

Brunsville's most notorious resident back home

Al Willer has returned home after a winter-long stay—and long it was!—at Akron Care Center. On November 6 Willer fell in his basement and pulled himself up the stairs to call 911. After a short time at Mercy Medical in Sioux City and then in Hawarden, he lived at Akron Care Center until his return to Brunsville on Friday, April 4.

Of the care he received in Akron, he says, "I haven't got a complaint." Al is in fantastic spirits and looks ten years younger than he did before his fall. Perhaps it's due to the high-quality care he received.

"Some people went south for winter," he adds. "I went to Akron."

Former Brunsville resident shoots for huge MMA prize

BY BARRY POE

Matt Gabel doesn't come off as the kind of guy who would want to hurt anybody. But put the mild-mannered former Brunsville resident into a mixed martial arts ring and he's liable to do just that.

Gabel, 28 and a 2004 Le Mars Community School graduate, has posted a 9-3 record since becoming a professional fighter in 2009. He has landed a spot alongside 31 other middle and feather weight contestants on "The Ultimate Fighter 19: Team Edgar vs. Team Penn," which airs on Fox Sports 1 Wednesday, April 16 at 10 p.m.

A high school wrestler who finished sixth in the state at 171 pounds as a senior, Gabel went on to grapple a couple of years at Minnesota West Community and Technical College until an injury ended his mat career. He then switched his focus to MMA.

"I started doing it (MMA) because I missed competing," said Gabel. It gave me something to train for. I don't like hurting people or anything. I never get into fights. A lot of those guys just like to fight, but I'm not like that. I've never been mad or hated my opponents."

An example of that occurred when Gabel went up against a highly touted opponent in his home town of Des Moines.

"They were announcing it as their best against me, a guy with a 3-0 record and I knocked him out with my first hit and stunned the crowd," recalled Gabel. "The guy was out cold for about five minutes and all of my friends in the crowd were cheering like crazy and talking some trash but I told them to settle down a little bit. When he finally woke up I went over and talked to him and he couldn't remember anything about the fight. I felt kind of bad for him because I probably hurt him pretty bad."

SEE WRESTLING, PG. 3



Matt Gabel

**Bring Your Kids
to the Park!**

**Easter Egg Hunt
Sat., April 19, 10AM
Brunsville Park**

**Long-Time Resident Remembered
at Event in His Honor**

**Art Pahl Accordion Fest
April 27, 2-4 at the Plymouth County Historical Museum, Le Mars, IA**
Donations of bars & cookies are requested

FIRE! On March 31, 80 acres of land burned by Christ Lutheran Church. Fire fighters from Ireton, Maurice, Le Mars, Merrill & Akron fought the blaze for 2 hours.

In Memory of...

Bob Scarlett, grandfather of Ashley Scarlett (daughter of Terry & Tammy Ludwigs), who passed away March 24.

In Our Prayers

Kathy Renken

Colan Borchers

Rhiannon Sluneckl (daughter of Penny Lehman)

Birthdays

Mary Renken April 2

Judy Bowman April 2

Warren Oetken April 5

Denise Ransom April 5

Lorraine Borchers April 5

Mary Korthas April 7

Denise Renken Anthony April 7

Kelli Babcock April 10

Grace Westhoff April 13

Delores Westhoff April 13

Darwin Lubben April 15

Betty Beitelspacher April 15

Brooks Beitelspacher April 15

Orval Siebens April 15

Kenny Taylor April 15

Maggie Dickman April 22

Ruth Zembsch April 23

Teresa Kroll April 27

Barry Wilken April 27

Isabella Willer-Pacheco April 27

Ronny Ludwigs April 29

Anniversaries

Warren & Sheryl Oetken April 3

Wayne & Julie Beitelspacher
April 7

Scott & Peggy Linstrand April 15

Stuart & Donna Dickman April 16

SCHOLAR OF THE MONTH

Al Willer

KUDOS to...

Crystal Lubben for teaching Catechism class at Christ Lutheran Church.

Congratulations!

Ryan Renken & Sara Roe are to be married Sept. 20, 2014.



TRAVELS

Mary Renken flew to Tampa, FL on March 31 with two of her coworkers, Terry DeVos and Pam Ingram, for work and relaxation. She returned April 7.



Vern & Karen at the Dr. Pepper museum in Waco, TX

Karen "got the bull by the horn" in Waco, TX

Vern "got the bull by the tail" at suspension bridge in Waco, TX

Vern & Karen Harrington spent some enjoyable time in New Braunfels, TX (near San Antonio) where they are in a 4-year drought. The weather was cooler than normal and it froze several nights, even got down to 25 degrees one night. There was a bed of irises blooming outside our cottage before the 25 degree temperature. We toured the Toyota pickup plant in San Antonio, where they put out 500 already-ordered pickups a day between two 8-hour shifts. We watched a Cowboy Shoot at Lockhart, TX and learned more about that competition shooting contest. Lockhart is billed as the BBQ capital of the world, so we enjoyed some delicious BBQ there. In downtown New Braunfels there is Henne Hardware, which is an old Hardware store that is still in business with most anything that you would like to purchase. It brings back memories seeing the ladder on rollers on the wall to reach items up high and the wire and pulley to send the receipts back to the office. We worshipped at a Cowboy Church at Blanco, TX. At Waco, TX we walked on the suspension bridge built in 1870 and still in use as a pedestrian crossing of the Brazo River. The famous landmark provided cattle and cowboys following the Chisholm Trail with the only span across the Brazos River. We toured the Dr. Pepper Museum where the original fountain drink was mixed up and the formula has remained basically unchanged.—submitted by Karen Harrington

Requested of our Readers

Everyone is invited to turn in recipes, family & pet photos & any other info you'd like published. Next month we will be publishing **graduates' photos & info**. Please give info to Gisella Dittman or Susan Willer by May 2.
Thank you!

WRESTLING, cont. from front pg.

After winning his first eight amateur bouts, Gabel decided to turn professional. He's traveled near and far to compete, including Beirut, Lebanon, where he lost a close match to Victor Cheng, who later became Cage Warrior Fighting Champion's world champ.

His brother, Jeremy, gave Gabel the idea to try out for the TV show.

"He came over one day and asked if I wanted to go to tryouts in Indianapolis," Gabel said. "We drove 10 straight hours there and right after tryouts drove straight back. It was nerve-wracking the whole time."

The tryouts consisted of grappling, striking and a round of interviews. Soon after the Aug. 27 trip to Indianapolis, Gabel headed to Las Vegas for more interviews. Gabel said during the interviews they weren't allowed outside of their room without a security guard.

"We really couldn't have contact with the outside world," he said.

The final contestants were announced after two weeks and the 6-foot, 185-pound Gabel made the cut.

After seeing him fight in Indianapolis, Monte Cox, manager for a number of legendary fighters such as Matt Hughes, signed Gabel to a contract and since then he's been training across the country.

The ultimate prize for winning "The Ultimate Fighter 19" is a six-figure contract from Ultimate Fighting Championship, which is the world's top martial arts organization.

Although he already knows the outcome, Gabel has been sworn to secrecy. You'll have to watch on April 16 to see what took place.

Gabel moved to Brunsville as a youngster and resided on Oak Street (Kenny Kreinert's current residence) for 10 years.

"I loved it there, it was a great place to grow up as a kid," Gabel said. "I remember playing kick the can and all kinds of games with other kids and riding my dirt bike all over the place. I wouldn't have wanted to have it any other way."

Golf, Anyone?

The first tournament of the season at Prairie Rose Golf Club is the early bird 3-person scramble on Sat., May 24 with a 9AM shotgun start. Entry fee is \$25 for members & \$35 for non-members (cart not included). Look for a complete tournament schedule next month.

Cue the Quotes

I'm like smooth whiskey: I get better with age. — Todd Osterbuhr, whose birthday was last month

Overheard at the Hospital

Nurse: I'm here to draw some blood.

Patient: But I just received blood yesterday.

Nurse: You didn't think you were going to keep it, did you?

I don't need buns of steel; I'd be happy with buns of cinnamon.

—Submitted by Lonesome Jack

Have no fear of perfection—you'll never reach it. — Salvador Dali

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. — Mark Twain

Don't look at me in that tone of voice. — Dorothy Parker

—Submitted by Ruth Zembsch

To subscribe, submit info or make a donation:

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Blitz Staff

Publisher/Editor/Composer/Reporter/Ad Rep – Susan Willer
Newshound – G.D.

Sportswriter/Copy Editor - Barry Poe

Help Solve the Mystery

Taken by mistake during last month's Legion pancake breakfast: Brown leather coat. Owner would like it back! Please check with the cashier's desk at the pancake breakfast. You may also call 546-6097 or 533-6246.

Just in Time for the Warm Weather!

For Sale: '98 32' RK King of the Road (Royalite) 5th Wheel camper with 2 slides & queen size bed. Shedded with fiberalass sides & top.

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CORNER CAFÉ COVERAGE

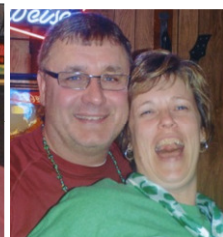
Guest Bartenders (in order of appearance)



Reno



Tapper



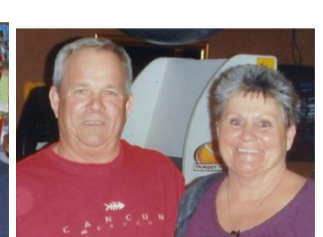
Rick (& Kris) Westhoff



Scott Eastman



Steve & Kim Sherlock



Tom & Kathy Langel

\$100 for Being the Winning Guest Bartender is still up for grabs!

Tuesdays through May. Earn the most sales to win the \$100! *Must be of legal age, of course.*

WRESTLE-ME WED., APRIL 16

Watch Matt Gabel's wrestling match on TV with us at 10PM

HERE, FISHY, FISHY, FISHY

Lenten Fish Special, April 18, 5-9 or while supplies last: All-you-can-eat fish with au gratin potatoes & cole slaw \$7.95 **PLUS** starting this month, the last Friday of every month will include a **Fish Special** (different kinds of fish will be offered)



Seeing Green

Kristin & Keith Koerselman, married 20 years ago on March 19, celebrate during the St. Patrick's Day party held after Rick Westhoff finished bartending. People are still talking about the party!

Specials

Sun. Different food featured each week! Check it out! Open Sundays 4-close

Mon. KJ's Mexican (Kim, the Corner cook, is serving Mexican food!)

Tues. Corner burger & fries \$6.95

Wed. 8 pc. broasted chicken & fries \$10.99

Thurs. Spaghetti OR chicken fried steak; **Biker Night starts May 1—Food on the grill!**

Fri. 8-10 oz. prime rib, salad, & potato \$13.95; 16 oz. king cut prime rib & potato \$15.95; **Fish special (see above)**

Sat. Ribeye steak (12-14 oz.), potato & Texas toast \$16.95; Oak Street steak w/Corner's special seasonings (12-14 oz. Ribeye), potato & Texas toast \$16.95; Sirloin steak dinner (10-12 oz.), potato & Texas toast \$12.95

**Check out the
menu changes!**