

North Star News

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Lake Bronson Budget, Lancaster Herald,
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• Karlstad, Minnesota 56732 •

• 75 Cents •

EMS Board meets with Townships tonight

A proposal made by members of the Greenbush/Badger EMT squad to remove an area of the Tri-County Emergency Medical Services (TCEMS) District out of the service area will be discussed at a special meeting tonight, Thursday, Feb. 28.

All of the cities and townships that make up the Tri-County EMS Primary Service Area (PSA) have been invited to hear proponents make their case to remove the Roseau County portion of the district out of the TCEMS PSA.

EMTs from the Greenbush/Badger squad cited a number of issues they have had with the Tri-County EMS administration, and in a letter requesting the board allow them to leave the district, indicated that those issues had reached a point where they could not be rectified.

In a letter to the Tri-County EMS Board, members of the Greenbush/Badger squad stated their belief that Greenbush and Badger would be better served by Life Care Medical Center, of Roseau, because they currently maintain a presence in Greenbush at the nursing home and assisted living facilities.

At a meeting of the board held on February 7, Board Chairman Tom Dowdle read a letter from Roseau's Life Care CEO, Keith Okeson stating his organization was willing "pursue the addition of the area serviced by Greenbush" to the Life Care

PSA should the request to leave the district be approved by the EMS board, and the state EMS Review Board. Okeson's letter included a general statement indicating the Roseau-based Life Care organization would be willing to address the emergency services needs of the area, but did not include any specifics.

On a 5-2 decision, the board voted to allow the matter to move ahead. The motion, however, stated all of the Roseau County townships would be removed from the district if the matter was approved. Despite the wording of the motion, each township in question would make that decision on an individual basis.

And there are still some questions that remain to be answered before the issue is resolved. One of those is which townships would go and which would remain in the Tri-County PSA.

Also, there is the question of the equipment now located with the Greenbush/Badger squad. All the vehicles and equipment are the property of TCEMS. Technically, that property would not stay with the Greenbush/Badger squad.

Still another point to be considered is, if Life Care is interested in picking up the Greenbush/Badger service area, the Tri-County Board

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Singing the National Anthem...

The Lancaster Elementary sang the National Anthem at the February 19 KCC Bearcat boys' basketball game vs. Warroad, at home in Lancaster. Mr. Evan Hanson has been working with the students on the Anthem and learning the words to the song. Vocalists included Cora Vagle, Elsa Steen, Kira Whitlock, Emma Sjostrand, Cheyanne Scalese, Rachel Schmiedeberg, Hannah Vagle, Dylan Johnson, and Sarah Lenhart.

Water meters are going digital

If you are a Karlstad homeowner, you may have noticed someone stalking around your home every three months, peering around the same location in your home each time they showed up, jotting something down on a pad, and then leaving.

Three months later, they would be back to repeat the whole process.

Most homeowners are already aware, but just in case you are wondering who this character is, it's just someone from the City of Karlstad getting the quarterly water meter reading. Because of a move by the Karlstad City Council, it won't be long before that character stops showing up at your door.

The City Fathers have opted to install digital water meters. The new meters will contain radio a transmitter that the reader will be able to view on a hand held device without ever getting out of a vehicle.

According to Karlstad City Clerk Sue Dufault, once installed the new meters are going to seriously streamline the billing process for the city. Along with reading the meters on a digital receiver, that receiver can then be plugged into the computer program used to create the city's water bills.

Currently, the whole process is extremely time consuming, from reading the meters, which can take several days, to entering the readings

into the program via a keyboard, which can also take much of the clerk's time.

Once everything is in place, Dufault said, reading the meters will be a matter of a few hours rather than days, and entering those readings into the computer program should only take minutes instead of hours.

The cost for the meters is estimated at about \$70,000, and they will take about two years to completely install. Dufault said the installation is relatively simple and the city hopes to be able to do all of the installations without having to hire the project out to a contractor.

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Former local Heritage student releases album



Christine Yvette (Wikstrom)

Christine Yvette Wikstrom grew up in Karlstad. Christine Yvette is her first and middle name.

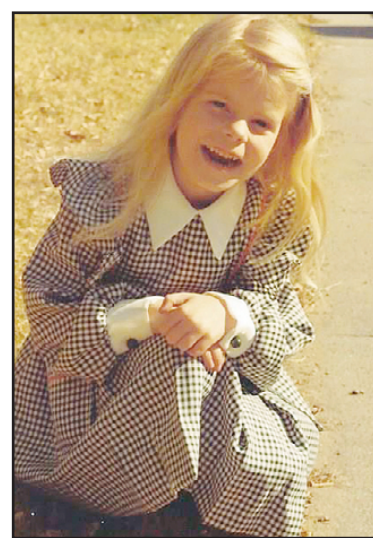
"My Dad is Curtiss Wikstrom," she wrote. "I attended Heritage Christian School until we moved the summer before my 8th grade year to go to Sacramento, CA. I am a musician who now resides near Portland, Oregon. I just came out with a CD (and among other locations, they are available in Karlstad.)

"Here is a link to my website so you can hear some samples of my music. I also have a video on the front page for the song I wrote called "I Miss You." My brother Matthew Wikstrom designed this site!
<http://www.christineyvette.com/>

Christine Yvette Biography

I was born in Goldsboro, North Carolina - September 21, 1970. My dad (Curtiss Wikstrom) was in the US Air Force at this time.

We eventually moved to Karlstad when I was a very young girl. My grandmother (Dolores Wikstrom) gave me a piano and my mom (Sharon Wikstrom) gave me my first piano lessons. I eventually started taking lessons from Mrs. Ratzlaff. She was a pastor's wife who lived



Christine Yvette Wikstrom was quite young when she lived in Karlstad.

in a white house not too far from where we were living in Karlstad. I would walk or bike ride to her house for lessons every week. I remember she had a lot of birds in the house!

I would sing and write songs and play them at Heritage Christian School and at church. I remember singing and playing piano for the choir at Heritage. Some of my good friends at school were Kari Gunderson, Tina Larson, and Paula Sjostrand.

I moved to Sacramento, CA the summer before my eighth grade year. My dad went to law school at McGeorge School of Law. While I was there we attended a

church that had a lot of budding musicians: Charlie Peacock, the 77's, and Vector. I started to record backup vocals for musicians and record my own songs which led to singing on a few commercials for the Oakland A's and The Sacramento Bee, etc.

When I moved up to Portland, Oregon, I met Patrick Lamb (a jazz saxophone player). Patrick is a prominent figure in Portland and he plays for and with a lot of successful and talented musi-

See Christine Yvette Page 4



The Lancaster Robotics team won Programming Skills and the Design Awards at the Dream It Do It Northern Minnesota VEX Robotics Tournament in Bemidji: Barry Weleski, Sondra Carlson, James Bowlin, Zach Gatheridge, Kyle Carlson

Lancaster robotics takes top honors

Lancaster Robotics from Lancaster Schools was named the Dream It Do It Northern Minnesota VEX Robotics Tournament this past weekend. They also received the Design Award for their engineering process and documentation for their robot.

To prepare for the competition, the group worked together to design and build a robot using the VEX Robotics Design System. During the day, Lancaster Robotics competed with and against 22 other teams from all over Minnesota, playing Sack Attack, a game which involves students to have their robot pick up and deliver bean bags to the goal in one minute.

The students applied what they've learned about science, technology, engineering and math in order to build the semiautonomous machines. An equally important set of skills is learned through the competition-communication, project management, site management and the importance of composure-because students have to learn how to lose as much as they have to learn how to win.

The Windom Eagles from Windom, Minnesota, won the Excellence Award and an invitation to compete at the World Championships in California in April. Teams from Bemidji, Fisher, Newfolden, St. Cloud and Sartell also won awards. The complete award list can be found at robotevents.com.

Teams, including Lancaster's, will have another opportunity to compete for the Excellence Award and the chance to attend the World Championships at the Dream It Do It Central VEX Robotics Tournament. The competition will be on March 2 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, hosted by St. Cloud Technical and Community College. Qualification rounds begin at 10:00 a.m. The event is free to the public.

The Dream It Do It Northern Minnesota VEX Robotics Tournaments are part of a series of VEX Robotics Competitions taking place internationally throughout the year. VEX Robotics is the world's fastest growing competitive robotics program for middle schools, high schools and colleges around the world, with

more than 5,000 teams from 30 countries that participate in more than 350 VEX Robotics Competition events worldwide. The competition season culminates each Spring, with the laudable VEX Robotics World Championship event, uniting top qualifying teams from local, state and international VEX Robotics Competitions.

Dream It Do It collaborates with industry members to promote careers in manufacturing in Minnesota, including robotic events like this tournament. The initiative is led by 360° Manufacturing and Applied Engineering ATE Regional Center of Excellence at Bemidji State University, and also includes Northwest Technical College, St. Cloud Technical and Community College and seven other technical and community colleges.

More information about Dream It Do It is available at dreamitdoitmn.com, and more information about the VEX Robotics Competition is available at RobotEvents.com.

Daffodil Days coming to Marsall County

All good things come to an end. This includes the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days. For one last time Marshall County will be abloom in yellow to symbolize the hope for a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

Symbolic of the cancer patient's journey through the dark days of cancer, the bulbs go through the dark, cold days of winter and bloom into the warmth of spring to spread the hope that someday cancer

will be a disease of the past. As in the past the daffodils will be available in bunches of 10 for \$10, the potted minis for \$15 and a "Bunch and a Bear" for \$25.

Orders will be taken in churches throughout the county and Relay For Life Team members. The daffodils will arrive Sunday, March 10. Orders may also be made by calling Bobbi Mischel at 745-4084.

Having cancer is hard,

finding help shouldn't be. Call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or www.cancer.org.

The Marshall County Relay For Life will be held on Friday, June 8, at the Steve Holmes Memorial Walk in Middle River.

For more information contact KayDell 222-3767. To register a team contact Melanie at 201-1478 or 437-6085.

Rep. Fabian plans town hall meetings

State Representative Dan Fabian, R-Roseau, invites area residents to attend a local town hall meeting in Warren, Argyle, Kennedy or Stephen on Friday, March 8. Rep. Fabian looks forward to discussing the issues that are important to Northwestern Minnesota.

MEETING SCHEDULE
Friday, March 8
Warren-Melody's Cafe

510 N. Main St.
9:00-10:00 a.m.

Argyle-Argyle Senior Center
703 Pacific Ave.
10:30-11:30 a.m.

Kennedy-Kennedy Cafe
518 Atlantic Ave.
12:15-1:15 p.m.

Stephen-Stephen Community Center

319 5th St.
2:00-3:00 p.m.

"As your state representative, I am here to serve the people and priorities of District 1A," Fabian said. "Town halls give me the opportunity to speak one-on-one about the important issues for our region. I welcome and encourage everyone to attend."

EMS Meeting

From Front Page

have a comprehensive plan in front of them stating how that area will continue to be served with emergency services.

Once these and other issues are ironed out, and if, and when, the Tri-County Board gives its stamp of approval to the proposal, there is

still the question of approval by the Minnesota EMSRB, who will ultimately make the final decision.

Water Meters

From Front Page

The city council had looked at adding the cost of meters to the financing of the water main project planned this summer, but decided against going that route because of an additional public hearing requirement for the

added amount. That requirement had been met for the water main project, and repeating the public hearing may have jeopardized the timing of the project enough to also jeopardize the financing currently available to the city.

The council then elected to earmark existing funds to cover the project.

Dufault they will be installing the meters over the next two years.

Christine Yvette

From Front Page

icians. I started writing songs with him and singing backup vocals in his band. My songs and vocals are on his albums "Soul of a Free Man" and "Heavenly Brother" (a tribute to Martin Luther King).

I have been blessed to work

with wonderful musicians such as Eddie Martinez (guitarist for Robert Palmer, Celine Dion, Michael W. Smith), George Mitchell (piano player for Diana Ross), and Reinhardt Melz (drummer for Gino Vannelli) just to name a few. I have sung at the Nike headquarters for the Children's Cancer Association and at PGE Park in Portland for a Beaver's game.

I am a Billboard songwriter winner and was blessed to have an opportunity to sing on the Portland Trailblazers CD a few years ago.

My family and I attend Rolling Hills Community Church in Tualatin, Oregon

where I continue to volunteer and sing on the worship team. I have three children - Jaime, Michael and Mikayla. They keep me busy with all of their activities!

I just recently released my first CD called "Heart Song." It is available on iTunes, CD Baby, and Amazon. It is a light pop CD with gospel and jazz influences. The CD is now being sold at Nordisk Hemslöjd and Nordhem in Karlstad.

My website was designed by my brother, Matthew Wikstrom. You can view it at: www.christineyvette.com My sister, Danielle Regan, helped me design the CD.



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Kristine Elliot, D.C.



Nicole Engen, D.C.

SANFORD
Thief River Falls

Kittson County Association of Townships Meeting

Friday, March 12, 2013

1:00 p.m.

Kittson County Courthouse Upstairs Meeting Room
Hallock, MN

Various county officials will be present.

Election of two (2) Directors

James D. Gatheridge
Secretary of the Kittson County Association of Townships

(Feb. 28 & Mar. 7, 2013)

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