

POSTAL CUSTOMER
PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 838
New London, MN
ECR WSS

REVIEW LAKES AREA



Congrats!
Class of
2022

See insert for graduates

Delivered by USPS to more than 6,900 homes in the communities of New London, Spicer, Belgrade, Pennock, Sunburg, and Willmar

Vol. 135, No. 20

75¢

Around the Lakes

Burbank Cemetery Assn. Mtg

NEW LONDON – Burbank – The annual meeting of the Burbank Cemetery Association will be held at the cemetery 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 25. Potluck supper to follow the meeting.

Garden Club plant sale

NEW LONDON – The New London Garden Club is seeking one-gallon or larger plastic pots for its upcoming plant sale Saturday, May 28 from 8-10 a.m. in the Peace Lutheran Church parking lot. All proceeds of the sale go toward planting flowers around town. Pots can be dropped off at the church garage.

NL Food Co-op meeting rescheduled

NEW LONDON – The New London Food Co-op Quarterly Membership Meeting has been rescheduled to June 13, 6:30 p.m. at Little Theatre Auditorium. New members will be welcomed, if you haven't yet become a member now is the perfect time to join and help open the store.

Invitation to non-profits and volunteer based organizations

NEW LONDON – In celebration of Bill Gossman Day, The New London Welcoming Committee is partnering with Porchfest. Non-profits and volunteer based organizations are invited to set up a booth at the Porchfest event on June 4 starting at 11 a.m. For more information and to sign up email: info@nlartsalliance.org

Inserts

Teal's
Inserts may cover all or some of the total Review circulation as requested by the business placing the insert.

Inside

- Opinion 04
- Community News 05
- Obituaries 06
- Church Directory 07
- Business Directory 08
- Classifieds 09
- Public Notices 11
- Sports 12
- Arts & Culture 14

Weathering the storm

Lakes area ravaged by high winds, rain

Gale claims life of local fireman

By Brett Blocker
Editor

A Blomkest volunteer firefighter was killed Thursday evening as a result of the severe storms that blew through the area that evening.

According to the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office, Ryan Erickson, 63, of rural Lake Lillian died after a large grain bin on his property had blown over, collapsing on top of him.

Just before 7 p.m., the sheriff's office received a report of a missing person at the address. Following a brief search, Erickson was found deceased under the bin, and later transported to the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office in Ramsey.

Sheriff Eric Holien said Erickson may have been heading out to conduct storm watch duties when he was struck by the bin, as he was found next to his vehicle. "It looks like he was trying to put the vehicle away to leave," when the bin fell on top of him, Holien told the Review. Although at least two additional storm-related deaths have been reported in South Dakota, no other reports of injuries or deaths occurred in Kandiyohi County, according to Holien.

Born and raised in Willmar and the surrounding area, Erickson's family described him as a "true Blomkest lifer." An active member of the community, Erickson served on the Blomkest Fire Department for over 40 years, as well as various civic organizations including the East Lake Lillian Township Board and Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board.

Erickson
Continued on page 2



Photo by JaLanny Rupp



Photo by City of Blomkest



Photo by Brett Blocker

Above: Area fire departments – including those of New London and Spicer – paid their respects to fallen Blomkest firefighter Ryan Erickson Tuesday afternoon, hoisting American flags along Highway 23 as an honor guard escorted Erickson's hearse from St. Cloud to Willmar. **Below left:** Erickson pictured with a Blomkest Fire Department rig. **Below right:** Scott Balay clears fallen trees from the Glacial Lakes Trail over the weekend, near his family's equestrian center.

County damages exceed \$2M

By Brett Blocker
Editor

Clean-up crews were out in full force over the weekend clearing downed trees and power lines throughout the county after severe storms ripped through much of the Midwest last week.

While a full damage assessment is still being compiled, the Twin Cities National Weather Service sent survey teams to multiple affected areas throughout the state. A team sent to Kandiyohi and Renville Counties concluded damage resulted from straight-line winds with peak speeds estimated between 85-95 miles per hour. Survey teams also reported tornado damage in the northwest side of the city of Alexandria, with additional straight-line wind damage along Highway 11 north of the city, with peak wind speeds up to 100 miles per hour.

Locally, MnDOT reported downed power lines along Highway 40 near County Road 116 west of Willmar. Portions of the county were left without power Thursday and Friday, including to New London-Spicer schools, which cancelled classes Friday as a result. Disruptions to cell phone towers and service also occurred throughout the New London area.

As of Tuesday, May 17 Kandiyohi County Emergency Management Director Stephanie Felt estimates roughly \$2.6 million in infrastructure damage within the public sector alone. However, Felt notes that depending on the final damage assessment, insurance

Weather damage
Continued on page 3

School board selects six superintendent finalists

By Brett Blocker
Editor

During a special meeting with the Minnesota School Boards Association Tuesday, The New London-Spicer School Board selected six finalists to interview for the district's superintendent position.

- Finalists are:
- Cassie Akerson, Supervisor of Curriculum and Student Programming, St. Michael – Albertville School District;
 - Minda Anderson, Assistant Superintendent, Becker School District;
 - Jamie Boelter, Principal, New London-Spicer High School;
 - Emily McDonald, Assistant Superintendent, Lakeville

Area Public Schools;

- David Pace, Superintendent, Greenway Public Schools;

- Donita Stepan, Superintendent, Thief River Falls Public Schools.

These six finalists were selected from a pool of 12 applicants, with the school board's decision based on recommendations from the MSBA – NLS's hiring consultant – as well as the board's own review of candidates' resumes and work references.

Having chosen its finalists, the school board will next conduct two rounds of public interviews. The first initial series will begin at 9 a.m. on May 23, followed by a second, more

in-depth set of interviews beginning at 3 p.m. on May 25. Both will take place in the District Conference Room.

In whittling the candidate pool from 12 to six, each school board member voted on their six preferred candidates, with finalists based on the highest number of collective votes. In keeping with data privacy laws, the school board did not make public which candidates received the highest votes, instead referring to each applicant as "Candidate A," "B," "C," etc.

However, board members discussed at length a variety of factors that influenced their decisions on preferred candidate finalists, including previ-

ous career experience, personality, leadership style, skills in technology, finance and communication, and work references. In addition, the board assessed the size of each candidate's district, and potential for longevity.

The board is expected to select its lone finalist on May 25, following the second round of interviews that will take place that day. Contract negotiations will then follow on May 26, with the employment contract approved during the school board's regular meeting on May 31. Contract terms range from one to three years.

If the contract is approved, the new superintendent will begin their term July 1, 2022.

In the event that a contract is not signed between the school board and superintendent candidate, the MSBA will help the district find an interim superintendent for the next school year and initiate another search in January or February at no cost to the district.

Current Superintendent Bill Adams will remain with the district until his contract expires at the end of the present school year. On July 1, 2022, he will join the Willmar Public School District, having signed a two-year term as Assistant Superintendent with the potential for advancement.





LAKES AREA REALTY

SCOTTY MARTENS

612.462.4155

- Lake Homes - Hunting Land - Investment Properties

lakesarearealty.com | scottymartens@icloud.com

