



ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

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HEARSWELL

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IN FULL SWING: Out & About is jam-packed with a wide variety of upcoming events. **PAGE 3**



DEE ANN SIBLEY | COUNTY STAR

Record-setting crowds steer their way to Isanti Rodeo

A competitor in the steer wrestling event drops from his horse during the Isanti Firefighters Rodeo. The event drew unprecedented crowds for both nights of the competition, prompting some to be turned away at the gate. See page 8 and countystar.com for more photos from the rodeo and other Jubilee Days events.

County Fairs return next week

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Two of the last of the summer staples to make their much-anticipated returns following a year hiatus will take place next week in the form of the Isanti and Chisago County Fairs. And much like many of the other returning events, the fairs aren't looking to reinvent the wheel (or ferris wheel as the case may be). Rather, they are leaning on the familiar favorites to attract attendees.

ISANTI COUNTY FAIR

While both counties' fairs are taking place over the same weekend, Isanti County gets things started a day earlier, with their opening ceremony taking place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21.

Thursday, July 22 is Senior Day, with a special program being held at the Historical Society from 1 - 4 p.m. Friday is Kids Day, with events taking place between 8 a.m. and noon, plus a Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull being held from 2 - 4 p.m. Saturday features a return of the Blue Ribbon Beard Contest, which debuted during the 2019 fair. This facial follicle face-off will be held at the bandshell at 4 p.m. Sunday features a car show, church service, and corn feed.

The popular Grandstand events will also return this year, with each beginning at 7 p.m., except for on Sunday, which features a 1 p.m. start time. Motocross will be running on Wednesday, with the "Night of Destruction" taking place on Thursday. Friday features the Tractor Pull competition, and as usual, Saturday

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Play Inc explores 'Tradition' with Fiddler on the Roof Jr

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

After the summer of 202 requiring a completely different and unique arrangement for performing, Play Inc Arts is going full steam ahead with their 2021 performances, beginning this weekend with the Junior Theatre Troupe's performance of Fiddler on the Roof Jr.

"This is an incredible and exciting undertaking," said director Jared Faust. "It has been wonderful to bring this classic musical to our younger students and watch them grow and develop with these well-known characters."

According to Faust, just having things back to near-normal was a refreshing change of pace that invigorated the cast and crew.

"Last year was a unique and challenging year," he said. "We were incredibly for-

tunate to still be able to perform a show, record it, and distribute it to our audience. Many of us were learning brand new skills, and it was a completely different experience for the students. This year, we're excited to be rehearsing indoors, performing without masks, and most importantly appearing in front of a live audience. This has helped build so much excitement for our performance and the students, and I can't wait to open on Friday night."

While Fiddler on the Roof Jr is a special adaptation of the classic Broadway musical created for a younger cast, Faust said it still is a challenging version for the young actors, a challenge they have embraced.

"Our students have been working incredibly hard bringing these characters to life. Fiddler is a show of great depth and history, and working to bring out all of the emotions

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BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Tevey's family gathers for the Sabbath dinner during the "Sabbath Prayer" scene of Fiddler on the Roof Jr. Play Inc Arts will be performing the special adaptation of the well-known musical Friday through Sunday, July 16-18.



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