



BUTCH BOOKER | SUBMITTED

Butch and Cotton Booker working the livestock market auction at the 2021 Palouse Empire Fair.

Bookers’ service to the fair honored

Auctioning livestock is a family affair

BY BILL STEVENSON
GAZETTE EDITOR

COLFAX — Butch Booker would rather recruit volunteers for the Palouse Empire Fair than talk about his time as the livestock market auctioneer. The Booker family was named the 2021 Fair Family in recognition of the volunteer service by him, his wife, Jennifer, and son, Cotton.

Butch started with the fair in 1993. Jennifer’s grandparents were the caretakers for the fairgrounds leading to her growing up around the fair. And, their son didn’t have much choice but to grow up with his parents volunteering at the fair. He was an FFA member and showed animals. “She has a connection to her childhood through the fair,” said Butch. “There’s never been a year that we haven’t been involved.” Every year, Butch volunteers to be the auctioneer for the livestock market auction. Cotton was helping his dad

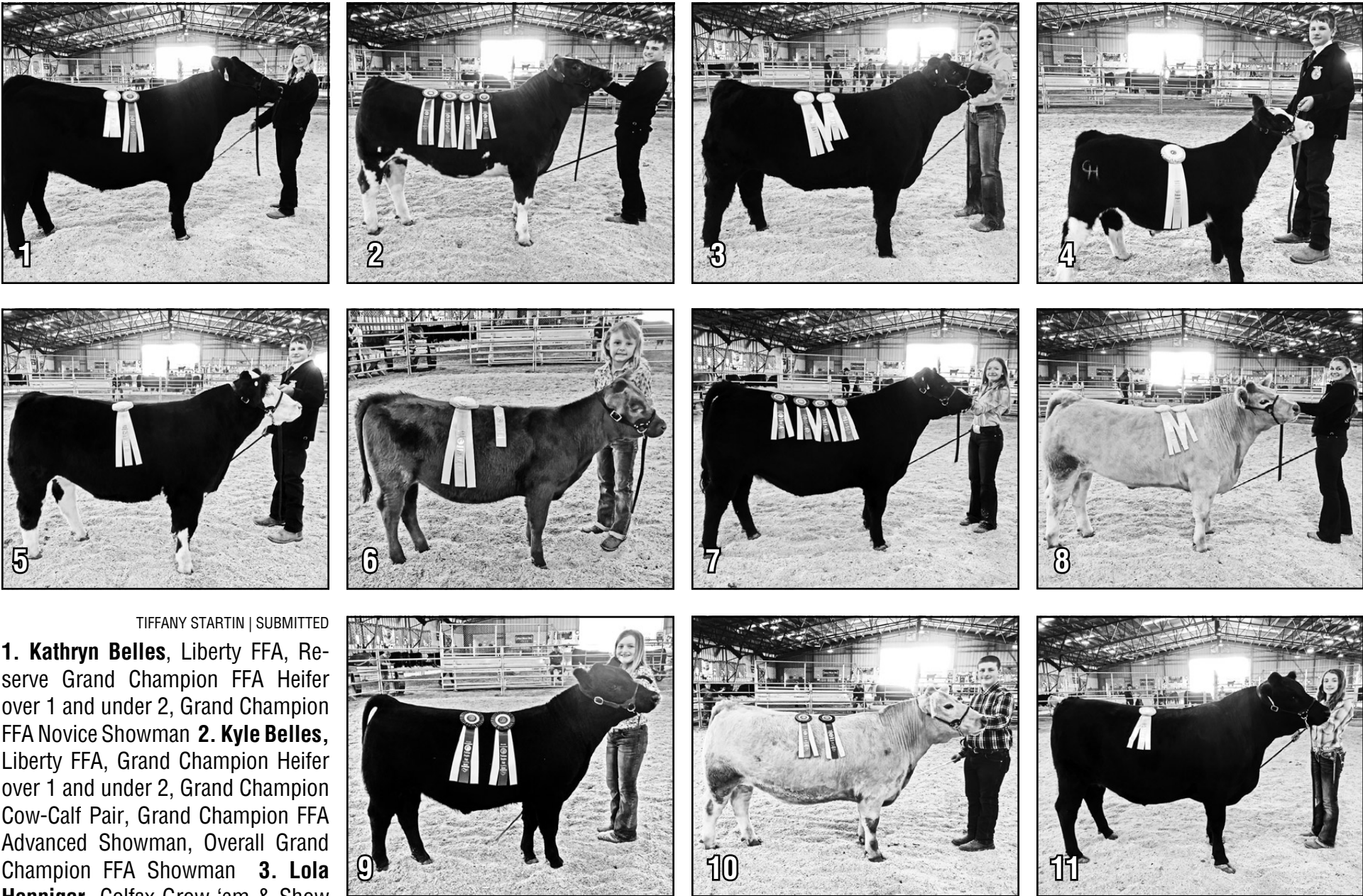
while learning to be an auctioneer. Cotton is now a student at Oklahoma University. This year, as the fair resumed after the COVID pandemic, he did something special for his parents. He came home in time for the fair. “It was never his dad saying, ‘Come home.’ He just did it on his own,” said Butch. “His mother was happy to see him. It was a surprise to her. I know the family dog was happy to see him.” Father and son conducted the livestock market auction at the fair. It’s where kids sell the animal they raised and prepared

for the fair. They can raise beef, swine, sheep, or goats. Any money collected above the floor market price is a gift for the kids. “We’re a conduit that carries the generosity of the community on that auction day ... It’s what we do. It’s what we do best,” said Butch. “The people, of Whitman County and beyond, that support this fair, they’re the real ones that should be honored.” Butch loves and holds a deep respect for the fair. “It’s four days, of each year, that plays a prominent role with a lot

of heritage and history of our community,” he said. Butch describes the fair as a place for kids to learn about agriculture and develop the skills through experience that they need in their adult lives. “We’re really securing our future and our food supply,” he said. Butch, Jennifer, and Cotton, all have their roles and enjoy their time at the fair visiting with friends, being part of the community, and running the livestock market auction. “It used to be to celebrate harvest and a time to come out and kick up

your heels ... It’s where you see people at least one time a year,” said Butch. “I think we are lucky to still have a good old country fair.” Butch loves the fair and what it has given him and his family. During the interview with the Whitman County Gazette, he tried to recruit the editor and anyone reading about him. “Find a role. There’s a role at the fair for anyone in the community. I would encourage them to get involved. It’s about our community. It’s a celebration. I encourage them to get involved,” he said.

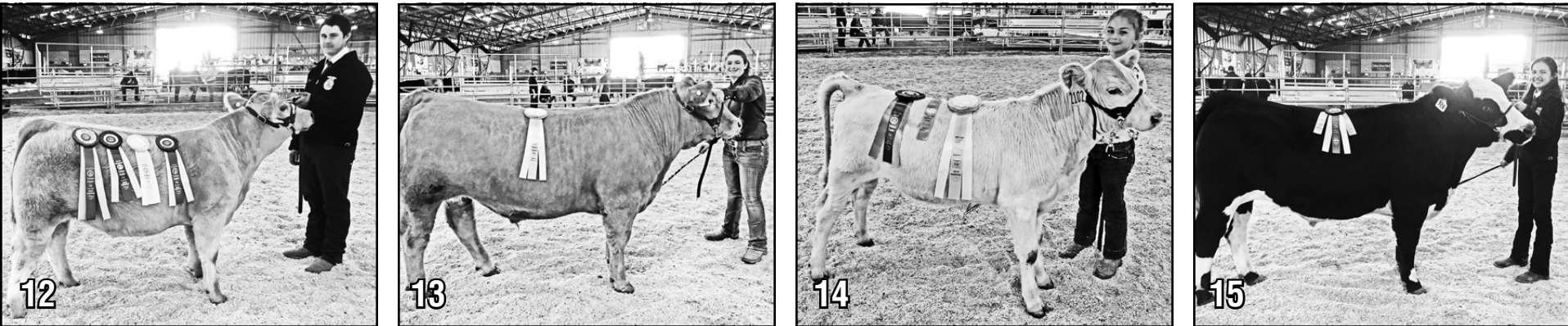
Palouse Empire Fair 4-H, FFA Champions
BEEF



TIFFANY STARTIN | SUBMITTED

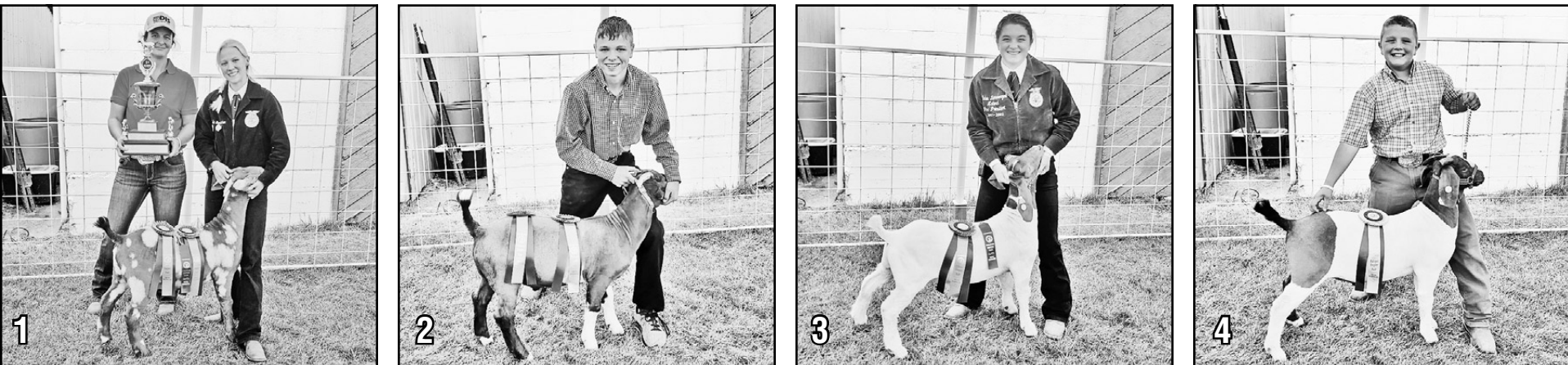
1. Kathryn Belles, Liberty FFA, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Heifer over 1 and under 2, Grand Champion FFA Novice Showman **2. Kyle Belles**, Liberty FFA, Grand Champion Heifer over 1 and under 2, Grand Champion Cow-Calf Pair, Grand Champion FFA Advanced Showman, Overall Grand Champion FFA Showman **3. Lola Hennigar**, Colfax Grow ‘em & Show ‘em, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Intermediate Showman, Overall Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Showman **4. Trace Hennigar**, Colfax FFA, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Feeder Steer **5. Trent Hennigar**, Colfax FFA, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Market Steer **6. Tru Heaton**, LaCrosse, WA, Reserve Grand Champion PeeWee Cowpoke Showman **7. Ainslee Imler**, Colfax Grow ‘em & Show ‘em, Grand Champion 4-H Feeder Steer, Grand Champion 4-H Market Steer, Champion 4-H Intermediate Showman, Overall Grand Champion 4-H Showman **8. Delaney Imler**, Colfax FFA, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Advanced Showman, Overall Reserve Grand Champion FFA Showman **9. Kasey Kane**, LaCrosse, WA, Grand Champion PeeWee Cowpoke Showman, Grand Champion Open Beef Early Spring yearling heifer, Grand Champion Open Beef Overall Female **10. Garrett Kane**, LaCrosse 4-H, Grand Champion Heifer over 1 and under 2, Grand Champion Heifer over 1 and under 2, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Feeder Steer, Grand Champion 4-H Junior Showman **11. Lyla Kjack**, St. John Endicott 4-H, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Junior Showman

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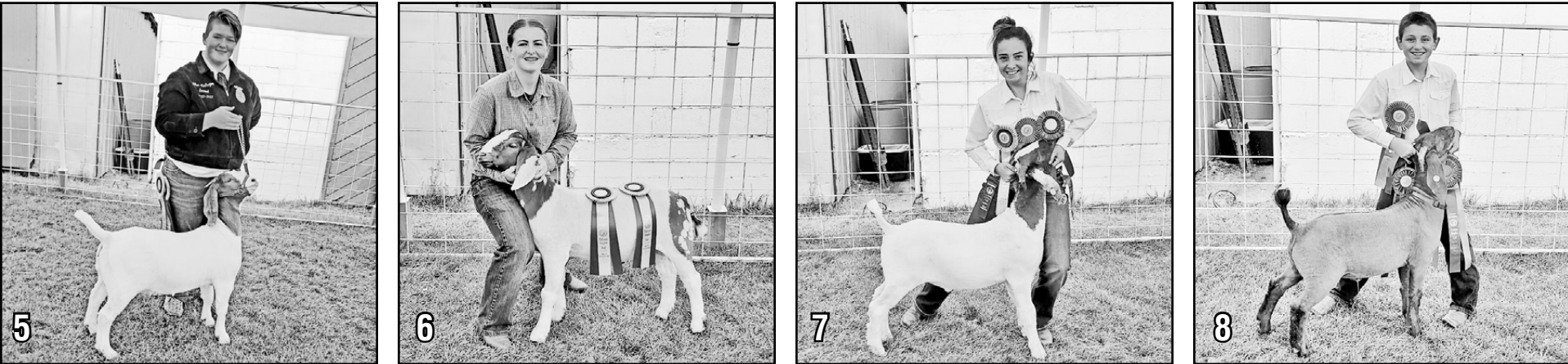


12. Colby Ledgerwood, Pomeroy FFA, Grand Champion FFA Heifer under 1, Grand Champion FFA Overall Breeding Female, Grand Champion FFA Feeder Steer, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Novice Showman **13. Olivia McGregor**, LaCrosse 4-H, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Heifer over 1 and under 2, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Heifer over 1 and under Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Market Steer **14. Willa McGregor**, LaCrosse, WA, Grand Champion Open Breeding Later Junior Heifer Calf, Reserve Grand Champion Open Breeding Overall Female **15. Clair Moehrle**, Colton FFA, Grand Champion FFA Market Steer **16. Macoy Reiber**, LaCrosse All Purpose 4-H, Grand Champion 4-H Senior Showman, Jane Lyman Award **17. Maverick Reiber**, LaCrosse All Purpose 4-H, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Senior Showman **18. Kyndra Stout**, Colton FFA, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Breeding Stock Heifer under 1, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Breeding Stock Overall Female

GOATS



1. Lola Baerlocher, Grand Champion FFA Advanced Showman, Grand Champion 4-H Senior Showman, Overall Grand Champion FFA Showman **2. Tanner Baerlocher**, Grand Champion 4-H Intermediate Showman, Overall Grand Champion 4-H Showman **3. Grace DeMeerleer**, Grand Champion FFA Market Goat **4. Kellen DeMeerleer**, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Market Goat



5. Lillian McGregor, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Advanced Showman, Overall Reserve Grand Champion FFA Showman **6. Kallai Mosee**, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Senior Showman, Overall Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Showman **7. Leah Musson**, Grand Champion 4-H Market Goat **8. Luke Musson**, Grand Champion 4-H Junior Showman



9. Miranda Phillips, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Market Goat, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Novice Showman **10. Skyler Purnell**, Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Goat **11. Tucker Taylor**, Grand Champion FFA Novice Showman **12. Hagen Tippet**, Grand Champion Dairy Goat Not pictured: **Ashlyn Butcher**, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Intermediate Showman, and **Hudson Butcher**, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Junior Showman



HORSES

Thomas Call, 4-H Senior Dressage, English Equitation, Bareback Equitation
Emma Learzel, 4-H Junior Western Equitation
Brenna Fulfs, 4-H Junior English Equitation, Trail, Flag Racing
Brianna Rasmussen, 4-H Intermediate Fitting & Showing, Dressage, English Equitation, Western Equitation, Bareback Equitation, Flag Racing
Alexis Alred, 4-H Junior Dressage, Bareback Equitation, Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Figure 8 Stake Race, Keyhole Race
Lane Fulfs, 4-H Intermediate Keyhole Race
Coraline Link, 4-H Junior Trail

Adara Dahmen Liguouri, 4-H Junior Fitting & Showing
Tess Lewis, 4-H Senior Fitting & Showing, Western Equitation
Savanna Russell, 4-H Intermediate Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Figure 8 Stake Race
Rayna Loewen, 4-H Intermediate Trail
Annabelle Loewen, 4-H Senior Pole Bending, Flag Racing
Madison Belland, 4-H Senior Trail, Barrel Racing, Figure 8 Stake Race, Keyhole Race



JESSICA PELISSIER | SUBMITTED

The winners of 4-H horse events hold their ribbons: Thomas Call, Emma Learzel, Lyman Olson, Preston Olson, Brenna Fulfs, Brianna Rasmussen, Alexis Alred, Peyton Pelissier, Lane Fulfs, Coraline Link, James Garrett, Adara Dahmen Liguouri, Tess Lewis, Savanna Russell, Meredith Bell, Rayna Loewen, Annabelle Loewen. Not pictured, Madison Belland and Kaelyn Gfeller.

SHEEP

Grace Utecht, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Market Sheep, Grand Champion 4-H Ewe
Will Amonette, Grand Champion 4-H Market Sheep
Alexis Hindrickson, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Ram, Overall Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Showman, Grand Champion 4-H Senior Showman
Jordan Hindrickson, Overall Grand Champion 4-H Showman, Grand Champion 4-H Intermediate Showman
Ladd Baser, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Junior Showman
Jackson Welter-Kincade, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Ewe, Grand Champion 4-H Junior Showman
Leah Schilperroot, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Market Sheep, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Advanced Showman

Emma Haupt-McCully, Grand Champion FFA Market Sheep
Callie McKey, Grand Champion Daddy's Little Shepherd
Hudson Inman, Reserve Grand Champion Daddy's Little Shepherd
Hallie Heitstuman, Grand Champion FFA Ewe
Rita Szamosfalvi, Grand Champion FFA Ram, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Senior Showman
Kendall Dixon, Overall Grand Champion FFA Showman, Grand Champion FFA Advanced Showman
Cadence Monson, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Ewe, Overall Reserve Grand Champion FFA Showman, Grand Champion FFA Novice Showman
Ellie Pierson, Reserve Grand Champion FFA Novice Showman
Ty Pierson, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Intermediate Showman



ROGER HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

SWINE



JAMIE CLAUSEN | SUBMITTED

1. Gage Holling, Overall Reserve Grand Champion FFA Showman 2. Samantha Holling, Overall Grand Champion FFA Showman 3. Taylor Wolfe, Overall Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Showman 4. Cade Wolf, Overall Grand Champion 4-H Showman



No further details were available before deadline.

SWINE



ROGER HARNACK | THE GAZETTE



Livestock Judging



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Names for the Parade of Champions were not available before deadline.

Poultry



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