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00:18	Hi everybody, and welcome to the fourth episode of season four of the Lansing USD 469 Lion Podcast. I'm Miles Azzeh, your Director of Teaching and Learning. And I'm Sharon Burns, Director of Communications and Marketing.
00:28	We're here to bring you the latest news, updates, and highlights from across Lansing USD 469. Whether you're a student, a parent, or part of our incredible Lansing USD 4619, we're glad you're here. Yes, we are. I do know the district number, by the way. And I love that it's episode four of season four. I know. Four and four. Feels right. Yeah. So since we had a guest on last week's episode, thank you board member Carrie Brungard again and president. Thank you for choosing Rocky 4 over Rocky 3. I'm not going to talk about that.
00:56	We're catching up today by highlighting two employee spotlights because we've had two since then, since they're on Fridays. So we're going to start with Mr. Glenn Rosario, who is our CTE teacher in industrial technology at the high school. Yes, Glenn's awesome. Yeah, Glenn is in his ninth year at Lansing in Lansing, but it's actually his 39th year in CTE education, which is pretty incredible. That is nuts. He's got to be one of the longest tenured, not like teachers once again here, but I'm happy so he doesn't retire. 39th years.
01:25	In addition to obviously the CTE pathway and teaching, Glenn also sponsors the ACE Mentor Program, helping students connect classroom learning to real-world career paths. What really stood out to me was how Glenn talked about student success. That was one of my favorite things when I was reading it was not just but during high school, which he definitely focuses on them getting a chance to show off their work and feel that success, but obviously years later, I especially liked when you talked about the impact of meeting a former student who's now an architect in, was it Nashville?
01:57	Is that where it was? A project manager in Nashville. Yeah. And so that's exactly why we do this and build these relationships and do these great things is so that kids can go out and do something that we kind of feel that we played a role in spurring their interest, if you will. Yeah. And I can speak on a personal note. He taught Merrick, my son, who graduated just a few years ago. It wasn't planning on going into woodworking, but he took his class once and loved it, loved Mr. Rosario, and kept taking his classes and really, really enjoyed it.
02:26	He still talks about it and still does things you know with Wood just because he enjoyed it and learned from it. So thank you, Mr. Rosaria. Yep. He's great at the relationships. He's great at the hands-on experience. I think that this advice that he gives to students really sums it up. Education never stops. Stops. Growth happens when you're willing to step outside your comfort zone and keep learning. Yes. Very, very well said. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. So our second employee spotlight is Darren Manna. I hope I'm pronouncing his name correctly. I know him as Darren. When I saw it, I was like, I didn't even realize it is his last name because I don't see it written very often.

02:58 But he is a member of our general maintenance team. And Darren has been with Lansing for about 21 months. His work includes everything from preventative maintenance and repairs to plumbing and electrical work to carpentry. So he does a lot. Yeah. And you talked about like we got to make Glenn happy so he doesn't leave. We also have to make sure that Darren and other like him stay around because they are pretty much running everything behind the scenes. Exactly. Yeah. Darren described his work as solving puzzles, diagnosing issues, and figuring out unique solutions and that problem-solving mindset really shines through when you get to talk to him.

03:31 When you read the employee spotlight, he was recommended last Friday, the day I was going to post it, somebody came to me and said, "You really need to spotlight him." So actually, I sent him the form, and he got it back to me all within one day. So I'm like, "This is really cool." And I'll let you talk about my favorite part of it. This is absolutely my favorite part. If you ever had the spotlight, but it's the part where he was told by a Lansing elementary student that he looked like the Lorax. After thinking about it, he realized it was actually a compliment being compared to a comforting, beloved character.

04:01 I loved it. I loved that movie. And yeah. And now every time I see him, I think of that. Yeah. I try not to. But yeah. I'm like, there it is. Yeah. I also like the advice that he was for students. It's a great reminder. Learning doesn't just happen in classrooms. There's real value in hands-on experience and applying knowledge in real-world settings. Yeah I love both of the quotes from both of our spotlights this week. I agree. They're both great. Great guys.

04:29 So we also want to highlight a special visit that took place Wednesday, January 28th, which for us was yesterday. I don't know. You know I'll be airing it. It's okay. You're looking at me because, yeah, I have a funny thing. I missed an opportunity. What? When I said, Darren has a really good quote. I could have used the Lorax quote. Oh. Oh, that would have been The really sweet one. You know what I'm talking about? If you don't care about something. Yeah. Yeah. You can edit it in. No, I'm just kidding. Okay. All right. All right. Now, this is a really cool section.

04:58 Yeah. So on January 28th, we welcomed Region 2 Kansas Teacher of the Year candidates for a full-day tour of the district, and it was a lot of fun. And we had our very own 2024 teacher-year nominee, Mariah Neff, as part of that outstanding group of educators. And it was a fun day to get to watch them tour the district. Yeah, it was awesome. And you know every time we do this, I learn more and more about just the process. So as part of a Kansas teacher of your process, nominees, they visit each other's district where they can share ideas, learn what other districts are up to, and experience just different educational environments.

05:30 And I can honestly say, and I love Mariah's email at the end of the day, that I'm very proud to showcase what we're doing here. Yeah, yeah. When you see it from an outsider's perspective, you realize how special we are. So yeah, throughout the day, they visited all the buildings. They met staff. Students gave some of the tours. They saw how Lansing supports learners from early childhood all the way through high school. So we, at the end of the day, shout out to 10 and 2 where we started and ended the day. Miles and I met with a few of them that were willing to be on the podcast.

06:02 Thank you to them. So we asked Mariah and two of the educators to reflect on their experiences so far. And here's what they had to say. I've really enjoyed getting to meet other educators that are as passionate about education as I feel like I am. And getting a chance to visit their districts shows me what other possibilities are out

there, what other solutions to problems there could be, but also reinforcing that sometimes what we're doing is the right thing to do for our population, for our kiddos.

06:34 And I'm really enjoying getting to know these people. And I'm hoping that after these tours, we continue to work together and make Kansas a better place for kids. Hi, I am Shara T. Porta, and I am a Kansas Teacher of the Year, District Winner for Tonga Knoxy, USD 464. And I teach second grade. And what I have found with these tours is it's been very eye-opening, but I am a continuous learner.

07:02 And every time I go on these tours, I just get excited because I see everybody attempting new things, but they're passionate. They're community-based. And what seems like such a big world when you travel, you meet people, and you realize how small the world is as you see everybody else, and you just enjoy each other, but you learn from each other. And I'm able to take everything back.

07:26 And in my mind at night, it's just like, "What can I do to grow my district?" And those things make me excited for our next generation and for our next youth and teachers. Jeannie Hart, and I am an art teacher for fifth and sixth grade at USD 453, Leavenworth. And I was chosen as one of the Teachers of the Year for Kansas by my district. And we have been visiting all the different schools for our group.

07:58 And what has been priceless is we all face challenges. Like We have common challenges that we all face as educators, but I love going to the different districts and seeing how different districts address those challenges. I'm a solution-oriented person. I think there is a time that you vent, but my kind of rule of thumb is every time you complain or state a challenge, you should come back with two solutions to that problem so that you're not wallowing and going and seeing these different things that are implemented in different districts that could be implemented.

08:35 It could work, that could solve problems. It's refreshing, and it makes me feel like all my crazy hair brain ideas aren't really all that crazy in hair brain. So it's reassuring to me. Those reflections absolutely capture what the day was about. You know I was in and out because I had multiple things going on that day.

08:57 But it was great because every time I did see and get in there, they really were engaged and excited, and they were the type of people to want to go see what's going on in other places and celebrate what's happening in their own district or obviously with us and sharing those ideas. So I was really proud of them. And honestly, those quotes encapsulate exactly that. Exactly. That's what I was going to say. You know We never know what people are going to say when we ask them to be on here.

09:23 You know It's kind of the excitement of it, but it's also kind of nerve-wracking because it's like, "Oh." But you really realized why they're teachers of the year when we spoke to them and spent the day with the whole group. But it was really fun. Yeah. So we're grateful to everyone here in the district that made the trip successful. We had a bus driver that drove them around Stephen Leckleder. Again, we had students giving the tours at the intermediate, the middle school, roar students, filming at the high school. I love that.

09:52 We fed them barbecue at low and slow, so shout out to low and slow as well. And then also two culinary art students who made the desserts. So it was a wonderful thing. I was very proud to be Lansing Line. The desserts were amazing. Yes, they were. Thank you, Karen Mitchell and her students. Yes. I want more of those desserts. Yes. It was a great day. And once again, congratulations to Mariah. Yes. So ready? Before

we wrap up, we want to share a quick update. And the update's pretty simple. Rocky 4 actually has a higher Rotten Tomatoes score than Rocky 3.

10:23 Did you just look that up? I did just look up. Oh my gosh. But before we wrap up, we'll do what we really have to do is just share a quick bond update. Yeah, so we've officially started sharing daily informational posts about the bond. Hopefully you follow us on social media. Each post includes a form where community members can submit questions or request an informational session with Superintendent Kobza. We know social media is a buzz right now with lots of information flying. We want to make sure that that information is correct.

10:51 So if you have a question about something, go to the website, check it because everything we have is factual or fill out the form and ask if we haven't addressed it because I've been trying to, as I hear questions or hear things that may be untrue, I've been trying to address them on that website. That's a really good head of it that way. Exactly. It's easy for something. It's a confusing, all of it's confusing, you know what I mean? When it comes to what is actually being focused on how much something costs, whatever thing it is.

11:20 And so it's easy to hear something and then realize that it might just be off by a little bit, but it could be enough to change it. So I think that was a good idea to give that. Yes, please direct questions and you can reach out to me or to Marty or fill out the form and it's on the website. We also want to let everyone know that we'll be hosting a general community presentation on Monday, February 23rd at Lansing High School. This will be an opportunity for anyone in the community to attend, learn more and ask questions. Or like Sharon said, just go onto the website and fill out the form. We can answer it that way as well. Right.

11:50 And I just this morning uploaded Superintendent Cobes's presentation with the slideshows with him explaining it. It is long. It's 45 minutes, so got to have some time to spend, but it does address everything in it. I will also be uploading the transcript, so that will be on the website soon, but it is on YouTube now. So yeah, so just keep watching the website. We'll keep sharing information. Like I said, every day you're going to get more information. That's great. I would say that's a what? Great way to wrap up the episode. I agree.

12:18 For more updates and stories on Lansing USD 469, you can visit us at www.usd 469.net. Yes. And if you don't already have it, download the free Lansing USD 469 mobile app on Apple and Android. That app allows you to be the first to know of all the fantastic things happening in our district. If you like our content and want to stay up to date on the latest episodes, please follow us wherever you're listening in Lib Review to help others find us and learn more about our great district. And that is a wrap on episode four of season four. Just like Rocky 4.

12:48 Thanks, everybody. Thank you for listening. Bye.