



Riding high at the fair

The 2016 Polk County Fair had it all: Livestock, food, a rodeo, entertainment and more. The three-day extravaganza offered family-friendly times and an experience all could enjoy.

An eager volunteer feels a little hesitation as one of BMX Freestyle riders attempts — successfully — to jump him. JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer



Youngsters prepare their market chickens to be judged just before Thursday afternoon's market chicken show at the Polk County Fair. JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer



Fruits were one of the many displays at the Polk County Fair. EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer



Cherie Smith and Emma Cornett take a ride on a camel during the Polk County Fair on Friday at the Polk County Fairgrounds. LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer



Dylan Dahl, 8, climbs through the tunnel at the firefighter obstacle course on Friday. LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Fair: Raising turkeys helps to teach business to children

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Davis is also a newcomer — to judging turkeys. She has decades of fair experience as a poultry superintendent and a parent of daughters who raised animals to show at fair. She said in the market turkey category, judges are looking for what consumers would want if they were buying a turkey in the store. "You are looking for a full

breast," she said, noting quite a few of the turkeys she judged met that standard. "There were a few that I thought, 'you would be great for Christmas or Thanksgiving,'" she said. As the class name implies, that is the point to raising the birds. "This is business on a kid level," Davis said. Taylor seemed to be doing

OK on the business side. Larry and Steve, Taylor's two birds, earned blue ribbons at the market show. Thursday, though, Steve was being quite the "turkey," making handling him tough on Taylor. Taylor believes Steve's fussiness may be in part that he's not used to being in such small confines as at the fair. The turkeys' pens at home were much more spa-

cious than the fair cage, and they were allowed outside to roam during the day. "He doesn't like being cooped up," Taylor said. He said, making sure they looked their best and were healthy took a lot of time, but he doesn't regret taking on the project, even given Steve's antics. "They're fun," he said. "They are kind of like dogs. They follow you around."



The swine barn was full sleeping pigs — except this one. JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer