✦ The Mustang Times ✦

ISSUE # 1 DONIPHAN WEST HIGH SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

Keeping Up with Mustang Football

Grace Winters and Riley Atkins

This week, the Mustangs face off against the Centralia Panthers. Here is what we know so far:

The Mustangs have some great strengths. Sophomore Maddox Meyer says, “We are mentally tougher, and we have more heart and dedication.”

Meyer also says, “The biggest challenge is ourselves, and we have to play our game.”

In order to win, their teamwork is critical. To prepare for this game this week, they practiced adversity and the little things.

“To win this game, our team needs to execute and work together as a team to prevail,” says sophomore Breckan Falk.

The Mustangs have learned quite a bit about the Panthers. Coach Watts says, “They are very disciplined, physical, know exactly what they’re doing, and know their strategy. The boys added, “They are good, strong athletes, very physical, and they are beatable.”

When asked how they stay motivated, Breckan says, “Coach Jeremiah’s speeches,” and the other boys say, “We all look forward to playing for the crowd and the excitement we get from the crowd.” Blayne Pace says, “I do it for the team.”

The game takes place on September 18th, 2026, at the Centralia High School football field at 7:00 pm.



Doniphan West Offensive Line - Jason Buschbascher

Student-Athletes Push Hard Through Heat Wave

Mahayla Labrozzi, Kynleigh Jolly, and Brenna Neibling

Despite the recent heat wave, local student-athletes are letting nothing slow them down this season.

High temperatures are known to cause exhaustion, especially when doing strenuous work, yet these athletes are pushing hard through this heat.

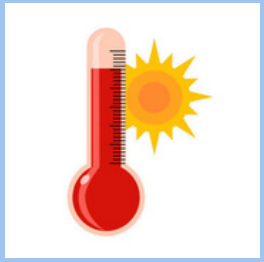
“We get tired a lot easier in the heat,” says Braylon Shelton when asked how the heat affects them physically,

This extreme heat wave may not be stopping these players physically, but is effecting their mood towards the sport.

“The heat’s making us hot, sweaty, and grumpy,” quotes freshman Kolten Keller when asked how the heat affects his mood.

To combat these high temperatures, the coaches are making sure to keep proper hydration in mind.

“At the start, I thought the heat was getting to a lot of people, but they started switching up practices to be cooler times, making sure everyone was hydrated, which made practices more bearable” quotes Tabin Clary when asked about practice times and water breaks.



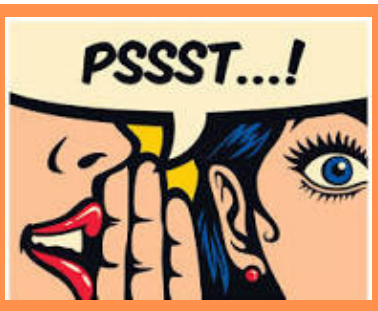
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Upcoming Events - What's Happening in the next two weeks?

Sept **18** 7:00 PM HS FB @Centralia
Sep **19** 9:00 AM HS VB Varsity Tournament @Hiawatha
Sep **19** 9:00 AM JH VB Tournament @Home

Sep **21** JH/SR High School Picture Day
Sep **21** 11:30 AM HOCO Candidates Pictures
Sep **21** 2:58 PM Freshmen Class Mtg. during GS
Sep **21** 7:00 PM HS JV FB vs Centralia
Sep **22** JH & HS Regional STUCO Conference
Sep **22** 5:00 PM HS VB Tri @Centralia/Clifton Clyde
Sep **24** No School- PT Conferences - Highland Tech Center Has School
Sep **24** 3:00 PM Photos: JH Cheer
Sep **24** 4:30 PM HS XC @Nemaha Central
Sep **24** 4:30 PM JH XC @Nemaha Central
Sep **24** 5:00 PM JH VB vs. Washington Co.
Sep **24** 7:00 PM JH Football vs. Washington co.
Sep **25** No School - Highland Tech Center Has School
Sep **25** 7:00 PM HS FB @ McLouth
Sep **26** 9:30 AM JH XC @JCN

Sep **28** BPA Fall Leadership Conference
Sep **28** 4:00 PM JH VB @Falls City
Sep **28** 4:30 PM JH XC @Rock Port
Sep **28** 5:00 PM HS XC @Rock Port
Sep **28** 7:00 PM HS JV FB vs McLouth
Sep **29** 5:00 PM HS VB Tri @Hanover/Onaga
Sep **30** Missouri Western Visit DWHS- Mustang Time-Library
Sep **30** 4:00 PM JH XC @ Lafayette
Oct **1** 5:00 PM HS VB Tri @Frankfort/Linn
Oct **1** 5:00 PM JH VB vs. Centralia
Oct **1** 6:30 PM JH FB vs. Centralia
Oct **2** 7:00 PM HS FB vs. MHMA (Homecoming)
Oct **3** 8:00 AM HS VB JV Tournament @ Home
Oct **3** 9:00 AM HS VB Varsity Tournament @Riverside
Oct **3** 10:00 AM HS XC @Centralia



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

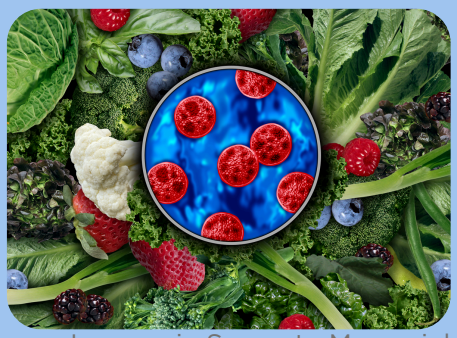


Image via Sarasota Memorial Health Care Center

Cyclosporiasis Scare Declared Over

McKinsey Hennigan, Aliza Tracy, Jasmin Trembeth, and Yoselin Trembeth

The Centers for Disease Control declared the Cyclosporiasis outbreak over on September 11, 2026. This brought a sense of calm after the disease brought quite the scare over the summer. As of August 2026, the state of Kansas had 839 reported cases, most of them in Johnson and Shawnee county. Throughout the country, many lettuce products were taken off the market, including those close to home.

Kirkwood employee and Doniphan West student Josie Reno stated ¨Salads and lettuce were not being served for 2-3 weeks.¨ Jasmin Trembath, who is a student at Doniphan West and also worked in the kitchen at a summer camp, said, "When we bought lettuce, we would need to clean it 3 times and wrap it in plastic wrap before putting it into the fridge. When pulling it out of the fridge, we'd need to clean it one more time, leaf by leaf."

The recalls and low sales numbers didn´t happen at first. In fact, it took the CDC and FDA nearly two and a half months to get to the root cause of the outbreak. The outbreak was eventually traced back to lettuce coming from Guanajuato, Mexico, being processed by Taylor Farms de Mexico.

¨With Cyclospora, that's often more difficult than with bacterial infections because the incubation period tends to be longer—about 1 week on average—which makes it harder for people to remember details of their diet¨ Lauren Agodelo, a journalist for Science, an academic journal, stated.

Needless to say, the declaration of the end of the scare was a relief for everyone across the country after months of anxious avoidance.

Despite the outbreak being over, the CDC and FDA have an ongoing investigation into how this outbreak began.

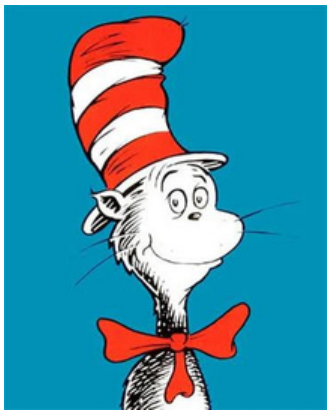


Image via Dr. Suess wiki

Cat in the Hat Tiktok Trend

Mia Potter and Lexi Thacker

The Cat in the Hat started as a good character for kids and others, but then a story started that the Cat in the Hat is very bad. The story started in Australia. Allegedly, someone dressed as the iconic cat goes around at night, going to people's houses and their front doors.

They say that he will try to do bad things, but nothing has happened yet with anybody or anything. So you better keep your doors locked at night.

¨I found Cat in the Hat on TikTok. Someone commented my address, and then he started following me on TikTok, so I got scared and deleted TikTok. I do not think Cat in the Hat is good,¨ say Jagger Edie, an 8th grader.

Cat in the Hat has appeared on many social platforms like TikTok, and Snapchat. The advice from young people - If Cat in the Hat tries to follow you on any apps, consider removing him or blocking him.

¨I am very scared of him. I think he is in the USA right now, but I don't know. I think he will come to my room and be under my bed at night. Make sure you lock your doors at night!¨ exclaims Kamryn Heinrich.

Some news outlets have been covering this story as well, wondering if this is a harmless prank or something that could escalate.

¨He's going to get you, and he's going to hurt you if you don't lock your doors! He's going to take all your toes and steal your dogs and cats,¨ states Bryler Shelton.

There has been nothing about Cat in the Hat coming into any houses yet.

Wellness Center Rumor

Adalyn Rhodd, Jackson Yuill, and Arianna Lewis

A rumor is circulating that Highland Community College (HCC) wants to make its wellness center open only to college students.

This has caught many people's attention and has upset or worried some because, if it happens, people who work out at the wellness center would no longer be able to go if they are not students.

The Highland Community College came together and held a conference about the situation and decided not to put it into place. An employee for the wellness center explained that this wasn't being put in place because the community wouldn't be happy about it, nor would the building staff.

The college students are allowed to go to the wellness center for free because they pay tuition and fees, while the community has to pay to get in; this would be just one other reason why the staff wouldn't love this idea, because they wouldn't have enough money to keep it standing or in business.

“It was talked about but was never really going to happen,” said one of the main front desk workers at the wellness center.



Image via google maps



New Gas Station

Jace Hennigan

A new gas station opened across from the community college to allow college attendees to get on-site training to better prepare for the real world.

“[It's] near the college and across from the library,” said Raelee Davis when asked about the location.

The location, which was also formerly a gas station, ‘Stop and Shop,’ was revitalized into a new establishment in the Summer of 2026.

“It opened around June or July this year,” said Davis.