

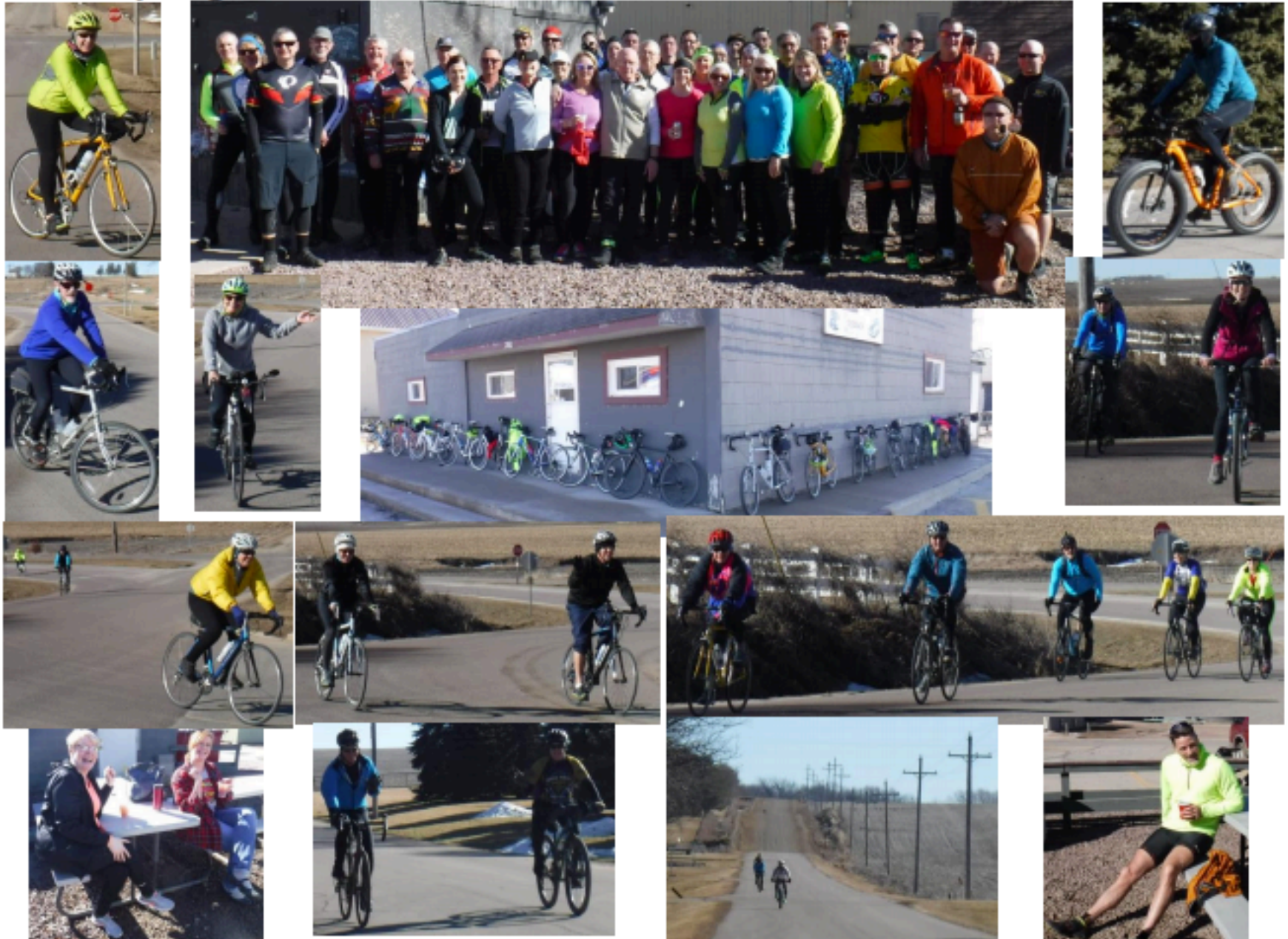
# The Brunsville Blitz

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## Spring-like weather welcomes "Do Not Freeze Ride" cyclists



Avoiding freezing was not a problem during Bike Central's Do Not Freeze Ride Saturday, February 18. The temperature reached 61 degrees and the cyclists who rode from Bike Central in Le Mars to the Corner Café were thrilled.

Fourth-time DNF Ride participant Mary Gloden of Kingsley said, "This is the best weather we've had. It's fun to get out after being cooped up during the winter months." She explained that if the roads had been icy the event would have been referred to as the "Do Not Fall" Ride, but because the weather was so pleasant, it was referred to as the "Damn Nice February" Ride.

Amanda Penning and Donna Rolfes agreed they'd enjoyed a good ride. Penning offers advice for drivers who encounter cyclists on the road: "Don't pass us when another car is coming unless you're having a baby—or buying my birthday present."

Traveling to Brunsville was an extra-special treat for one of the participants because she once lived in town.

Donna (Rathburn) Ball of Dickens, six miles east of Spencer, said for six months in 1976 she lived in the apartment above the Corner Café.

The Buffalo, New York native attended college at Upper Iowa University and landed a job at the Work Activities Center outside Le Mars. She found the apartment rent was reasonable for someone just starting out.

When Le Mars residents learned Ball lived in Brunsville, they would remark, "It's rough out there." But Ball says it wasn't loud above the Corner, even when there were lots of cars.

Ball student taught children with special needs and later became certified in special education.

"I'm excited to see Brunsville again," she said while sitting in the Corner with her husband, Curt. "Anything you can do to promote a small town is good."

SEE DNF RIDE, LAST PAGE