



The Wild West is Riding into Hawley

By **JEN MILLER**
Staff Writer

It is time to shake the dust off your best pair of boots and roll out the hospitality as we welcome the Wild West to Hawley. We have a trailer of entertainment heading to these parts, from some of the fastest barrel riders to the most fearless bull fighters this side of the Mason-Dixon Line.

The 66th annual Hawley Rodeo, featuring the Barnes PRCA Rodeo and their award-winning animal athletes (bulls, bucking horses, and saddle horses), will burst through the gates on Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Many memorable performances have occurred at the Hawley Rodeo Grounds, nestled among the corn fields and Buffalo River, igniting a passion for riding, roping, and rodeoing in some of our youngest cowboys and cowgirls to ever sit hillside.

“One of the best parts about performing is seeing the crowd’s reaction to flying backward off a horse. The little girls love it so much. They always want to take pictures with us and ask how we

do it. I tell them ‘magic, of course, that and a lot of practice.’ When I was younger, I got to meet a lot of the trick riders whom I admired, like Dusta Kimzey,” Trick Rider Madison Schalla shared.

Madison, who grew up in a rodeo family and has been riding since she could walk, will perform this year’s specialty act during the Hawley Rodeo. Shortly after Madison started riding, she braved her first trick that she had seen some of her favorite legends perform. Realizing his daughter’s heart was set on trick riding, Madison’s father signed her up for lessons with none other than Dusta Kimzey.

“She taught me everything I know, and then I kept learning from anyone and everyone. I took all those different perspectives, found what worked best for me, and implemented it into my own,” Madison explained.

The “Hippodrome” was the first trick Madison mastered at just eight years old. The hippodrome, one of the most iconic and visually striking stunts, is where the rider stands upright on the back of a galloping



Edyn Blum wows the crowd with a shoulder stand trick.

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