

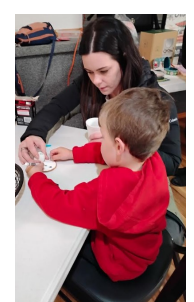
# The Brunsville Blitz

Brunsville, Iowa

Edition 181

January 2026

## Santa appears at December pancake breakfast



The Legion was bustling with festive cheer as Santa Claus paid his traditional yearly visit during the December 14 pancake breakfast. Excited children eagerly shared their Christmas wish lists with Santa, and under the guidance of dedicated volunteers, they crafted beautiful Christmas decorations. The event also featured a silent auction

showcasing an array of enticing items for attendees to bid on, as well as a delightful hot chocolate station. A heartfelt expression of gratitude goes out to all the hard-working volunteers whose efforts made this beloved event such a resounding success.

### Upcoming Legion events

- Jan. 5** Legion meeting, 7:30/S.A.L. meeting, 7:00
- Jan. 10** Euchre
- Jan. 11** Pancake breakfast
- Jan. 12** City council meeting
- Jan. 14** Craig Co-op
- Feb. 2** Legion meeting, 7:30/S.A.L. meeting, 7:00
- Feb. 7** Euchre
- Feb. 8** Pancake breakfast
- Feb. 9** City council meeting
- Feb. 27** Prairie Rose Casino Night

Please contact Nichole Tonner for more information.

### Mayor Dickman bids farewell

As the year comes to an end, so does my term as mayor. I would like to thank the city council and the community of Brunsville for making my time as mayor enjoyable. It has been a privilege to serve for the past 16 years.

I would like to encourage the citizens and surrounding community to help our new mayor Chad as much as you have for me. I love this community and will continue to help make it a place to be proud of.

Sincerely,  
Reno

### Be in the know!

#### Attend the next council meeting

The next Brunsville City Council meeting will be held at the Legion on January 12 at 5:15. p.m.

### Please welcome the newcomers

Let's all extend a warm welcome to Chad Cody, new mayor of Brunsville, and Nichole Tonner, new council member.

## *In Memory of ...*

Mary Marsh, who passed away on December 10.  
Charles Kruse, who passed away on December 17.

## *In Our Prayers*

Janiece Bohlke  
Donna Erickson  
Vernon Harrington  
Suzanne Heeren  
Kelly Hughes  
Bev Hultquist  
Jim Jackson  
Jeanette Jensen  
Vivian Johnson  
Family & friends of Charles Kruse  
Family & friends of Mary Marsh  
Stan Meyer  
Dan Morton  
Warren Oetken  
Deb (Albright) Pick  
Janice Plueger  
Bill Renken  
Janice Renken  
Joan Renken  
Rod Renken  
Clark Schmitz  
Kim Sherlock  
Sandy Utesch Sievers  
Brooklyn Smit  
Max Utesch — in Happy Siesta  
Lois Varenhorst  
Peggy Wilken

## *Birthdays*

Bill Renken Jan. 1  
Crystal Lubben Jan. 2  
Noah Niehus Jan. 5  
Judy Lubben Jan. 7  
Knox Wendt Jan. 8  
Susan (Dickman) Braun Jan. 8  
Jacob Weiler Jan. 8  
Penny Angerman Recker Jan. 9  
Henrik, James & Thomas Hasselquist Jan. 9  
Myiesha Suzuki Jan. 9  
Nick Dickman Jan. 10  
Chris Bruscher Jan. 10  
Carol Schmitz Jan. 11  
Cooper Wendt Jan. 11  
Max Utesch IV Jan. 11  
Molly Carpenter Jan. 12  
Mary Poe Jan. 13  
Raelynn Poe Jan. 13  
Taylor Oetken Jan. 13  
Samuel Kruse Jan. 13  
Landen Olson Jan. 14  
Cheri Rus Jan. 15  
Mercy Suzuki Jan. 15  
Jim Bolton Jan. 17  
Nichole Tonner Jan. 18  
Madison Weiler Jan. 20



## *Congratulations*

**Bennet Lee** was born on November 5 to Keaton and Alaina Korseman. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19 inches long. His grandparents are Keith and Kristin Koerselman and Paul and Peggy Kessenich. His great-grandparents are Gene and Linda Beitelspacher, Verda Koerselman and John and Lois Kessenich.

### **CITIZENS OF THE MONTH:**

**Steve Dickman and Kathy Renken,  
whose tenure on city council  
concludes at the end of 2025**

Thank you both for your exceptional representation of Brunsville and for your tireless work on the council. Your dedication has made a significant impact, and your contributions will be remembered.

### **Welcome aboard**

The Brunsville Coffee Club welcomes new members  
**Verda Marienau and Jacque Utesch.**

### **Don't miss out!**

*Remember to mark your calendar  
with events found in each Blitz.*



Kacey Jo Schlichte Jan. 24  
Joyce Willer Jan. 25  
Peggy Wilken Jan. 25  
Tammy Kauzlarich Jan. 25  
Dwayne Jongma Jan. 25  
Kinsley Janke Jan. 25  
Tina Renken Jan. 26  
Mallory & Lillian Beitelspacher Jan. 26  
Alisha Jones Jan. 27  
Edward Mosterd Jan. 27  
Karen Carlsen Jan. 27  
Michelle Plueger Jan. 28  
Elijah Brooks Jan. 29

## *Anniversaries*

Steve & Peggy Dickman Jan. 8  
Ben & Lani Korthis Jan. 20  
Greg & Jeanne Lammers Jan. 31

## **Laugh break**

At the clothing store where I work, I make it a point of pride to give customers my unvarnished opinion. One day, when a man emerged from the fitting room, I took one look at him and shook my head. "No, no," I said. "Those jeans look terrible on you. I'll go get you another pair." As I walked away, I heard him mumble, "I was trying on the shirt."

*Sarah Haig submitted the above joke for "@Work" in the April 2009 edition of Reader's Digest. It appeared on page 61.*

## Snowmobilers bundle up for annual run



Koerselman's annual snowmobile run took place on November 30. Participants departed from Keith and Kristin Koerselman's house, stopped at the Corner in Brunsville, then returned to the Koerselman's. Participants included Aaron Hartman of Big Springs, South Dakota; Keaton Koerselman of America Township; Kaleb

Koerselman; Mason Horkey of East Orange Township; Brandon Neyens of Neptune, Iowa; Nathan Weber of Struble; Jim Kellen of Nassan Township; Matt Nelson of Pery Township, South Dakota; and "King Kernel," the self-proclaimed mayor of twin cities Struble and Craig. Submitted by Kristin Koerselman.

## Blasts from Brunsville's past



Left: Outgoing Mayor Steve "Reno" Dickman and his wife Peggy were two of many Brunsville Centennial parade participants in June of 2011. This photo captures them at the corner of Oak and Linn Streets.

Right: The late Ray Schlotfeldt, the late Al Willer and the late Ray Lubben gather inside the old city hall building for a meeting. In the background are the old voting booths to the left, previous Christmas decorations hanging on the wall, the old wood stove behind Al and a list of softball sponsors to the right.



### Interested in submitting info or photos?

The deadline is the 25th the month before publication. Thank you for your submissions, donations and support.

### Thank you to our Clear the Shelter event sponsors!

Interested in volunteering, adopting or donating? Please contact us today!



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## Recipe of the month: Chicken Caliente

Butter, for greasing casserole  
2 1/2 c. lg. diced, cooked chicken  
3 c. cooked rice or potato  
1 c. diced celery  
1 c. diced bell pepper (any color)  
1 c. diced onion  
1/2 c. mayonnaise  
1/2 c. sour cream  
2 T. fresh squeezed lemon juice  
1 T. chili powder  
2 tsp. fine salt  
1/2 tsp. garlic powder  
1/2 tsp. hot sauce (more to taste)  
3 tomatoes, cut into wedges  
1 bunch fresh dill  
1 1/2 c. Fritos, crushed

Preheat oven to 350°. Butter a 2-quart casserole dish. Sauté onions, celery and bell pepper to soft, or to your liking. Cool a little. In a large bowl, combine all the ingredients, except the chips, and mix well. Transfer the mixture to the buttered dish, top with the chips and bake until hot and bubbling, about 30 to 35 minutes. Serve immediately. Yield: 6 servings.

The above recipe was submitted by Nancy Harms and can be found on page 266 of the Brunsville Centennial Cookbook that was published in 2010. Centennial cookbooks hold 388 pages of delicious recipes and are available for \$10 at Iowa State Bank in Brunsville.

### All are welcome to "break into the bank"

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

Thank you for your donations and support of The Brunsville Blitz!

## How you can kill your community

In *13 Ways to Kill Your Community*, authors Doug Griffiths and Kelly Clemmer take a fresh approach to community improvement by highlighting common mistakes that hinder progress. Despite knowing how to enhance their communities, many people unknowingly engage in behaviors that hinder growth. This disconnect stems from a failure to recognize the link between present choices and long-term goals, ultimately sabotaging the community's future. Below are the 13 detrimental actions that can harm a community, emphasizing the importance of citizen participation in addressing these issues. Remember, money alone cannot solve these problems; the community must first commit to rectifying them.

**1. Don't have quality water** – Brunsville has successfully improved its water quality over the years.

**2. Don't attract business** – Our community is fortunate to have a variety of businesses that deserve our support. Please consider patronizing them whenever possible.

**3. Ignore your youth** – Are you encouraging the youth to leave the area once they graduate or are you advertising reasons for them to stay? Consider replacing "youth" with "future" in your statements; it could alter your outlook – and theirs.

**4. Deceive yourself about your real needs or values** – Note our community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Start with minor issues that can be easily fixed. Success often leads to more success.

**5. Shop elsewhere** – Typically, every dollar spent in a community will circulate through six more hands before leaving. Remember, if a business leaves, the owners, employees and the customers also leave. That means a decline in revenue for our community.

**6. Don't paint** – Present the community as successful and vibrant. No one wants to visit or reside in a run-down town.

**7. Don't cooperate** – The times community members have united are the highlights of this town. It's amazing what we can accomplish together. Plus, we build connections with our neighbors.

**8. Live in the past** – Instead, learn from it. Brunsville has had fires and floods, robberies and tragic accidents. Let's leave those challenges in the past.

**9. Ignore your seniors** – Our seniors have valuable knowledge and experience to offer. They understand the history of the area and what strategies have been successful. Plus, they're not consumed by a demanding full-time job.

**10. Reject everything new** – Don't feel the pressure to constantly come up with original concepts; look to successful communities for inspiration.

**11. Ignore outsiders** – Those who choose to be a part of our community likely have its best interests at heart.

**12. Become complacent** – If we relax for too long, we risk losing our drive and determination, which are challenging to recover. Meanwhile, other communities continue to progress ahead of us.

**13. Don't take responsibility** – Responsibility shouldn't be passed around like a hot potato; in the end, no one takes responsibility and no progress is made.

Do any of these behaviors sound familiar to you? Have you witnessed others taking a different approach? We can learn from these examples, whether they pertain to ourselves or other members of our community.

## Quote 'Ems

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called *Opportunity* and its first chapter is *New Year's Day*. — Edith Lovejoy Pierce

You can get excited about the future. The past won't mind. — Hillary Depiano

Age is not the enemy. Stagnation is the enemy. Complacency is the enemy. — Twyla Tharp

If you're brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello. — Paulo Coelho

I listen to everyone. Then I do what I want. — Diane von Furstenberg

Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going. — Sam Levenson

Some people feel confusion and uncertainty and do nothing. Don't do nothing. — Alex Dimitrov

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. — Nelson Mandela

I'd rather regret the risks that didn't work out than the chances I didn't take at all. — Simone Biles

When you're young, you're encouraged to try new things. At a certain age, nobody says that to you anymore. If you're lucky enough to be alive, why not say yes to all of it at any age? — Mary Steenburgen

Last year told you what you needed to know. Now it's go time. — Richie Norton

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to. — Bill Vaughan

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