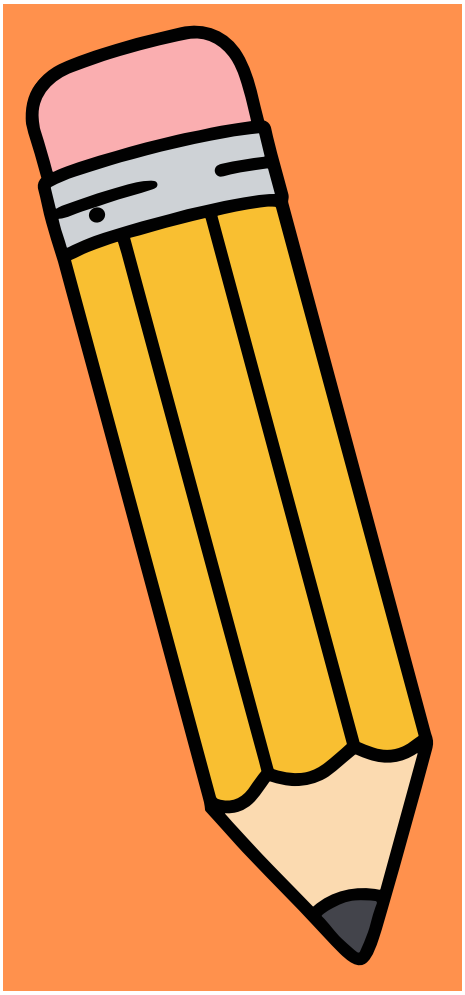
High school wrestling is right around the corner, and high school wrestling practices will be starting on Monday, November 16th! We have decided to interview some of our high school students as well to see how different high school wrestling is compared to junior high wrestling. Addy Rhodd said “As this is my 2nd year of wrestling, I’ve learned that you need to stay strong during wrestling and never back down”, and Josh’Lynn Jolly agrees: “You can’t be soft during wrestling,” she said. Our Doniphan West wrestling coach is Frank Spears, and he has had many great things said about him by many students.

We asked a couple of students who they look up to the most in wrestling, and most of them said Frank. “Who I look up to the most is Frank because although he gives me lots of nonsense, he means well and knows what he’s talking about.” said Chana Anna.

If you are new to wrestling or want to get into it, some of our students who have been doing wrestling for a while would love to give you some tips and what to understand as a new wrestler! “Wrestling has its ups and downs, but it’s all worth it when your hand is raised at the end of a match.” Said Chana Anna.

“One thing that I want new wrestlers to hear and understand is that learning new things will not be easy, but the longer you practice, the easier it will get. It is also important to listen to your coaches and do your best to apply what they are telling you. Don’t be afraid to ask questions and make mistakes.” Said by Layla Kuhnert.

Overall, I think this season is gonna be a good one for the high school and their team.



Study Tips and Tricks for Success

by: Raelee Davis

Studying is a skill that all students need, but many students lack. This article will give some tips and tricks for students to improve their study habits.

Yoselin Trembeth, a student who has strong study skills, says, “When I study, I try to make it enjoyable, so I will get a fun drink or snack, then I will go to a quiet place to study.” It’s important to get and make good study habits. Here’s a few you may benefit from:

- Use active recall- instead of looking at a page of notes, try to close your book and notes and write and speak what you remember. You can also test yourself using practice problems or flashcards to help you remember what you are studying.
- Explain the concept you’re studying in really simple terms, like you’re explaining to a beginner, to help you get the concept down.
- Mix your topics instead of blocking off hours for one subject; doing more than one in little sections will help you remember the material better.
- Avoid pulling all-nighters. Try to study a little bit a day, not hours at a time. Try to study 30 to 45 minutes a day instead of hours.
- Get away from all distractions, so turn off your phone and go to a quiet place.
- Review your material after learning, you’re less likely to forget it that way.
- Study over days or even weeks to help get the material down and help keep it fresh in your mind.
- Sometimes it can be hard to study by yourself, so find a good study group if possible to help keep studying consistent.
- Having a good, consistent study place helps.
- Set clear goals so you know what you are going to study that day. Try to study your hardest topic first, then do your easier topics last.
- Take intentional breaks when studying to give your brain a break and let it process information.
- It’s important to have good physical health; try to get a good 7 to 9 hours of sleep so your brain can process the information it’s receiving.

Kay Club Leaf Clean Up

by: Emily Tracy and Kamdyn Yarsulik

The Junior and Senior High School Kay Club members decided to clean up leaves this week. Some, but not all, of these students include Kamryn Heinrich, Brenna Neiling, Cutler Jeschke, and Tenley Cluck. When we interviewed them, we asked these students why they decided to take the time to do this activity. All students who were interviewed said the same thing: to help their community.

These students care for the state of the community and strive to make it better. Kay club members did this activity on November 10th, 2026. They cleaned multiple streets, with the most memorable one being the street to the right of the high school parking lot. Many of the Kay Club members used only rakes and their hands to clean up their community. The next activity the Kay Club plans to do is giving gift boxes with a $15 budget to the homeless shelter.



Londynn Kleinschmit, Morgan McCauley, Aniston Clary, Kenadee Buckley, and Courtney Johnson bag up the leaves.



Bronson Koehler, Brooklynn Drake and Andi Foster cleaning up the corner.

Mustangs Speak on AI in the Classroom

by: Grace Winters and Riley Atkins

AI is used every day in students' lives. You may know people who use AI to do their homework and get answers during tests. Students use AI to avoid actually doing their homework, and students' teachers and parents may think that their students and kids may rely on AI too much when doing schoolwork.

AI has grown extremely popular within the last five years. From a simple AI machine to help answer basic questions to it growing in popularity becoming a worldwide addiction. We researched and interviewed students about their AI use, and it is quite interesting.

We interviewed 10 students, and 8/10 said that they use AI to complete all homework with little to no effort put in. The other 2/10 said they never use AI, as they view it as unethical. Some of the students say that they use AI for homework because they don't understand everything in class.

Some students believe there is a fine line between cheating and using AI ethically. If you ask AI to help explain a problem or subject, with it teaching you the steps as you go, and downright just asking for the answers. 6/10 students claim that using AI has helped them better grasp concepts. AI is a tool that can help you understand and better your learning experience for any subject. On the other hand, AI could damage your brain or learning because you are not doing the work yourself. 1 student said that if they could make one rule about AI, it would be "You can use it on everything but can't complain when you don't know how to do your assignments yourself."

In conclusion, AI can be both helpful and harmful; it just depends on how you are using it. You can ask questions and still learn, or you can ask for just the answer and not learn anything. AI can also be seen as a privilege, so use it responsibly, and you will succeed.



by: Jace Hennigan