

◆ The Mustang Times ◆

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DONIPHAN WEST HIGH SCHOOL

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Homecoming Candidates

Jillian Keebler, Josie Reno, and Malle Mayer

Mustang Cheer

Grace Winters and Riley Atkins

This week, the Cheer team is traveling to the Highland Community College to cheer on our Mustangs! Here is what the team has to say.

Sophomore Londynn Kleinschmit told us, “The cheer team has improved a lot during practice and the season so far, especially since it is the beginning of it.” The freshmen are improving, and so are the sophomores.

The Mustang Cheer Team has five cheerleaders; our sophomores are Jozee Clary, Londynn Kleinschmit, and Adi Chartier. The freshmen are Kynleigh Jolly and Grace Winters. These girls have been working extremely hard to put on the best performance for our Mustangs. They are coached by Head Coach Catlin Schawang and Assistant Coach Haliee Shelton.

The girls are excited for the first home game since the beginning of the season. Freshman Grace Winters said, “The home games are the best because there are more students in the student section, more energy, and the vibes are just increased by 200% at the home games.” Londynn Kleinschmit said, “Performing at home games is like a Friday Night Lights experience, from the ditties to the halftime shows; it elevates the experience.”

Their next performance will be the homecoming game on Friday, October 2nd.



Top row: Bronson Koehler, Tabin Clary, and Remington Peuker

Bottom row: Andi Foster, Kayte Falk, and Lydia Keebler

Homecoming is a time for school spirit and fun activities, bringing the school and the community together. This year's candidates are Andi, Bronson, Kayte, Tabin, Lydia, and Remington.

The candidates were chosen for different reasons, but being friendly and well-liked was a common answer. Andi said she was chosen because she is “very active in sports and activities,” while Bronson described himself as a “chill, funny guy.” Lydia and Remington both said being well-liked helped them become candidates.

The candidates also have their predictions for who will win. Tabin was a popular choice for the boys, with Bronson, Kayte, Lydia, and Remington predicting he would win. For the girls, the candidates had different choices, including Lydia, Kayte, and Andi. Tabin predicted that he and Kayte would win.

Each candidate has something they believe makes them a good candidate. Andi said she is “a friendly gal,” while Bronson said he is nice, funny and “good-looking”. Kayte said she is involved and nice, and Lydia described herself as a “nice, kind, caring human.”

One of the best parts of being a candidate is getting to participate in special activities. Andi enjoys the food brought to the candidate, Bronson likes spending time with friends, and Kayte enjoys the game. Tabin and Remington both said they enjoy the extra perks of being a candidate.

Homecoming also helps bring everyone together. The candidates mentioned the games, parade, dance, and school spirit as ways students and the community can come together. Bronson said Homecoming “should bring everyone together” instead of just being a competition.

If they could add something to Homecoming, the candidates had some fun ideas. Andi suggested karaoke, while Bronson suggested a pool party and bringing pets to school. Kayte, Tabin, and Remington all suggested having a boys' volleyball game.

Although each candidate has a different idea of what Homecoming means, they all agree that it is about having fun and spending time with others. As Homecoming gets closer, the candidates are ready for the activities, excitement, and friendly competition that come with the week.

Fun, Football and Festivities: Homecoming Week is Here!

By: Raelee Davis, Jasmin Trembath, and Yoselin Trembath

It's homecoming here at Doniphan West, and you can feel the excitement throughout the school. From creative dress-up days and float decorating to the big football game and dance, there are a lot of ways for students to show Mustang spirit and make amazing memories with their classmates!

Homecoming game predictions

Doniphan West will be facing MHMA during this year's homecoming football game. After defeating MHMA in their last two games, many students are predicting another Mustang victory. Students expect the game to be competitive, with sophomore student Trace Caudle stating, "We are going to fight hard and beat the Ravens," and believing it will be a close game, but the Mustangs will come out on top.

Although not everyone is completely convinced of a Mustang win, an anonymous senior predicted, "We are going to play really well in the first half, then slowly go down after halftime, causing us to lose." An anonymous freshman said, "We will win if the other team plays horribly." All in all, with an excited crowd behind them, we are looking forward to seeing how the game plays out.



Football Game predictions: Doniphan West Vs. Maur Hill		
Malle Myers	Lose	14-0
Trace Caudle	Win	28-7
Whyat Garison	Lose	42-0
Ketcher Petterson	Win	28-20
Zek Letherman	Win	16-6
Bronson Koehler	Win	45-22
Derek Blanton	Lose	24-22
Will K	Win	24-18
Kayson Keller	Win	34-22
Prezton Pace	Win	30-18
Avery Hendrix	Win	22-6
Eli Gibson	Win	20-10
Courtney Johnson	Win	21-12
Reese McCauley	Win	20-12
Andi Foster	Win	20-6
Lucas Edie	Lose	14-7

*(75% of students predicted a win)

Throughout the week

Each day of homecoming week has its own dress-up theme, giving students the option to be creative and show school spirit. If you dress up each day, you get to enter the dance for free. We started the week off in comfy PJs, then a fun "Toga Tuesday", followed by a "Greece vs. Greece" off, Thursday being the battle of the Greeks, and Friday showing school pride. Many people stated their enjoyment of dress-up days, including sophomore Josh-Lynn Jolly, who stated, "Dress-up days are awesome! Everyone dressed up and shows school spirit."

What Students Love About Homecoming Week

Homecoming is about more than just the fun dressing up. For many students, it's spending time with their classmates, powderpuff, decorating their floats, supporting the football team, and getting involved in school activities. Sophomore Londynn Kleinshcmit stated her favorite part of homecoming week is, "The parade brings out lots of spirit; everyone comes and participates and puts in a lot of effort," as well as sophomore Jillian Keebler, who commented on powderpuff, exclaiming, "It's a fun activity to do; even if you don't play, you can sit on the side and have fun".

Homecoming Dance & Student Council

The homecoming dance is one of the most anticipated events this week, with a great theme, "A Night in Greece"; students are excited. After a fun week of dressing up, decorating the float, and lots of fun school activities, students are glad to top it off by spending time with their friends and celebrating homecoming together. And none of it would be possible without the amazing Student Council. Their hard work helps make homecoming the fun, memorable week it is.



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

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
Oct 5 5:00 PM HS VB Tri vs. MH-MA/Atchison 5:00 PM
Oct 6 JH VB @Falls City Tournament 4:00 PM
Oct 6 HS VB Tri vs. Washington Co./Valley Heights 5:00 PM
Oct 7 NHS Meeting 11:12 AM
Oct 8 JH XC @Sabetha 3:00 PM
Oct 8 HS XC @sabetha 4:00 PM
Oct 8 JH FB @Riverside 6:30 PM
Oct 9 End of first Quarter
Oct 9 First Responders Day
Oct 9 Jostens Sophomores' Class Rings 9:30 AM
Oct 9 Jostens Seniors Grad. Info 10 AM
Oct 9 HS FB @JCN
Oct 10 HS VB TVL Tournament @TBA 8:00 AM
Oct 12 No school
Oct 12 Regular Board Of Education Meeting 5:30 PM
Oct 12 HS JV FB @ ACCHS 6:00 PM
Oct 13 HS VB Tri vs. Axtell/Hanover (Senior Night) 5:00 PM



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



Taken by Katelyn Buschbascher

Keeping Up with the Mustangs

Grace winters and Riley Atkins

This week, the Mustangs are going head-to-head with the Maur Hill Ravens. Here is what you need to know. The Doniphan West football team is getting ready for its game. The focus is on teamwork, effort, and playing their game. After a week of practices, the players are excited to take the field and compete.

One of the things the team has been working on is focusing on the little things. Sophomore Ketcher Peterson said the team needs to "focus on the things," while other players mentioned staying disciplined and continuing to work through adversity.

The team also knows that the game will not be easy. Players said some of the challenges will be playing their own game-winning and stopping the opposing quarterback. They also described their opponent as a team with good athletes.

With the challenges, the Mustangs believe teamwork will be important. Sophomore Braxton Jolly said teamwork is about "working," while freshman Ian Johnson described it as "really critical." The team has also been practicing hard. Going over plays to prepare for the matchup.

Mental preparation is another part of getting ready for a game. Ian said he listens to music to clear his head before playing. The players also talked about staying focused and doing it for the team.

Playing in front of the home crowd is something the players are looking forward to. They said the fans' support means a lot and gives the team motivation during the game.

The Mustangs are also hoping to make an impact on the field. Players also talked about their goal of being leaders, helping their teammates and giving the team the chance to win.

Now the team's attitude can be summed up in one word: "hype."

With hard practices behind them and their home crowd ready to cheer, the Mustangs are looking forward to kickoff and the opportunity to put their preparation to the test.

Cell Phone Policy

Emily Tracy, Kamdyn Yarsulik

This school year at Doniphan West, students are adjusting to a new phone policy requiring them to keep their phones in Yondr pouches instead of lockers. The change has received mixed reactions. Some students, such as Andi Foster, like the policy because it encourages students to interact with each other and stay off their phones. Mrs. Allen supports the policy because she believes it reduces distractions and helps students focus on their schoolwork.

However, other students, including Sophia, Hank, Dillion, and Reese, have concerns. They said the policy can make it harder to contact parents, communicate with coaches and employers, and access phones during emergencies or activities.

The school decided to use Yondr pouches this year because students were still using their phones in places such as bathrooms despite the locker policy. Some students believe the pouches are more effective because they prevent access to phones, while others prefer lockers because they are more convenient.

Students also report problems such as people trying to damage the pouches or sneak their phones. Opinions about what should be allowed during the school day also differ, with some students wanting phone access during lunch or passing periods.

Overall, the new policy has created both support and frustration as students and staff adjust to the change.

Staff Spotlight: Mrs Edie

By Kynleigh Jolly
Brenna Neibling
Mahayla Labrozzi

Mrs. Shiloh Edie has consistently gone above and beyond in her many positions for our community, including student counselor, high school softball coach, and freshman class sponsor.

She attended both Washburn University and Emporia State to acquire her master's degree in addictions counseling. While this is her first year as our student counselor, she has several years of experience as an addictions counselor.

Her dedication to making a positive impact is only demonstrated through the many groups she's a part of, including the climate group responsible for the "Mustang Mega Fan" award.

Mrs. Edie is quickly becoming a vital member of our school ecosystem through all the work she puts into this community. Keep up the great work Mrs. Edie!



Mrs. Shiloh Edie with her husband and son



Flock cameras are everywhere, so who's really watching them?

Raelee Davis

Flock cameras are everywhere now, so why do people dislike them if they're meant to help cops?

Flock cameras were made to help cops. If Flock cameras are used properly, they can do what they were created for, but cops have taken advantage of them. That's why people have problems with them.

Flock cameras can be very helpful if used correctly. When asked how much he knew about Flock cameras, John Swillum said, "I know a lot about Flock cameras. I worked for a casino in Arkansas for 2 years, so I know a thing or two about them. What do you want to know? I know they are made to scan the license plates faster than a cop can."

Cops from all over the US can have access to the camera database. The problem is who can see it after the cops do; people don't like it because they don't know where their information is going. They don't like not knowing where their information is going.

"No one likes being watched when they shouldn't be," says Mahayla Labrozzi.



stock image



Andi Foster

Student Spotlight: Andi Foster

Kynleigh Jolly
Brenna Neibling
Mahayla Labrozzi



Andi Foster is a Senior this year. She is a hardworking, kind, and very spirited person. She has a lot of school spirit, showing this as she dresses up for homecoming week, and wins Mustang Mega Fan at a cross country meet. She is a TA for Ms. Haynes as a para. She enjoys being a para but does not see herself doing this in the future. She would like to go into nursing. Andi works at The Willow in Wathena at the moment to work towards this goal. Outside of school, she likes to hang out with her friends in her free time. Andi also plays volleyball and she has since freshman year in high school. Overall Andi Foster is a very well rounded student and she takes pride in herself, her school, and her community, and is a major role model for everyone around her.



Gas Prices

Adalyn Rhodd
Arianna Lewis

It has come to many people's attention that gas prices have been rising a lot in the past month. Gas prices about a month ago were only \$ 3.80; now prices have risen to \$4.14. This has also made diesel fuel more expensive. Just to fill up a tank with diesel is around 140 dollars.

We interviewed three teachers and three students to get the full background on how others feel about this. Most teachers said they had to cut back on hanging out with their family because of how expensive it was to get there: "I try to make the most out of my trips, like getting groceries or other essential things," said Mrs. Allen.

It was hard to interview some of the kids because they haven't started driving yet, but the ones who couldn't drive yet said they were scared for the future and how expensive it will be for them: "We're honestly scared about how high the prices will be when we're older since they have gotten so high in such a short amount of time," said Zeke Runnke.

Overall, gas prices have affected many families in the world.

Gubernatorial Election

Jace Hennigan

Cindy Holscher vs. Ty Masterson-- The next gubernatorial election for Kansas governor in 2026.

The next governor candidate to be elected by plurality to serve a four year term will be elected November 3, 2026.

When asked about what an interviewee thought about the single most important issue facing Kansans today that they would like to see be addressed by the next governor, they responded: "Property taxes. Definitely a big one for me and every year they cost more money."

The current governor of Kansas, Laura Kelly, Democratic party, is nearing the end of her second four-year term, which began on January 9, 2023. Her successor will either be Cindy Holscher of the Democratic Party or Ty Masterson representing the Republican party.

"I would like to see school funding increase, but feel as if to do so property taxes would increase, so I see it as a double-edged sword," said the interviewee when asked on where they stand on increasing school funding across the state.

Student Led Conference: A Breakdown

By McKinley Hennigan
and Aliza Tracy

Throughout the country, many schools are now implementing SLC's, or Student-Led Conferences. Doniphan West Junior Senior High School is no different. Doniphan West first implemented SLC's at the start of the 2022-2023 school year, and will likely continue to do so for many years to come. Around conference times, you can hear many students and teachers being more vocal with their opinions on the matter and what should be done differently.

Student Led Conferences are different because it encourages students to talk to their parents about their behaviors and activities in school. One anonymous staff member stated "It's a good concept, and it's a good experience for the kids and having to own up to stuff for their parents". Another staff member states "I understand why they do it, but I don't understand the purpose". A high school student stated that "They are pointless and they take two minutes," but they still do it because of the reward. This seems to be the case for quite a few students.

Based on results from a poll sent out to Doniphan West High School students, of which 45 students responded, 81.8% of those students participated. There were many responses as to why they participated, such as "they had to" and "it's for a grade". The most common answer, however, was the reward students receive.

Out of 36 students who participated in conferences, 17 students said that they did it for the reward. One student responded, saying "Honestly I didn't wanna participate and I think it's kinda pointless but I just wanted the reward for it". In the past, students have received rewards like a lunch off-campus, Kona Ice, or perhaps the most popular, a half day off of school.

Around our Community: Harvest Time

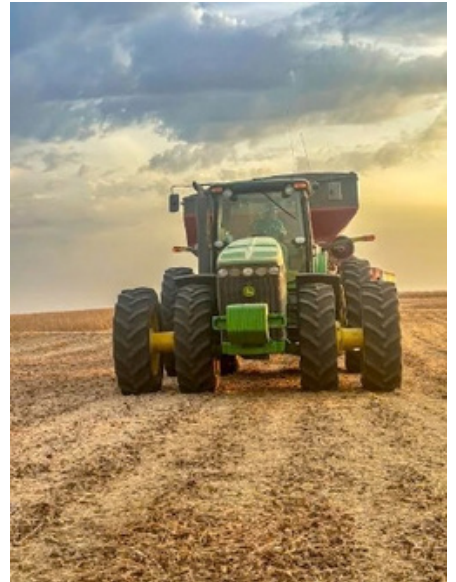
Photo Series by Mia Potter



Don Boos harvesting beans.



Grant Boos unloading corn into the semi truck to be taken to the elevator.



Grant Boos driving the grain cart.



This is where the trash comes out of the feeder house.



Don Boos picking corn with his 8 row header.



Don Boos unloading corn into the cart



My family refers to this picture as "Christmas" harvest.