

I hear a Tad Poll on the radio

Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

Listen, I hear a Tad Poll. No, not a young frog. I hear a radio program called the Tad Poll which one legendary broadcaster has been doing for decades in rural Kansas. It's today's Kansas Profile.

Tad Felts is news and sports director at radio stations KKAN and KQMA in Phillipsburg. He has had an incredible career in community radio.

Tad has rural roots. In 1933, he was born at Oakley, a rural community of 2,106 people. Now, that's rural. Tad's family moved to Garden City where he grew up. When he was eight, Tad's father was tragically killed in a hunting accident. Tad's mother went to a typing class at Garden City Community College and got a job to raise her son. "I learned a strong work ethic from her," Tad said.

As an eighth grader, Tad began sweeping floors and playing records at the local radio station for free. He found he loved radio.

Tad went to Fort Hays State University and worked part time at station KAYS, filling out logs and writing copy. In 1964, he went to KLOE in Goodland. It was his first chance to be on-air. Next he came to Phillipsburg for two years and then to a radio station in Idaho.

"In 1972, we were back in Phillipsburg visiting friends for Christmas," Tad said. "The manager of the radio station

talked me into coming back to stay, and I've been here ever since."

In addition to news reporting on KKAN-KQMA, he does a daily morning radio show. Each week he does the Tad Poll. "Originally I would ask a question and ask people to call in with opinions," Tad said. "Now we feature interviews with various guests."

As news and sports director, Tad has attended countless city council and school board meetings plus special events, in addition to football and basketball games and track meets.

During wheat harvest, he goes to the field and interviews farmers in their combines. "I have two hard-and-fast rules for harvest interviews," Tad said. "Number one, never interview a combine operator whose combine has broken down (yes, that is not a good time); and number two, never drive out into a stubble field (sometimes a hot car exhaust can cause the wheat straw to catch on fire)."

How did his interest in sports-casting come about? Did he play sports in high school? "Very badly," Tad said. "I went out for football but I was blind as a bat without my glasses. I wouldn't know who I was tackling," he said with a smile.

His lifelong interest in sports has made him a legend among Kansas broadcasters. Tad has broadcast the state track and field championships for more than 40 years.

One of Tad's sons was a start-

ing guard on a Phillipsburg basketball team which was ranked number one in the state. "It was special to broadcast those games," Tad said.

When Smith Center High School had its amazing 79-game national record winning streak in football, Tad broadcast all but two. One of those he missed due to a back injury, and the other was when he accompanied the Phillipsburg girls tennis team on a visit to the United States Open in New York.

Tad is now 81, still doing the Tad Poll broadcast and working 60 hours a week at the radio station. His wife passed away last fall. One of their sons is in business in Houston and the other is a doctor in Junction City. "I've had a full life," Tad said.

The Kansas Association of Broadcasters annually awards the Hod Humiston Award for Sports Broadcasting and the Sonny Slater Award for Service to Station and Community, in addition to inducting members into the KAB Hall of Fame. Tad is the only Kansas broadcaster to have received all three honors.

Listen, I hear a Tad Poll. Not a frog, but a legendary broadcaster who is serving rural Kansas. We salute Tad Felts for making a difference with his long-term commitment to radio and to community.

And there's more. Tad's duties have taken him from the studio to the nation's capital. We'll learn about that next week.

Scrambling up the kids



Riley Goss, Gracie Temmel and Makayla Alexander enjoyed riding the Egg Scrambler during the Fair on Wednesday night. Other rides include the ferris wheel, Octopus, roller coaster and Tilt-a-whirl. Of course there are rides for the little kids to enjoy and a variety of games to be played for a chance to win a prize.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

COLLEGE NOTES

Bellevue University Celebrates January to June Degree Conferrals. Bellevue University proudly acknowledges the accomplishments of students who have earned degrees from January through June 2014 - 813 total, including 247 graduate degrees and 566 bachelor's degrees. Bellevue University offers more than 50 undergraduate degree programs and 21 graduate degree programs, with more programs in development. Those programs apply the University's unique active learning

approach which allows students to attend class in a classroom or online, and meet with fellow students, discuss lessons with instructors, complete assignments and conduct research. Bellevue University has more than 7,000 online students from all over the globe enrolled in more than 400 courses. Overall, more than 13,000 students attend the University throughout the calendar year, making it the largest private university in Nebraska. The University recently earned a top twenty ranking by the U.

S. News 2014 Top Online Education Program Rankings in the category of best online bachelor's degrees. Bellevue University is ranked second among all Nebraska institutions conferring degrees and first among independent institutions, according to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

Norton
Shelby Jones, Bachelors in Business

Horsepower of another sort at the rodeo

A horsepower of another kind will roar into the Phillipsburg rodeo arena July 31-August 1-2.

Meet Cowboy Kenny and his Steel Rodeo Tour! Kenny Bartram rides into the arena on a dirt bike and loves to thrill crowds with his freestyle motocross.

Kenny and his fellow dirt bike riders will do tricks, ranging from the can-can to the kiss of death to the cliffhanger and the dead body. They love entertaining at rodeos, and will ride their dirt bikes following each night of Kansas' Biggest Rodeo.

Kenny, from Stillwater, Okla., grew up around horses and horse shows and listens only to country music. He wears a cowboy hat as he rides, and that sets him apart from the other dirt bike riders. "I grew up with nothing but country (music)," he says. "Most of freestyle is not country. Between being

from Oklahoma and the music, the cowboy hat stuck." If he had to choose a favorite country artist, it would be Garth Brooks.

Kenny took his freestyle motocross act to rodeo in 2004 and formed his own company, Steel Rodeo Tour, in 2010. He's worked the Professional Bull Rider Finals five times, and now does rodeos only.

He loves the rodeo fans. "It doesn't seem to matter what rodeo we go to, or where we are, everybody is so genuine, down to earth, and appreciates what we do. In the rodeo world, when I jump the ramp, everybody's blown away. And to do tricks off it, it's like they've never seen it before."

In Phillipsburg, he'll bring a trick that is only done by a few people in the world: doing a backflip on an ATV!

Riding dirt bikes and doing freestyle is crazy to normal

folks, but to Kenny, it's not as crazy as riding bulls. He draws the comparison: "If you told me, in eight seconds, I was going to crash, even if I landed the trick, and then my bike would get up and chase me down, like a bull, that's the difference between bull riding and dirt bikes. I can pull on the clutch and stop.

See Cowboy Kenny and the Steel Rodeo tour each night of Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg July 31-August 1-2. Performances begin at 8 p.m. each night. Tickets are \$15 for reserved adult seating and \$11 for reserved child seating, and general admission tickets are \$13 for adults and \$10 for children. To purchase tickets, call Heritage Insurance at 785-543-2448. For more information, visit the rodeo's website at KansasBiggestRodeo.com or, on Facebook, search for "ksbiggestrodeo"

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING FOR THE CITY OF CLAYTON

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NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
City of Clayton
will meet on the 8/4/14 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Hall and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2015 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2014 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2015 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2013		Current Year Estimate for 2014		Proposed Budget for 2015		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2014 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimate Tax Rate*
General	6,547	14.276	9,000	14.392	25,178	1,655	15.024
Special Highway	885		1,000		12,000		
Water Utility	10,997		18,578		33,092		
Refuse Collection	4,284		4,608		4,608		
Bond Reserve					4,182		
Debt Service	3,941		10,610		11,225		
Totals	26,654	14.276	43,796	14.392	90,285	1,655	15.024
Less: Transfers	3,915		10,578		11,492		
Net Expenditure	22,739		33,218		78,793		
Total Tax Levied	1,612		1,631				
Assessed Valuation	112,915		113,326		110,154		

	2012	2013	2014
January 1, G.O. Bonds	0	0	166,493
Revenue Bonds	54,900	53,700	51,300
Other	0	0	0
Lease Purchase Principal	0	0	0
Total	54,900	53,700	217,793

*Tax rates are expressed in mills
Barbara Brooks
City Official Title: City Clerk

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INFORMATIONAL MEETING

CHS Agri Service Center
will be holding an
informational meeting
for Wheat Growers.

Tuesday, July 29
Norton American Legion
5:30-8 p.m.

Dinner will be served. Topics will include Fertility Management and Crop Protections for wheat acres.



Please RSVP to
a **CHS Agronomy**
salesman:

AGRI SERVICE CENTER

Dale Withington: (785) 470-1992
Mike Mintzmyer: (308) 991-2819
Brett Fischer: (308) 991-4448
Brian Labenz: (308) 991-2817

Call Shylo with all
of your local news!
877-3361
spaxton@nwkansas.com

Heartland Tigers Fastpitch Softball TRYOUTS

12u, 14u, 16u & 18u Travel Teams
Tryouts are for teams that will compete in the
2015 Spring & Summer Season
Wednesday, July 30, 2014
6:30 p.m. at Bluejay Field
Norton, Kansas

Please contact Laura Fugate for
additional information. If you are
interested in being on a team but are
unable to attend tryouts, please call
308-520-4131
SEE YOU THERE!



www.kansasbiggestrodeo.com

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SINCE 1920

PHILLIPSBURG, KANSAS
JULY 31-AUG 2
8PM NIGHTLY

JUL 31 - Pink Night & FREE barbecue
AUG 1 - Coors Night; dance to Country Highway
AUG 2 - Parade at 2 pm; dance to Country Highway

Tickets available at Heritage Insurance, Phillipsburg: 785.543.2448

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