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00:07 Hi everybody. Welcome back to our returning listeners and welcome if this is your first time listening. We're so happy to have you all with us today. Thank you for joining us for season two, episode six of the Lion Pride cast, a podcast created by the Lansing Unified School District 469 located in Lansing, Kansas. The purpose of this podcast is to inform our Lansing stakeholders being our community members, students and staff about all things education. We are your host.

00:30 I am Miles Azzeh, Director of Teaching and Learning in Lansing USD 469. And I am Sharon Burns, the Director of Communications and Marketing. Today, we are very excited to have an important community member as a guest on the podcast. So thank you to Leavenworth County District Attorney Todd Thompson. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much for having me. This is exciting. I'm honored to be able to be here with you all. This is going to be I hope this is great. I hope I don't bore everybody. You won't. No.

00:57 Todd's already in my good graces because when I was putting the script part together, you know, we have like a script, it's a loose thing and it just says here, Todd, talk about how much of an honor it is to be here. So thank you very much for using the word honor right off the bat. I feel like it's great. It really is. It really is. I mean, this community, this school is, I mean, it's just, it's been a bedrock for everyone. It's been a pillar for the education. I mean, we're very grateful to have Lansing and all the schools that we have that are doing so well. And your new high school, God is beautiful.

01:28 It is just beautiful. It's, I mean, probably the best in the area. I really, I really say that, but I love all the others. It really is. I love it when we bring recruits and they're like, oh my God, this is like a college kid. It is. I'm like, yes, it is. Come work for us. So I'm a 11-worth high grad. Sorry, everybody. No, we're sorry for you. My best friends went to Lansing, and I remember going to the now middle school, right?

01:54 And I was like intimidated by that because that was like the bedrock or the pillar of what a cool school looks like. And I was like, my goodness. And then the next one gets built. And I'm like, oh, wow, that's just beautiful. Yeah, everything. They just keep getting bigger and better. That's just what schools are like. Have you seen the pool in there? Oh, yeah. I know, yeah. I had a whole "It's a Wonderful Life," thought about it. I love that.

02:23 All right, so Todd, before we begin and start discussing your position in the county and how it connects to our district, can you tell the listeners a little bit about yourself, your background, education, how long you've been here in Leavenworth County, and specifically as the district attorney? Sure, sure. You know, I'm a lifer, as they say. Towner as some others say. I've been here since I was born, but my family's been here. Obviously, I just said that. But my family's been here since the 1840s. Wow. And so a lot of two of my cousins graduated from Lansing.

02:54 My aunt was a principal and a teacher at Lansing. So it's the best place. And I've traveled the world, but I just love our community. I love the people that are in it. I've been the county attorney since 2009, so 14 years. And I worked five years prior to

that as assistant county attorney, and I was head of all the juvenile division. So everything that handled child needed care, which is abused and neglected children, and as well as any juvenile offender related crimes.

- 03:27 So anything that would happen with someone under 18 was my responsibility. It's still my responsibility as county attorney. What I do is prosecute by statute, and I'm the chief law enforcement officer of this county. And so every major crime and crimes that happen are under my purview. And so that's kind of what I do. I work with our law enforcements to make sure we have good investigations, and I take those cases to trial.
- 04:02 I know. I've been a law abiding citizen. I'm going to continue to be that way because I think that Todd Thompson would come right after. So why did you become a lawyer and enter the field of law, especially for our youth here at the high school or thinking about it? You know, it was something I was interested at a very early age. I think I was that kid that when someone was doing something wrong, I would tattle. I know that's not as popular, but it was kind of the way it was.
- 04:26 And if you ask my mom and dad, I was also the one that would argue back and forth about why and try to win that. My grandfather was a lawyer before he ended up taking over a car dealership that my great-grandfather, all here in Leavenworth, and Lansing, actually, because there was a dealership here too. I just thought that was the greatest pursuit just to be able to argue and litigate and help the community.
- 04:55 And I sincerely believe in that. I just, it hurts me when people are not treated well and not respected. And I really want to make sure we can get everybody on a same playing field so we can better our community. Yeah, truly making a difference. Yeah. Were you involved with debate in high school? I was involved in debate. It was not as prominent as Lansing was, to be honest. Again, one of my best friends was very involved in forensics and debate.
- 05:26 And so that's where I started learning the art of arguing and how they would do it similarly to court. And I saw that where you have to have your presentation, your facts, and everything like that. And so, you know, it was a good way to figure out what you have to do to do presentations. Right. Yeah, I was wondering if Brian would end up being a lawyer because my oldest was really good at Lincoln Douglas debate. Oh yeah, yeah. Yeah, he went to Nationals with it.
- 05:53 Yeah, you hear a lot of times about people like, you know, you ask a lawyer, like, did you do debate? And they say yes, but there are certain parts of debate that like, obviously with the arguing aspect in a courtroom or whatever it may be, but there's other things that like the speed, you don't really want to go that fast if you were in like a courtroom, for example, you want everybody to hear and understand. So it's fascinating how that works. But you did do some of that. Did you do forensics as well? I did not. We did not have a forensics program at that time. They didn't have enough people to enroll.
- 06:24 So I just did debate. But I've judged a lot of forensics, and I'm very impressed with how that I mean, because it's the same kind of model of being able to do the presentations. I think one thing that a lot of people misconstrue, I am one of those lawyers, a litigator. You know I am one that goes into the courtroom. But there's a lot of avenues in law that you do not have to actually do that. And I see a lot of people get nervous like, well, I don't want to be in the courtroom. I just want to do the research, the writing, prove that I'm right. And that type of We need those people.
- 06:54 Lawyers need those people. And so I try to make sure people know that there's a lot more to getting a law degree than just standing up in front of a judge and arguing. And in fact, I think I spend more time preparing, reviewing, and everything like that

and researching writing and all that than I do, you know, in the courtroom arguing. Yeah. Yeah. It's not, it's not what we see in the TV shows.

- 07:23 How accurate is that? Sorry, I'm going to go off. I was like, here it comes. Because I was really hoping when I asked why you wanted to be when we asked that you're going to be like, oh, John Grisham novels. How accurate. How accurate is are John Grisham novels too? Do you like John Grisham at all? I do like John Grisham. I was worried, like he is awful. I can't believe you even brought him up. I'm like, oops. No, I remember in the film. I'm a big fan. He references Kansas State. And I was like, oh my goodness, he knows about Kansas State. It exists. Yeah.
- 07:53 Which really quick. Also, where'd you go to law school? Rock Chalk. I went to school at Washburn. Okay. Washburn's a great one. That's great. But I have the pride of our state. Yeah, I mean, for him, I think there's a lot of authenticity. He was a lawyer and then he was a legislator. So he had a lot of understanding of what it is. If you watch those TV shows, I mean, they drive me nuts. I will tell you, when I first met my wife, she was watching a lot of the CSI and Law & Order.
- 08:21 I was like, we have to figure out how to, you know, find something else, more common ground. This is not working. No, no, it was just like, you know, because I'd be like, that's not, you can't do that. You can't do that. You know, you're not going to get a fingerprint off a butterfly's wing that's going to do that. You're not going to zoom into the person's pupil to see the other person on the other side. Those things Wait, why not? I don't understand. That sounds very realistic. I know.
- 08:47 And so it literally is a diatribe that we make sure when we talk to the juries they understand how and they do, but we have to reemphasize because sometimes they're like, well, I saw it a lot on that show. That would be Miles. I would just put a wire on him. I don't understand what the problem is. Just yeah, just do this, do that. Okay. All right, that makes me feel, okay, that's good. I stay away from those shows, but I'm a big Grisham guy. Yeah. And I know that it's not as accurate, but you're right.
- 09:15 He has a certain bit of credibility, I think. I like to think I'm a qualified paralegal at this point for the amount of things. So if you ever need any help, I think that John has helped me, that I could probably. A lot of his stuff I don't see is actually in the courtroom. You see all the stuff that he does outside of the courtroom. Yeah, which I kind of like actually as much as I like the courtroom theatrics. I like all the, like, you know, whether it be just like a statue of limitation or jersey, you know, all those kind of things. So I'll stop now. Sharon's giving me the look. So tapping the watch. Yep, yep, yep. Sorry about that.
- 09:45 So, okay, so let's take it a step further. You kind of answered a little bit of this, but maybe you can go more. What role do you play in helping Lansing be a safe district for our students, staff and community members? You had talked about prosecuting now as a DA and as an assistant DA, a lot of times it was juveniles, not necessarily prosecuting, but making sure things are being followed. Talk to us about our district and the things and the roles you play to keep us a safe district and community. Well, you know, I work very closely with the law enforcement that, you know, that oversees the safety of the community.
- 10:17 And, you know, any of the cases that come forward, I'm, you know, I handle. So if something major or serious happens, you know, that's a crime, we have to look to see if we can prove it. And, you know, and that's one of the first things that I always try to tell people about cases. And if you've read a lot or seen in those shows, we can know something's happened, but we have to be able to prove it. We have to have the witnesses, we have to have the evidence and all those things before we go to trial. And sometimes people forget about that.

- 10:46 But, you know, for Lansing, you know, anything that relates to any of the kids in school, you know, if they're abused and neglected, you know, we get those cases and we try to make sure they, you know, get into a safe home and get a better environment or, you know, help the parents that might be in need to, you know, get it on the right track. And if there's, you know, a crime that happens and we do all the domestic violence cases too, we, you know, we see those cases.
- 11:13 And, you know, you know, generally, unless it's very serious or habitual person, what we really want to do is see that people get back on their feet and become productive members of society. We want them, you know, we see so many different people that fall down, I would like to say, or something happens to them in their life, that they end up in front of me, so to speak. My goal for most is to see them pick themselves back up, find the tools, know there's people out there that can get help and move forward.
- 11:48 And so I feel like I'm just a cog in trying to help people when they fall down. Yeah, I like that. That really warms my heart. It does me too, because I think about just holding people accountable, you know, getting that piece of it, but you're really wanting to get them back on their feet. Well, yeah, and I say that. I mean, but then there are the crimes and there are the people that no matter what you do, no matter what the help is, whatever, that we have to have the ultimate outcome of incarcerating them. And sometimes, you know, for almost everybody, it makes sense.
- 12:18 Like, yeah, that person can't be out. You know, someone murders someone, and we understand that, you know, rape or anything like that. Yeah, that makes sense. You know, it's, it's like those other cases where we, you know, really hope that we can, you know, and those are the ones that make you feel good is when someone comes back to you years later and says, you know, you really helped me, you know, get the right steps as much as I hated you at the time prosecuting me. I didn't understand, you know, how bad things were, you know.
- 12:49 Right. My students and I, we used to read about, I was an English teacher, but we used to read about the difference of our justice system between rehabilitation versus retribution. And that, like, sometimes we have a tendency to go too quick to retribution. And I tied it in with them of like, forget, like, law for a second as students, but we don't wanna just suspend kids. Like, that doesn't do anything for them. When they come back, they'll just do it again. But if we could do some sort of a rehabilitation, it seems like you have the same mindset. Like, which way can we get you to not do this again or to pick yourself up?
- 13:20 I think that's the best way to say it is, what way can we get you to not do this again? And does that mean incarceration, or does that mean we can give you a chance and see if you can, you know, and your want to fix yourself. And I realize a lot of people that come before me say one thing and mean or do something else. And I don't know what point in their life that they're, you know, lying to me or lying to themselves. And so, you know, we have to take that into consideration, too, when we make a decision what to do.
- 13:53 I know there's been a strong advocacy, you know, to assure like drug users are given opportunities to, you know, clean themselves up. And I think that's an important aspect. But I've also seen the other thing of there's a point where no matter what you're doing to give them treatment is not working and we have to incarcerate to just separate them from the opportunity to have those drugs.
- 14:22 And hopefully when they get out, they're clean and they realize the mistakes or they don't want to have to go back there again. Yeah. Shifting to a sad topic for us, we lost a student last year to fentanyl overdose. It was devastating for our community. Since

then, we have had multiple training for our community, our parents, definitely our students and our staff. So can you talk about what you're doing to create awareness and protect our community for drug overdoses?

14:52

You know, I've been attending as many opportunities that I have to reach out and explain what I do and what we're trying to do to affect it. One of the biggest things that I've been trying to educate, especially to parents and students, is that parents should have complete access of their kids' phones. It is their right.

15:17

Even if the kid bought the phone themselves or pay for it, they're under that roof of their parent and the parent should have that opportunity to look and monitor that phone. There's plenty of apps out there that allow for things to make it easier for parents to monitor. But I would tell the parents, the biggest thing for them is to have that open, honest conversation of, "We're not distrusting you. We're trying to help you. And we are monitoring, and you should know that.

15:46

And we're doing it because we care." And I think sometimes that's not what the kids think because they're in the mindset of like, "We're independent. We're smart. You know I know better than you." And you know it's not there yet, even though they have that confidence. And you know I think that's kind of the biggest thing because right now what I've seen and we take cell phones from kids all the time through court.

16:17

And what I see is that is like their lifeblood, you know? And we get tons of evidence if you want to relate back to any books or movies or TV shows, but I mean, that's been a and we can get even if they delete things, we can get all that. But we see sextortion, if you know what that is, where they extort kids to show more nude pictures and things like that. We sexting where they're sending pictures out.

16:49

We get solicitation cases. And then, of course, we get bullying and then drug deals. And all those things, if parents are really monitoring their kids' phones and having a communication, and the kids know that, that would alleviate or help, I think, in a great way of knowing what's going on. Right, and be a deterrent, just in and of itself, if they know the parent. Yeah. And then it comes all down to communication.

17:17

And I mean, I know your question is, what am I doing? I'm just trying to make sure people understand that. I don't know how many times I've been to forums where parents and kids are sitting there and I say, "You have a right to get into their phone," and the parent looks at the kid and says, "I see I told you." I mean, and it shouldn't even be that conversation. It should just be a known thing. Like, yeah, we're watching your phone, even late at night. And like the apps, they look for keywords or emojis and things like that will pop up so they know what's being communicated.

17:47

But it's just something that, you know, should be in the back of the mind, the kid, every time they have the phone, you know, someone's watching them, protecting them, and as where the parent that they know can check what's going on for their own safety. It wasn't something I had as a child. And, you know, and I think that's something a lot of us get lost at. I'm not going to age you, but for me, I didn't have that opportunity to have a phone and all that when I was in when I was in high school, so I had no idea.

18:20

But we also didn't have the social media the way it was. And I think there is that disconnect between parents and kids nowadays that you know I remember what it was like for you at your age. That doesn't exist now because it's completely different. And I think that's really hard. And I think that's where communication is such a key thing for parents and kids, so they fully get what's going on. Kids are going through things that, you know, I can't fathom what they have to do and, you know, make sure they become a better person out of it.

- 18:54 Yeah, and communicating that it's coming from a place of care as a parent, so it's not like we're watchdogging you, we really care. Right, yeah. I think that's the most important point. You know, I think the next question actually can build on that a little bit more, and you hit on some of it, but many of our listeners may not know the ins and outs when it comes to the rules of law, when it comes to technology. Can you speak, you know, outside of the TV shows, but can you speak about phone and technology threats and safety a little bit more on that? I thought it was fascinating when you said even if you delete something, somebody could go back and find it.
- 19:26 Oh, absolutely. Again, depending what aspect, you have a right to privacy to your phone. And you hear that from major companies, making it harder for people to break into phones and the FBI Kansas Bureau of Investigation, KBI, or other law enforcement agencies assuring ability to be able to crack those phones and get into the information. It's there, but you actually have to, like for legal purposes, have a reasonable suspicion that the crime could be located in there or permission to go through that phone.
- 20:00 And so those are the factors. But, you know, for kids, it's up to the parents. The parents have the right to the phones, the right to go through the phones, and they can give permission. They have programs that can bypass or go through and break the code and get into it. But realistically, there has to be either permission or a court saying that there is something on the phone that we know to be able to search and look into that.
- 20:33 Gotcha. Yeah. Yeah, just there's so much with the cyberbullying and there's so much with like the tech, you know, like the texting and you even brought up a couple that I didn't really know too much about. I think it's important for us to know that there are rules and laws and a kid, like be careful, right? I mean, like not only about being a victim, but if you think you can get away with something, you probably can't, right? I mean, like you might think that you're doing something that's innocuous, but it's not. You can actually be persecuted for it. Right. We'll say prosecuted.
- 21:04 That's why, even though I was thinking of law school, went a different direction. English teacher. But prosecutors, sorry. No, that's fine. But I mean, it's not foolproof. It's not 100%. And it takes a lot of time. And that's the other thing that, I mean, that's one thing that there's a disconnect, especially if you talk media, because everything happens in that 30 minutes or an hour where we could be waiting weeks or months, and sometimes even a year before we get information that we're waiting for.
- 21:34 And unfortunately, it takes that time, and sometimes we don't get the information we're hoping for, or there's not an ability. But I really would prefer people to be cognizant that, you know, there's always that chance of whatever you're doing on your phone or and I say phone, it could be laptop, iPad, or anything like that, they can get into and find, you know. It's good for everyone to know that. Yeah. So one of the favorite parts of my job, and I think Miles is too, is we get to attend career fairs and recruit college kids to Lansing.
- 22:07 There's a teacher shortage now, so it's an important job, but we love doing it. We love selling the district. So how would you sell the district to a college recruit that does not know where Lansing USD 469 is? Well, it'll be unfortunate that they that they don't. And unfortunately, especially with a podcast like this. It's also unfortunate when they confuse Lansing, Kansas and Lansing, Michigan. Oh yeah, it happens a lot. I usually go with it. But I mean, you know the greatest thing about where we live is, you can call it a bedroom community.
- 22:42 We're just not in the middle of a rat race. We're not in the competitiveness. We're competitive, but in a loving way. I see it with all the students that they want the best

out of their peers and themselves. And it is about success for everyone. And our district, Leavenworth, Lansing, Baser, Tonganoxi, all those schools, Pleasant Ridge, they're all about what ways they can connect with the kids and make sure they succeed.

- 23:12 Because in the end, that's what we all want. But, you know, some of these schools are overpacked, overcrowded, and they're thinking about numbers, and they're thinking about statistics. And that's not what I've ever seen out of Lansing. It's about what can we do to best protect, best educate our kids to see them succeed. And the teachers and the staff have always been the biggest cheerleaders, and that's been a nice thing. There's connections that last well beyond finishing the school.
- 23:44 And I think that's just a wonderful aspect. And I like to say it's a very safe community. Yeah, it is. Thank you for that. And we talked too about we're so close to Kansas City. So although we're our own small little town, but we're so close to so much. Oh, yeah. I mean, we're 30 minutes from everything. You know I mean, we're 30 minutes from getting to Arrowhead. We're 30 minutes from getting to Allen Fieldhouse, you know or Kaufman, or any type of museum.
- 24:11 I mean, if you're in the area, I think it's just a better, but there's so many, you actually get to know your neighbors and who they are and really build on those relationships, you know? I mean, because the parents are involved, the kids are involved. So you really get to know everybody. And I think that's a great thing. Yeah. You said 30 minutes from Allen Fieldhouse. Is that like a mall or something that a farming place? Any chance, I get a chance to make fun of KU.
- 24:42 Bart's going to last for you, Bart. I mean, the loudest stadium, indoor stadium in the world. I don't know. I mean, you know. I don't feel houses? Yeah, yeah. Okay, that's good. They got rodeos and stuff there? No, it's like a rodeo when K State comes in. There we go. For KU listeners, just take a deep breath and relax. All right. You guys are obviously very good at what you do. So bravo, bravo. No, hold on. You're ready to move on to the next question. That wasn't my funny thing. I have a little thing here where this is where so she has to treat.
- 25:12 She lets my ADHD, which she does is she gives me a little section. It's like something funny. So I don't know. This might not be funny. What was your, can I ask top three colleges or law schools you were thinking of going to? I'm just curious. Or was Washburn? Like you knew you wanted to stay local and Washburn's a good one, right? It is. You know what? My grandfather went to Washburn. My grandfather was my idol. He was my mentor. He was my everything. When I was in, he passed away when I was in high school. And before he went, he was I mentioned he had a car dealership.
- 25:44 So when he retired, he was having me drive to learn to drive. And he took me up to the school and walked me around, and he had such pride in that really was nothing else but to do that for him. I mean, it was not just for him, but for me, and it just created an absolute love for Washburn. And I really, you know, KU was right there next because that's where I did my undergrad.
- 26:16 But Washburn was always like, even in high school, was the place that I was like, OK, I want to do this. So I was very honored to be able to not only go there, but be able to graduate from there. That's great. Yeah. And Washburn, like I said, is a really good law school. What do you said about KU earlier? I was going to laugh and be like, oh, I guess you struggled on the L. Take it easy. KU fans. Take it easy. All right. That was it. No more, no more funny stuff. Well, maybe later.
- 26:45 Yeah, thanks. I know now we have four listeners instead of seven. All right, next. The topic of our last, our first podcast was this, I believe. We ask each of our guests what

their this I believe statements are and what drives you. So what would be your personal and then professional if they're different? You know, I was really thinking about this because I have a lot of different like what I believe.

- 27:10 Like, you know, just professionally, and one of the things I even like, when I decided I wanted to be county attorney, one of the best things I thought was, you know, I really believe in communication. I believe that can solve so many of the problems that we have. There's so many reasons that we see things go awry that would have just been resolved by communication.
- 27:37 Parents and kids communicating about what's going on and why they did what their actions and vice versa. You know, parents being cognizant and kids understanding and now knowing that parents are human and they don't know what they're doing either parenting, but they're trying to do their best from where they came from and kids communicating what their stressors and new issues are and and doing that. You know, when I see conflicts, most of the conflicts I see relate to drugs, alcohol, mental health issues.
- 28:07 So really, but, you know, there's a lot of those that the conflicts we see would have been resolved with communication. And I see that, you know, globally. I see that in our politics. And people aren't taking the time enough to actually sit down and talk and listen and understand that we are all coming, hopefully coming from the same good place. Because my other thing that I truly believe, and I do this with work, is all people are good, but I believe that things happen that cause them to come before me, and I have to take into consideration what those things are in order to make a determination of how I proceed.
- 28:47 Black and white, if I can prove a case, I'm going to go forward. But, you know, what we discuss after the fact where the judge decides is something we also have to think about is what is the best for this person. And in that good, things affect them. Drugs affect them. Mental health affects them. Sometimes emotions affect them. And there's just things that sometimes they just can't get over. And so I understand there's roadblocks to that good.
- 29:17 But I try to remember that, you know, all people inherently I believe are good. Yeah, that was an excellent dislike statement. Yeah, which was ended right there. Yeah, exactly. We actually may not ask that question anymore because at the end of everybody else's, I believe statement. I'd be like, did you listen to Todd Thompson's I believe statement? You may want to be a recurring theme in our podcast. Yeah. Okay.
- 29:42 So the other point of the podcast, it's really the purpose of why we kind of came up with it was a chance for new learning when we were hoping people listen and they have a chance to learn. We're obviously big fans of learning, Sharon and I. What are some ways that you continue to grow as a learner? These could be books or podcasts, articles, John Grisham, of course. Yeah. What do you do in order to keep getting better and better? I think listening to things like this. I mean, I really do.
- 30:10 People don't take the time to listen to podcasts that might have more information. I also listen to TED Talks. I read books. I research. I have a little of that ADD where I go down a rabbit hole when I have something that's interesting to me. And we were talking about times of change. It's amazing the resources we have that we can educate ourselves at this point. Like if something's broken, we can actually go on YouTube and watch a video and see if we can't fix it.
- 30:41 Now there's a lot of things that we shouldn't do that way, but you need the experts to do it. But I mean, there are the tools out there and that's kind of what I spend my time doing is having to read the law to decipher new arguments or things like that. But for me, you know I read a lot about presentations. I watch a lot of presentations

and speaking because I have to do that for litigation. I have to do that sometimes just public speaking.

- 31:08 But I mean there could be any course of things where I just lose myself into following down and trying to learn as best. And the bigger thing about reading and I think sometimes what people forget is also then you know what they want to learn is put that into practice and it takes time and perseverance. You know I do that with some habits. I need to do better on the working out factor.
- 31:32 But you know I think a lot of times we get lost in short-term goals and really if you want to learn anything, you have to put it in practice, you know that 10,000 hour philosophy of life. Malcolm Gladwell stuff that he talks about, yep. Absolutely. That's right. Another excellent answer. Yeah, exactly. You'd like Atomic Habits by James Clear. Have you ever heard of that? I have not. Yeah, that's a pretty good. I've read Gladwell. Yeah, Gladwell's awesome. Yeah, he talks about like we had goals.
- 32:00 Like he actually, I use this with my DLT that you don't want to mess up. You don't rise, you fail to the level you go as you rise to the level of your system. So a lot of times we think goal, goal, goal, but it should actually be larger because sometimes goals are short term, where if you have a better system, that's that long-term thing. So kind of reminded me when you said that. Yeah. All right. Yeah, our favorite part of the interview, which is trivia. It's trivia time. Yeah, now you're really on the hot seat. Literally. Okay, so here it goes.
- 32:28 So we asked Ellie, a college student from KU. So there we go. She came and gave a tour and it was awesome. And she is hopefully, we're hoping that she'll choose to come and work for us. She wants to be a special education teacher. And we asked her to name as many of a certain item, a topic question in 10 seconds. And we're going to ask you the same one and then we'll play hers afterwards. So you think you're ready? This is the most nervous I've gotten. Okay, okay. It's a very difficult one.
- 32:58 I'll let Sharon take it from you. Okay. Ready? Name as many state capitals as you can in 10 seconds. And I'm going to get my clock ready. Okay. Pressure's on. Are you ready? All right. State Capitols and go. Topeka, Baton Rouge, Jefferson City, Sacramento, Albany, Tallahassee, Nevada City, Oklahoma City. Wow. Stop. You kind of went into a trance. You said you were worried. And he's like, where am I?
- 33:30 Yeah, the little Will Farrell from old school. I love that scene. That was fantastic. OK, well, we're going to play Ellie. Do we say she's a college recruiter from KU. So you're going against another Jayhawker. So here we go. Okay, say your name. Ellie. Okay, and go. Topeka, Jefferson City, Raleigh, North Carolina. Oklahoma City, Sacramento, Albany.
- 34:00 Okay, great job. Thank you. And we have to say you won. Ellie got. So how many did Ellie? It looks like she had five or six maybe where I think you were close. We're going to have to take away Nevada City because I don't know if that I could remember. I don't think it's Las Vegas though. It's Reno. Reno. I'm pretty sure it's Reno, Nevada. Yeah, that's right. So, but I think you had it because I think you were at eight. So we have to take away Nevada. That was impressive. Very impressive. Like I said, are you OK? Do you need like water or anything? Like I feel like you need like electrolytes. I was hoping you would give me the TV questions.
- 34:29 So, you know. Oh, yes. We did that one before. We did that one already before. Well, thank you for listening. So I like to always ask this toward the end. Did you have a good time? Did you have a good time here? This is awesome. This is amazing. I would love to come back. Oh, yes. I don't know what I could talk about again, but I would love because you guys are wonderful and I just love that you have this for the school. So this is great. Do you think I could ask the question that I've been asking like nine

episodes in a row? I know you're going to. If you wouldn't have, I would have said, go ahead. Thank you.

- 34:58 Have you seen, and do you like the movie "Back to the Future"? Love it. So you've seen it and you love it? Yes. Okay. Were you a little nervous that our superintendent hasn't seen that movie? Especially since his name is Marty. His name is Marty. Marty. Yeah. Well, I'm a little hesitant to anybody who hasn't seen that. I agree. I know. Can I tell him the story? The first time we met him, Miles this was before he had even applied for the job. Miles asked him if he'd seen it.
- 35:25 And he said no, walked off and Miles was like, I don't like him. I don't like him. I don't trust him. He's not getting good vibes from that guy. Now he's my boss and I have my evaluation coming up. So you're great now. Yeah And he still won't watch it though. That's all right though. I still like you. You get that stubborn. You get that stubborn thing. I was raised for whatever reason, I didn't see Disney movies and I didn't see, that's my favorite movie. It's the one about Kansas, Wizard of Oz.
- 35:56 Oh, wow. I'm a film buff. And at this point, so many people have told me I have to watch The Wizard of Oz. I'm like, no. No, you don't. I'm sorry. Sorry, mom. My mom's going to be like, don't say it out loud. I raised you better. I don't like it. It doesn't do it for me. I think it's just, I'm at the point of like, I've made it this far and you know. Yeah, yeah, exactly. Yeah, you're not missing. It's built up. I'm losing all the other listeners. We're down to two now. I'm sure it's wonderful. You haven't asked your other questions, so go ahead.
- 36:26 Oh, I'm gonna ask that one too. Yes. All right, Rocky movies, you like 'em? Love 'em. And then what is the best or your favorite Rocky? That's a big debate, God. Because I always like Rocky 3. Most people say Rocky IV. Oh my God. I like this guy. You led with Rocky. First of all, you're like, it's a big debate. I'm like, it's really not, but all right. You're the lawyer. And then you picked Rocky through her favorite. Yep. Yeah. Thank you. But then Rocky Balboa has like the best quote, which is the sixth one, which is, you know, when you get hit, you get knocked down, you know.
- 36:59 You may have met my match. You get back up. And so, and then you have to always throw in number one, because it's, you know, it's not quite as good. We don't talk about five. Five doesn't shouldn't even live in that realm. Exactly, we just skip it, just skip that one. OK, that's a valid answer. Todd, you did a wonderful job. Thank you. Yes, thank you. Thank you so much for giving us the time. Before we wrap up the episode, another quick shout out to LEF for providing us a grant that made us get this wonderful sound equipment and making us sound legit, right?
- 37:31 Yeah. And also the wonderful editing and intro and I guess we have music at the end too, right? By our former Lansing grad and current Webster University student who is helping us immensely. Yes, and he's doing this for free because he's my son. So thank you, Cam, for all of your help to make us sound professional. Yes, and Cam does sound very professional. You can follow him and get more information. We're going to have links in the description of the podcast. So please follow him and learn and listen more about him. He's great.
- 37:59 And as always, for more updates and stories on Lansing USD 469, you can visit us at www.usd469.net. And if you don't already have it, download the free Lansing USD 469 mobile app on Apple and Android. The app allows you to be the first to know about all the fantastic things happening in our district, such as snow days. Where are they? Yeah, I know. Better yet here. If you like our content, want to stay up to date on the latest episodes, please follow us wherever you are listening and leave a review to help others find us and learn more about our great district.

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