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NORTH SHORE JOURNAL

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Christine Mallory, Editor

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Some North Shore Farmers Markets Opening

By Kitty Mayo

The Finland Farmers Market started its season at the usual time this Thursday, but with Covid-19 precautions in place.

As part of the Finland Food Chain project, planners have made modifications to protect against the spread of Covid-19, and to allow visitors to the weekly gathering comfortable coming by to pick up locally grown and produced food.

The layout of the market has been modified to allow for at least six foot distancing between customers, and one-way flow of foot traffic will be made clear with cordoning and signage. A second pavilion is just being completed, which will help in distancing vendors.

Organizers say that the layout with greater physical distancing and signs will minimize risk and give visual reminders for safe distancing. Patrons and vendors are required to wear a mask at the market, however, if you've forgotten

yours at home free masks are available.

A continuation of the "Power of Local" program will go on in 2020, giving children and elders access to \$4 worth of tokens each week to spend at the market (sponsored by Age to Age). Credit cards and EBT will both be accepted as a form of payment, with EBT customers able to use \$10 additional free market buckets every week.

A new online ordering system will soon be available, allowing shoppers to preorder and pay online, and pick-up their food "curbside" on the day of the market.

Finland Farmers Market is every Thursday from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Two Harbor Farmers Market will be held on Saturdays starting June 20th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at their new location of: 320 7th Ave.

Cook County Farmers Market is not scheduled to open this summer.

Lake County Fair Cancelled for 2020

In a recent press release from the Lake County Agricultural Society, it was announced that the Lake County Fair would be cancelled this year due to many of the restrictions of Covid-19.

It is with heavy hearts that The Lake County Agricultural Society announces the cancellation of the 2020 Lake County Fair scheduled for August 6-9.

This was not a decision we wanted to make and be assured it was not an easy one either. This very difficult decision was made to do our part in keeping our exhibitors, volunteers, spectators and our communities in Lake County safe and healthy.

County Fairs are a time to visit with old friends, make new friends, visit the barns, linger while appreciating the 4-H and Open Class exhibits, eat corn on the cob and make lifelong memories. With restrictions such as social distancing, monitoring capacity limits and other government guidelines, the fair would not be what it is supposed to be. We will continue planning for next year and use this time to get some much needed maintenance down on the grounds.

Thank you for your support and understanding, we hope to see you all at the 2021 Lake County Fair.

Century Remembrance of Elias Clayton, Elmer Jackson, Isaac McGhie

By Kitty Mayo

One hundred years ago on June 15th three men were pulled out of their jail cells by a mob and lynched from a light pole in downtown Duluth.

It is estimated that 10,000 people were there to witness the event.

Some of them broke into the police station, dragged the three men to the street, and tied the ropes around their necks.

Some of them yelled encouragement to the actual lynchers.

A few tried to stop the abduction and hanging.

Most of them just stood by and watched.

Clayton, Jackson, and McGhie, workers in a traveling circus, had been wrongly accused of raping a local 19-year-old white woman.

In honor of the three men the Clayton Jackson McGhie memorial (placed in 2003 near the lynching site) was to be the site of a massive gathering this year. Due to Covid-19 a different Day of Remembrance is being planned.

The memorial was the starting point of a protest march May 30th following the death of George Floyd, and has since been the site of other vigils and activities advocating for change to stop the killings of black men and women by police.

Event planners are moving commemorating activities online, including the live facebook launch of the documentary "I Can't Breathe", followed by a discussion panel on June 15, starting at 5:00 pm. Go to the CJMM website for more events and information: claytonjacksonmcghie.org.

MDH Recommends Protesters Seek Covid-19 Testing: Testing Supply Struggles to Keep Pace with Demand

By Kitty Mayo

Minnesota Department of Health officials are concerned that there will be a spike in Covid-19 cases after demonstrations following George Floyd's death. The MDH is recommending that anyone who has participated in a protest to be tested for Covid-19, even if they have no symptoms. MDH commissioner Jan Malcolm has told providers throughout the state that the testing should happen for anyone involved in protests or clean-up.

MDH says people should get tested immediately if they have symptoms, and to wait five to seven days after the event(s) they attended if they have no symptoms.

Greg Ruberg, Lake View Hospital and Clinic CEO/president, says that as statewide testing criteria is expanded adjustments to capacity are continuously being made. As a designated testing site, Lake View's protocol is to route anyone calling about testing through the St. Luke's Covid-19 hotline where they are evaluated and sent to the appropriate testing site.

"As testing criteria keeps expanding, there's more pressure on us to do testing and there's a really challenging balance as we try to get more testing supplies," said Ruberg.

As testing has significantly expanded throughout the state to around 10,000 tests daily, a developing tightness in lab testing supplies has occurred recently. Demand for testing supplies is on the rise, with supply struggling to keep pace at times, leaving Ruberg concerned that Lake View may not be able to fill this week's order for more testing supplies that would keep their reserve in good balance to be prepared to respond to an outbreak.

Ruberg says that an inspection of Lake View by MDH last week was thorough in evaluating their Covid-19 response, and with only a minor modification to their screening process appeared to exceed the state's expectations.

While transmission and deaths

continue to be seen in the state, data from CovidActNow.org indicates that Minnesota's infection rate has finally dropped below +1.0 (the much touted R nought used to quantify an outbreak), at 0.98.

The same modeling data showed on June 8 Minnesota's positive test rate was 4% indicating adequate testing. Countries that have been most successful in containing the virus have rates below 3%.

It is estimated that Minnesota

would need upwards of 2,000 contact tracing staff to trace all new cases within 48 hours. However, the state currently only has 400 contact tracers, allowing only 17% of new Covid cases to be tracked in time to slow the spread, leaving the state at risk of an outbreak.

As Governor Walz continues to loosen restrictions on businesses, patrons are advised to continue to practice safety precautions to slow the spread of Covid-19.