

Area Pastor featured in Dubuque Paper

By Mary Nevans-Pederson, Dubuque Telegraph Herald Staff Writer (c) 2010, Telegraph Herald, division of Woodward Communications, Inc. Reprinted with permission

The Rev. Ramona Wink tapes her Christian television show, "Walk the Walk," at the KFXB-TV station in Dubuque. TOP: Before the taping, audience members hold hands during a prayer service.

Before taping each of her television shows, Ramona Wink gathers her audience around her at KFXB-TV to pray for their prayer requests. On a recent day, she was asked to pray for a man who needed a job, a pastor who has cancer, a young boy facing surgery and the people of Haiti.

"Heavenly Father, you have an amazing plan for each of us," she said, specifying the requests. After a short prayer session, she ended with, "So many people are looking for good news. We're just here to help people walk the walk with Jesus."

With that, Wink shepherded about two dozen people into the small Dubuque television studio where her show and others on the Christian Television Network are taped.

Wink stood on a simple, colorful set in front of a large studio camera and rows of folding chairs filled with her nonprofit ministry regulars. At the signal, she launched into the first of two "Walk the Walk" segments to be taped that day.

Wink's television ministry has grown from a local weekly program to one that airs on nine CTN stations across the country. Her wide smile, effervescent personality and glittering "Jesus" pin make her an attractive television personality, but it's her studio audience that brings out her preaching skills.

"I started taping the shows just in front of the camera, but my husband said I wasn't the same person



Ramona Wink during the filming of her weekly television show. Photo by: Jeremy Portje

as in church. Well, God put it all together and now when I do the shows, I can interact with live people," said Wink, a commissioned lay preacher who serves as pastor of First United Presbyterian Church in Morning Sun, Iowa.

Audience members take notes as Wink talks to them and the camera. Most of them come to every taping session, which happens twice per month on Wednesday mornings. "This helps me grow my faith and see how I can share it with others," said Irene Kaukaskie, of Dubuque, who considers the other members of the audience, "my friends, like a family."

Dawn Brosius, of Dubuque, arranges her work schedule to be in the studio audience for every taping.

"Ramona is such a genuine per-

son. The show doesn't even do her justice. There's no doubt she has a heart for Jesus. She just exudes joy," Brosius said.

Wink's weekly messages are "easy to interpret and for anyone to work into their daily environments," said Steve Hippchen, who has been coming to the shows for six months.

On the recent program, Wink preached about how Christians can be walking advertisements for their faith.

Her 10 suggestions included talking about Sunday sermons and church signs, starting discussions about current events around Christian issues, offering to pray with a co-worker, saying a blessing over a meal in public and wearing "Jesus" jewelry.

"She is just a blessing to this sta-

tion and staff — a breath of fresh air. She lifts all our spirits," said KFXB-TV's station manager Tom Bond. The market for Wink's program is potentially a million viewers, he said.

"Her appeal is her simple presentation of the gospel but with an urgency to move you forward," Bond said. "We get responses to her show here at the station, and people say how real and uplifting she is."

Wink thanks her audiences by providing them with a free lunch on program taping day, so they leave feeling nourished — physically and spiritually.

For more information about the Ramona Wink Ministry, including a schedule for her television show, "Walk the Walk," go to www.winkforjesus.com.

Briefly -

Alumni Banquet scheduled

The annual Columbus-Cotter-Conesville Alumni Banquet will take place on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at Roundy Elementary School. Reserve the date on your calendar and plan on celebrating with fellow graduates!

City Council meets tonight

City of Columbus Junction will hold its regular council meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 5:30 P.M. New Civic Center / City Hall.

CCHS Class of 1980 plans reunion

Planning meeting for the Class of 1980 will meet on Friday, February 12th at 6:30 P.M. at the 92 Roadhouse.

Colonial Manor Valentine Social

Please join us on Saturday, February 12th from 9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. in the Resident dining room. Refreshments will be served. We hope you can attend.

CWO Prince and Princess of Hearts

The Columbus Women's Organization is looking for candidates for their annual Prince and Princess of Hearts Contest. Children 0-5 years of age are eligible for the contest, which will run from Friday, January 29th through Friday, February 12, 2010. Deadline for entry and photos is Wednesday, January 27th at noon with all entry material delivered to Twyla Peters at the Columbus Medical Clinic, or Kirsten Shellabarger at Horak Insurance. Prince and Princess of Hearts will be determined by the largest amount of money donations in that child's name at these locations: Columbus Junction State Bank, The Community Bank and the Econ-O-Mart, between Friday, January 29th through Friday, February 12th, 2010. The Prince and Princess will be crowned on Saturday, February 13th, 2010 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion in Columbus Junction. The winners will each receive a \$50 Savings Bond donated by Community Bank and the Columbus Junction State Bank, and get to ride in the Columbus Day parade. **MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!** All proceeds from the contest benefit the Senior Girls Dinner, annually sponsored by the C.W.O.

Embroidery Club to meet

The Embroidery Club will again meet this month at OUR SHOP. The evening group will meet February 15th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. We will still be working on hardanger. Anyone is welcome to this. Call Carol at 319-728-5648 if you would like to come.

Empowerment Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa County Caring COMMUNITY Empowerment Board will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA, on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Habitat for Humanity Activities

On Saturday, February 13, at 1:00 p.m., Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will dedicate the 11th Habitat home to the Jenean Davis Family. There will be a short dedication and open house at their home at 609 Locust Street in Wapello. All are welcome to join the celebration. Come celebrate "Love of Home and Family" at the Habitat for Humanity Soup Supper on Sunday, February 14, from 5:00 - 7:00, at the Morning Sun Community Center, 106 N. Main St. Enjoy great food, entertainment and door prizes. Wear something red! If you need a ride, call 1-800-870-2005.

Post Prom Committee to meet

Parents of Columbus High School Juniors who are interested in helping with the Post Prom are encouraged to attend a meeting at the Student Center tonight, Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30 p.m. Contact Linda Pierce at 728-7483 if you have questions.

Valentine Lunch at Senior Center

There will be a lunch served on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010 @ 1 pm for all 55 and over. Lunch will consist of soup, sandwiches, cookies and drinks. Bingo will follow lunch with some great prizes. Come and spend a cold winter afternoon with friends. Call Barbara Sterling at the Senior Center, 319-728-3148 if you plan to attend. See you Saturday. Bring your Valentine.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellenbark club will meet February 18th at 9:00 A.M. at the home of Janet Gripple. Please note the time change.

Women's Health Luncheon

A Women's Health Luncheon will be held Saturday, March 6th at 12 Noon in the East Room of the Corner Market (340 North 2nd, Wapello).

Concert for a Cause

Esterlyn, an up and coming Christian rock band, will be performing at the Columbus Community School's Auditorium on Tuesday, February 23, 2010. The 7:00 p.m. concert is a benefit with all proceeds going to the Louisa County Ambulance Service. Esterlyn has opened for popular Christian rock bands such as Kutless, Thousand Foot Krutch, Pillar, Fireflight, Stellar Kart, Disciple and more. The concert is being sponsored by Victory Christian Center, 122 Ninth St, Columbus Junction, IA. For more information on purchasing the \$10 general admission tickets, contact the church by either calling 319-728-5720, going to the church website, www.vccjunction.org, or by contacting a Columbus Junction ambulance volunteer.

Amateur Radio testing

The Muscatine Area Volunteer Examiners will be testing for all classes of amateur radio operator licenses on Sunday, February 14th, at 1:30 PM in the upper-level meeting room at the Musser Public Library, 304 Iowa Avenue, in Muscatine. The exam fee is \$15. For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

Walk for Exercise at Roundy

Do you walk for exercise, would you like to walk inside? Roundy Elementary School is open to the public for anyone that wishes to walk inside. The school's hallways are open from 6:00 – 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday whenever school is in session. There is no need to call before coming, but if you have questions, please give the school a call at 319-728-6218.

Conservation Center Holiday Hours

In observance of President's Day, the Conservation Education Center at Marr Park will be closed on Monday, February 15, 2010.

Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation Auction

Do you have enough fun and interesting activities included in your 2010 calendar? Are your spelunking skills up to snuff? Do you have your spots lined up for spring turkey hunting? If you answered "no" to any or all of these questions, the Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation auction on February 27 at Delzell Bros. near Morning Sun has solutions for you!

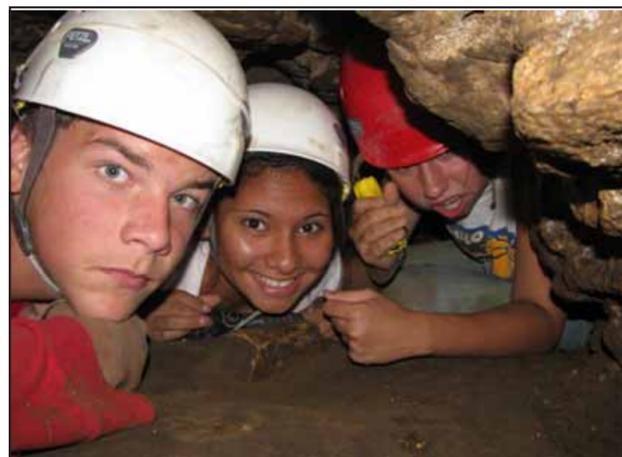
This charitable auction, now in its fourth year, always offers a wide variety of unique yet useful items to bid on. Among the items on the auction block this year will be perennial favorites like hunting privileges, guided fishing trips and a custom sketch of your home or another building. New to the line-up in 2010 are a spelunking trip, dessert-of-the-month club and two local food offerings – one featuring local meats, produce and wine and the other a trio of local cooks preparing local food for you and your family and friends in your home. For a complete auction listing visit www.tri-rivers.org.

The event began four years ago as an additional way to raise funds for Tri-Rivers Conservation Founda-

tion and the Louisa Interpretive Center at Langwood. Other annual fund raising efforts include the Duck Race at Chief Wapello Days in July and Running Wild in October. Grants, memorial gifts, payroll deductions, annual contributions and project specific donations round out the budget.

With these funds the foundation works to provide support to projects primarily in the areas of environmental education, park improvements and public awareness of conservation. The Louisa Interpretive Center project is the largest undertaking ever for the group and it will greatly impact all three areas Tri-Rivers has as priorities. The facility will include nearly 40 acres of grounds designed for environmental education as well as a building housing an interpretive center, offices and community room. Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation is currently seeking donations to provide matching funds for a Federal Scenic Byways grant awarded to Louisa County Conservation for the middle phases of the project.

The Fourth Annual Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation Auction



Johnathan Krueger, Jessica Parra and Jobi Kauffman of the Outdoor Adventure Club experience spelunking for the first time

will be held Saturday, February 27 at Delzell Brothers at the intersection of Highways 78 and 61. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the auction and program begin at 7:00.

Tickets are \$15/person or \$25/couple and are available in advance from board members and Louisa County Conservation as well as at the door. Admission includes appetizers

and dessert buffet, wine, beer and a bid number.

To order tickets or for more information contact Mallory Smith, Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation at 319-527-4530, 319-321-3808 or tri-rivers@lccb.org. For more information and an auction list visit www.tri-rivers.org.

Four fatalities in weekend accident

A two car crash one mile north of Columbus Junction early Saturday morning resulted in the deaths of four area residents with a fifth person transported to University Hospitals.

Luke Matthew Heck (20), and Ezra Barnett (28), of Columbus Junction, and Sharon (42) and Nichole Lynn Vandel (21) of Conesville were passengers in a 1993 Toyota Camry traveling north on Highway 70 when a 1995 Honda Civic driven by Francisco Chariz-Ortiz (25) of Columbus Junction crossed the center line resulting in a head-on collision at 1:37 a.m. on Sunday Morning.

Ezra Barnett, Luke Heck, and Sharon Vandel were killed in the accident, and Nichole Lynn Vandel was transported to University Hospitals. Her condition is unknown at press time. Francisco Chariz-Ortiz, the lone occupant of the Honda Civic was also killed in the accident.

Luke Heck had just returned home on leave from a tour of duty in the Mideast. To add to the tragedy, Luke's Father, Todd, was one of the EMT's who responded to the accident.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation, and no further information was available at press time.

Remodeling continues at CJ State Bank



Remodeling work has moved to the North side of the Columbus Junction State Bank this week, so all customers are asked to use the south door.