



The Miss and Little Miss Hawley contestants look forward to participating in events during Rodeo Fest.

it wasn't a traditional talent for that time. Reflecting on that, I realize that my talking was probably the talent, but they didn't have speech back then," Tracy Baxter commented.

Hawley WOT President Addie Harms participated in the Little Miss Hawley in 1999, but believing she didn't have a talent fit to share in a pageant, stopped her from competing in Miss Hawley.

"Interestingly, my year, they didn't have enough girls who felt they had a talent, so they didn't do the talent portion. The girls ended up doing a line dance for the rodeo

instead," Addie explained.

The pageant's talent portion has taken an exciting and diverse turn over the years. "I remember attending the pageant the year Ashley Olson (Martodam) won Miss Hawley, and there were many more contestants. I remember hers because her talent was so cool. She displayed her quilts, and until then, I thought talent had to be singing, dancing, or performing. She showed us that it can just be something you're good at. Since then, I've been a big fan of the different talents," Addie stated.

"The years I have helped with Miss Hawley, there have been so

many fun talents with technology, like displaying artwork or basketball stats. We still have the classics: singing, dancing, and playing instruments, but with speech and art taking off in Hawley, we've had many of those talents, too. It's just an easy scholarship to share with people how amazing you are for one day."

During the 2026 pageant, Miss Hawley winner, Laykin Martodam, shared a portion of her prose speech, "House in the Sky" by Amanda Lindhout and Sara Corbett, as her talent. "It was challenging cutting it down from 10 minutes to 3. It is a powerful story, and I have had to work hard to bring it justice," Laykin shared. "Some of the girls did art-related things, for instance, Lexi shared her photography, Avery demonstrated her drawings, and Faith did a painting. Hannah did a demonstration speech on how she dives in volleyball and slides in softball. It was so cool to

watch. They are a really talented group of girls."

This year, the WOT decided to move the Miss Hawley Pageant to early spring to attract more contestants. "For several years now, we have struggled to get enough participants to host the Miss Hawley Pageant. We need at least five participants, with a minimum of six preferred. During the traditional rodeo week, our juniors and seniors have been increasingly unavailable due to other commitments, including but not limited to state competitions. In fact, last year, we were unable to host the pageant due to a lack of participation, so we decided to shift the day to April to see if we could increase involvement," WOT 2026 Pageant Chair Jenn Johnson explained.

On April 12, Mistress of Ceremonies Jennifer Tjaden introduced pageant contestants, Laykin Martodam, Faith Hinz, Hannah Stotts, Lexie Mathias, and Avery

Strawsell, who took the Hawley High School Auditorium stage to compete in five categories: personal interviews, evening gown, talent, platform presentation, and an on-stage interview question. They interviewed and performed for judges Wendy Allen, Kelly Cooper, and Paula Ekman. "We look for women judges who the girls can make a strong connection to as a business leader from outside of our community. Since the personal interview portion of the pageant is a large portion of the score, we want to make sure the selected judges are strong communicators as well," Jenn mentioned.

Since Laykin was a Girl Scout Daisy, she knew she would one day become a pageant contestant. Like many Miss Hawley participants, she also competed in the Little Miss Hawley pageant first. "We would sell Girl Scout cookies at the pageant, so I grew up watching it. I

MISS HAWLEY PAGE 29----

Friday, May 29
6:30pm - Lil' Riders Rodeo Series - Kick Off Ceremony

Saturday, May 30
7am - 12pm - 25th Breakfast On The Farm at Kasin Farms
4271 230th St S, Hawley

Sunday, May 31
10am - Country Cowboy Church Service
12pm - Team Roping Event

Monday, June 1
3pm - Outdoor Story Time @Westgate
6:30pm - Lil' Riders Rodeo Series 1
6:30pm - Little Miss Hawley Pageant

Wednesday, June 3
9-11:45am - Health Fair @ Community Bldg
3pm - Make Your Own Stick Horse @Westgate Park
4-7pm - Family Bingo/Open House @REACH

Friday, June 5
7-9am - Hawley Fire Dept Breakfast @Fire Station
10am-1pm - RDO Day Of Play - 110 Michael St S
7pm - American Heroes PRCA Barnes Rodeo
9pm - Karaoke @3 Fingers Pub

Saturday, June 6
8-11am - Hegland Rodeo Breakfast @Hawley Lutheran-510 8th St
9am - Register for Car Show by Hawley Water Tower
9am-3pm - Vendor Street Fair by Water Tower 6th St
10am-3pm - Car Show by Water Tower (Register at 9am)
11am - 2pm - Dunk Your Teacher by Hawley PTO
11am-3pm - Concessions Available
11am-3pm - Kids Activities w/food, ice cream by Hawley Jaycees
4pm - Rodeo Fest Parade - Watch for parade route
7pm - American Heroes PRCA Barnes Rodeo @Rodeo Grounds
9pm - Rodeo Refreshments @3 Fingers Pub

Ticket Prices
Adults 13 & Up
\$20 Advance*
\$25 at Gate
Military Discount
\$15 at gate w/ID
Children Under 13
\$10 Adv.* - \$15 Gate
Children Under 3
Free

66th Annual Hawley Rodeo Fest
May 29-June 6, 2026

* Advance ticket purchase at hawleyrodeo.com until noon June 5
After that tickets available at the gate before show - Events subject to change

Questions? hawleyrodeo@gmail.com or hawleyareacommunityclub@gmail.com

HAWLEY RODEO

June 5-6, 2026

Photos by Gretchen Kirchmann

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