

The Brunsville Blitz

Brunsville, Iowa

Edition 153

September 2023

Brunsville native sings national anthem at Astros game

By Mark Brown
Blitz Stringer

On August 11, the Houston Choral Society entered Minute Maid Park (home of the Astros) with 49 singers to perform the national anthem. One of the singers in the group that night was Brunsville native Alan Wilken.

"The anticipation and preparation for events like this is always exciting. All of the singers including myself were giddy with excitement," said Wilken, Houston Choral Society Member. "The stadium and the crowd were by far the largest in our performance history. The crowd noise was so deafening on the field, I could barely hear the pitch pipe and I was standing next to the person playing it," he said.

To become a Choral member, Wilken auditioned for Dr. Kevin Klotz, The Sugar Land Choral Society, St. Laurence Chamber Singers and the Houston Choral Society. Wilken said, "Choral singing is an enjoyable way to stay mentally engaged while socializing with a diverse group of people and performing our music for the enjoyment of friends, family and audiences." He has also performed with the Houston Choral Society at Carnegie Hall in 2018 and in Italy (Rome, Florence, and Venice) in 2022.

Wilken credits Brunsville for his early singing and music backgrounds. "I was given a trumpet to use by Mr. Jim Mead when I was in seventh grade and took lessons at Le Mars Community Junior High School (Old Central High School) and later in high school," said Wilken. Later he used those skills to play taps for the Brunsville Legion Memorial Day ceremony. Wilken recalls singing in the junior choir at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Brunsville under the direction of Kay Willer. He continued singing in junior choir until high school and moved up to the senior



Photos contributed.

choir.

Wilken said walking onto Minute Maid Park reminded him of his own playing days in Brunsville. "I remember dressing in our uniforms hours before game time. Our fathers all helping with field preparation and practice, the Ladies Aid shack and pleasant sounds and smell of popcorn being prepared before and during the game. The whole town coming to see the games, the car horns honking after a particularly good play. The announcers booth crackling with game banter and the playing of the national anthem with the flag being hoisted in center field," said Wilken.

"Singing at an Astros game at Minute Maid Park and being featured in The Brunsville Blitz doesn't get better than this," he said.

Many Houston Choral Society performances are available on YouTube. For those reading this article online, the national anthem performance can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

New vicar to be installed Sept. 3

Grace Braun, the new vicar for St. Peter Lutheran Church and Christ Lutheran Church (Grant), will be installed at Grant at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 3. She graduated from Northwestern College in Orange City and is a seminary student at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

Grace grew up in St. Benedict, Iowa, a town outside of Algona, Iowa, with a population of 30, or approximately a fifth of the population of Brunsville.

"I am so excited about the possibility of working with you all and hope to meet you all soon!" she says.

Akron's Cafe

HOURS

OPEN Mondays: - 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Closed

Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat.: 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Breakfast Served 6:00 a.m. - Noon
Lunch: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Breakfast Only

225 Reed St., Akron, IA
712-568-6300



AKRON'S CAFE

In Memory of ...

Verna Horsley, who passed away on August 5.
She is sister to Gisella Dittman and Doris Taylor.

Lois Willer, who passed away on August 16.

In Our Prayers

Judy Bowman
Donna Erickson
Denny Henrich
Family and friends of Verna Horsley
Jeanette Jensen
Vivian Johnson
Stan Meyer
Warren Oetken
Tammy Popken
Janice Renken
Joan Renken
Rod Renken
Clark Schmitz
Paul Utesch
Peggy Wilken
Family and friends of Lois Willer

Birthdays

Logan Robbins Sept. 1
Mike Willer Sept. 1
Jackie Schlessner Sept. 1
Nicole Plueger Sept. 2
Stan Korthis Sept. 4
Leonard Schlotfeldt Sept. 4
Sharon Weishaar Sept. 6
Autumn Fuller Sept. 7
Heather Reister Sept. 8
Carson Stark Sept. 8
Kamden Junck Sept. 9
Syler Johnson Sept. 10
Amy Lubben Sept. 11
Olivia Roetman Sept. 11
Verda Marienau Sept. 12
Sandy Borchers Sept. 13
Kandi Lara Sept. 13
Craig Oetken Sept. 15
Ellyson Gabel Sept. 16
Steve Sherrill Sept. 17
Ava Olson Sept. 17
Todd Oetken Sept. 18
Gaylen Tapper Sept. 19
Dylan Taylor Sept. 20
Mitch Taylor Sept. 20
Kelly Plueger Sept. 20
Rick Westhoff Sept. 20
Reno Dickman Sept. 21
Bryan Borchers Sept. 21
Lori Wilken Sept. 22
Jason Marienau Sept. 23
Russ Plueger Sept. 24
Benjamin Weiler Sept. 26
Mike Borchers Sept. 27
Marlyn Renken Sept. 28

Anniversaries

Ken & Donna Taylor Sept. 2
Brett & Brittany Hutton Sept. 12
Kevin & Keri Borchers Sept. 14
Jackie & Jarrett Sherlock Sept. 18
Jason & Katie Lammers Sept. 19
Ryan & Sara Renken Sept. 20
Roger & Sharon Weishaar Sept. 20
Stan & Mary Korthis Sept. 27
Cliff & Verda Koerselman Sept. 28

CITIZEN/HERO OF THE MONTH:

Michelle Jones

Life at the Legion

Legion schedule

Aug. 31 Premium Feed & Grain Customer Appreciation
Sept. 11 Post 724 Membership Supper 7:00
Oct. 2 Legion meeting 7:30 p.m./S.A.L. meeting 7:00
Oct. 8 Pancake breakfast 8:30-1:00
Oct. 14 Euchre 7:00

Mark your calendar for the first pancake breakfast of the season on October 8!

All-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, eggs, milk, orange juice and coffee.

Adults: \$10.00

Children 5-10: \$5.00

Children 4 & under: Free

Euchre will start on October 14 at 7:00.

We will again have Euchre open to anyone who wants to play. Prize money will be awarded each month. Watch for more details next month.

Help Wanted:

Nancy would like to step down as manager of the Legion. If you're interested in this position, please contact Gene Beitelspacher at 712-541-0690.

Courtesy of Nancy Schlichte.

Recipe of the month:

Frozen sweet corn

No blanching — cut off cob

15 cups corn, raw
3/4 cup sugar
2 T. canning salt
5 cups ice water

Mix all together, put into bags and freeze.
When ready to use, cook until done.

Submitted by Jean Waterbury

For the love of Brunsville

- To learn more about Brunsville history and read previous editions of The Blitz, go to brunsvilleiowa.com.
- To learn more about St. Peter Lutheran Church and view old church booklets, go to stpeterbrunsville.com.
- Be sure to follow **The Brunsville Blitz, Brunsville Centennial and Beyond** and **St. Peter Lutheran Church, Brunsville, Iowa** on Facebook.



School days of Brunsville's past

The elementary school is long gone and the kids have long since graduated, but the lessons are for a lifetime.



Building the Brunsville Park

Many hands make light work — but it still took a lot of work to create the beautiful park we still have today.

Share your feedback on updated garbage contract

Brunsville community members, you're invited to provide your feedback on the updated garbage contract. Copies of the survey are available at the Brunsville Post Office or online at [Product Survey Form \(jotform.com\)](https://www.jotform.com).

In search of table

Do you happen to have a table with a pedestal bottom in storage that you're willing to part with? Dan D. of Brunsville is searching for one in decent shape without any cracks. He will use it for an upcoming table top. If you have one, please contact him at 533-6205 or bqmvirus@yahoo.com. Dan is looking forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy coffee and company in Craig

The Craig Coffee Club invites everyone for coffee and company on Saturdays at 9 a.m. in the former Iowa State Bank building.

Cookbooks and free t-shirts available at bank

Stop by Iowa State Bank of Brunsville for a Brunsville Centennial Cookbook or t-shirt. The 388-page cookbooks are only \$10 and the t-shirts are free.

The deadline for submissions is always the 25th the month before publication.



Ukrainian cat arrives in Iowa

Five of the 105 Ukrainian refugees who settled in Sioux County, Iowa, shared their experiences at the Plymouth County Historical Museum on Sunday, August 13. Making a special appearance was Funtik the cat (left), one of the Ukrainian pets who relocated to Sioux County with his family. Two of the refugee families brought their pets to Sioux County and those families were presented with a cash gift from Wet-Nose to help cover pet food costs.

Photo by Susan Willer.

Wet-Nose is in desperate need of volunteers.

Can you walk dogs? Help keep the shelter clean?

If yes, please contact us today



1331 Hawkeye Ave SW, Le Mars
(712)540-5919, aaeyes2011@gmail.com

Access 1950 census records

Are you aware you can access the 1950 Census records online for free? Simply go to www.1950census.archives.gov/search/ to search by location and name. The most recent census year available is 1950 because of a 72-year restriction on access to the records.

Sorry, bugs

If you place a few drops of liquid detergent in the water you use to clean a plant's leaves, it will keep the bugs off, and if they go into the soil at night, they will die.

Bye bye, moths

Trap moths by mixing 1 part molasses with 2 parts white vinegar and placing the mixture in a bright yellow container. Or make a 10 percent solution of molasses in water and hang it from a tree in a quart jar. Use an old-fashioned clamp jar and keep the lid off.

Gross ... but it works

Smearing petroleum jelly around the base of plant stems will make ants and other crawling insects slide right off, protecting your plants.

Source: Who Knew? Why You Should Always Store Eggs Small Side Down and Thousands of Other Tips, Secrets and Quick Fixes to Make Your Life Easier, Your Home Cleaner and Your Food Taste Better—All While Saving Time and Money, Jeanne Bossolina Lubin and Bruce Lubin, 2006.

Quote 'Ems

If we did all the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves. — Thomas Edison

Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm. — Winston Churchill

Too many people let others stand in their way and don't go back for one more try. — Rosabeth Moss Kanter

Opportunity often comes disguised in the form of misfortune, or temporary defeat. — Napoleon Hill

We're still not where we're going but we're still not where we were. — Natasha Josefowitz

All play and no work makes Jack a mere toy. — Maria Edgeworth

Every minute you are angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness. — Anonymous

Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life. — Sophia Loren

If you really want to be happy, nobody can stop you. — Sister Mary Tricky

Have information or photos you'd like to publish?

Contact us.

The deadline to submit information is the 25th the month before publication. We appreciate your submissions and support.

Publish, subscribe, donate

Get published All are welcome to submit information, photos and advertising to be published. The deadline is always the 25th the month before.

Subscribe Email subscriptions are free. Mail subscriptions are \$12/year (minimum). Single copies (for non-subscribers) are \$2 each. Cash or check. We don't send bills or renewal notices.

Donate The Blitz doesn't earn a profit. All donations are applied toward the cost of supplies. We thank all who donate!

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In observance of **LABOR DAY**

Iowa State Bank offices will be closed,
Monday, September 4, 2023

Iowa State Bank

240 Linn Street • Brunsville, Iowa
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