



THE CHARGER



Illustration by Isabelle Guinn

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

In honor of Veteran's Day, some members of the Charger staff interviewed relatives about their time in the military. Thank you to all who served our country.

Emma Alderman | editor in chief

My grandfather Leslie Alderman served in the Army for two years after he was drafted in 1963. He was stationed at a Nike-Hercules Missile site in central Germany and worked in the communication sector using his training as a radio officer. During his time overseas my grandfather was able to travel to lots of cool places throughout Europe. "It was so very easy to travel in Germany and surrounding countries,

by train. I could get a leave for two, three or four days or more and see so much of the country. I went to East Berlin, Austria, Amsterdam, Rome, and many more points of interest," he said.

Mayah Mumpower | news editor

My uncle Mike Munson served in the Air Force and was stationed in Montana and Germany. He has been deployed to Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and other countries. "For me, serving initially was a way for me to show appreciation to those who served before, but at the core of it all, it was a sense of duty to protect those I've loved and cared for and to en-

sure their freedoms remained intact."

Lauren Schutter | sports editor

My uncle Eric Hill served in the army in Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan twice. He originally worked as an infantryman (military combat on foot) until he changed his job to work on helicopters. Currently, he is a Blackhawk helicopter mechanic and holds the rank of Staff Sergeant. About serving his country, Hill said "It's an honor for me to represent my country. I wear my uniform with pride and I serve with honor and integrity. When people see me, I want them to see a soldier who exemplifies what it

means to be an American."

Eli McDaniel | social media editor

My grandpa Wendell McDaniel served in the Marine Corps during Vietnam in 1969. He spent time in California doing training and schooling. "At the end of '69, I was in Vietnam. I thought we had won the war when I left or we were very close to it. I was pretty dismayed by the way things were going here in the USA. This sort of made me feel like I did something wrong by serving my country. What I learned was that public opinion is not always right but you should always do what you feel is right."

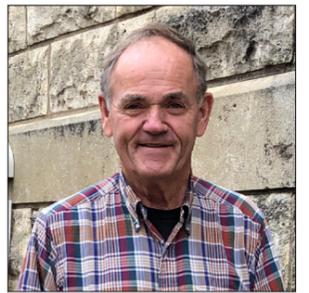
District adds SRO, head of maintenance

NEW HEAD OF MAINTENANCE READY TO FACE CHALLENGES

Jackson Havenstein | arts & entertainment editor

New USD 329 maintenance director Gary Blanton started out as a dairy farmer before he found his passion for maintenance.

He then worked in a mobile home park doing set-up and maintenance



on mobile homes. Now, Blanton is here to fix "everything except air conditioners."

"It's a challenge to figure out how to fix all the different problems, but I love seeing the satisfaction on someone's face when I fix an issue," Blanton said.

Blanton travels all around the district to perform his duties and has been involved in projects such as removing a cabinet and adding a sink to a Maple Hill Elementary School bathroom.

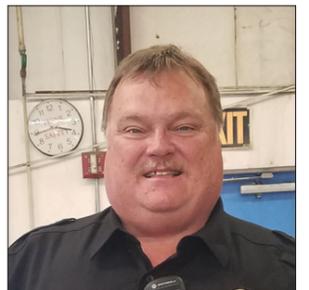
Blanton also said that there is really nothing much he dislikes about this job because to him it's not really a job, more of a hobby.

Blanton attended Alma High School back in 1963 before the district combined. He said that this helped to give him a good start of learning the layout of the buildings.

NEW SRO BRINGS EXPERIENCE TO JOB

New school resource officer Steve Bundy has been in law enforcement for more than four decades.

He got his start in 1979 in a town with a population with some 2000 people. He helped out



with the D.A.R.E. program and has worked his fair share of cases from common vandalism to homicide.

"I knew I'd be in this kind of role from about 12 years old. I would get together on weekends with my friends and play cops and robbers and do pretend interrogations," Bundy said.

He went through the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, which also requires 40 hours of annual police training.

He said his goal as a resource officer is to create better interaction with law enforcement amongst kids before they are adults, but he said he is still very much an officer.

As for his personal life, his hobbies include being a grandpa, wood burning and outdoor stuff like hands on work and lawn care.