

RECORDS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JAN. 20
• Coffee with Randy — 7 a.m., Occasions
• Chair Exercise — 10-30 a.m., Occasions
• 500, Pool — 1 p.m., Occasions
• “Colonial Craft” Tin Smithing — 2 p.m., Spencer Public Library. Space limited — call 712-580-7290 for more information
• Ambassadors visit Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School for new addition — 9:30 a.m. 1311 E. 18th St., Spencer

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21
• Tai Chi — 10:30 a.m., Occasions
• Dig In & Discover — 11:45 a.m., Occasions
• Ponytail Canasta, Pool — 1 p.m., Occasions

THURSDAY, JAN. 22
• Chair Exercise — 10:30 a.m. Occasions, Spencer
• 500/Pinochle/Bingo/Pool/Snooker — 1 p.m. Occasions, Spencer
• Free Community Meal — 5-6:30 p.m. The Outreach
• Spencer Table Tennis Club — 6:15-8:15 p.m. Spencer SDA Church Fellowship Hall
• Spencer Girls Wrestling Club: Grades 3-8 — 6:30-7:30 p.m. SMS Wrestling Room

FRIDAY, JAN. 23
• Coffee Klatch — 9 a.m., Occasions, Spencer
• Spencer Chamber Lunch and Learn “AI Policy & Ethical Guidelines” — 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Clay County Fair and Events Center, registration required
• Pool/Snooker — 1 p.m., Occasions
• Mingo Music Bingo — 6-8 p.m., Occasions

MONDAY, JAN. 26
• Mahjong, Bingo, Cards, Pool — 1 p.m., Occasions
• Geri-Fit Senior Chair Fitness — 1 p.m., Spencer Public Library, call 712-580-7290
• LifeServe Blood Center Blood Drive — 2-6 p.m., 101 Second St., Peterson, Appointments at 800-287-4903 or lifeservebloodcenter.org

\$1.75M challenge issued to create new demand for corn products

Do you have an innovative idea for the use of corn?

Radicle Growth announced the launch of The Radicle Corn Challenge sponsored by U.S. Corn Farmers. It is a global call for startups developing technologies that create new, durable demand for corn through innovative products, materials and value chains.

The challenge will invest a total of \$1.75 million in selected companies and is supported by 12 leading U.S. corn grower organizations: Colorado Corn Promotion Council, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, Illinois Corn Marketing Board, Iowa Corn Promotion Board, Kansas Corn Commission, Kentucky Corn Promotion Council, Missouri Corn Merchandising Council, National Corn Growers Association, Nebraska Corn Board, Ohio Corn Marketing Program, South Dakota Corn Utilization Council and Tennessee Corn Promotion Board.

A release stated: “Corn farmers are highly efficient at producing

corn, but long-term profitability increasingly depends on expanding how corn is used beyond traditional markets. The Radicle Corn Challenge is designed to support startups that are building new uses for corn by helping unlock additional sources of demand across industrial, material, chemical and fuel applications.”

“Corn has long been a foundational feedstock for food, feed and fuel,” said Kirk Haney, managing partner at Radicle Growth. “The next opportunity is expanding how corn is used across new products and markets. Through the Radicle Corn Challenge, we’re looking to support companies that can translate innovation into real-world demand.”

The Challenge seeks applications from startups and growth companies around the world working on technologies that convert corn and corn-derived streams — such as sugar (glucose), ethanol, and other byproducts — into higher-value products. Areas of interest

include bioplastics and materials, corn- and ethanol-derived chemicals, valorization of corn by-products, and emerging fuel pathways, including marine fuels and sustainable aviation fuel.

The Radicle Corn Challenge Sponsored by U.S. Corn Farmers will invest \$1.75 million across the winning startups and growth companies. In addition to capital, selected companies will benefit from Radicle’s commercialization expertise, scientific and technical diligence, and connections across the corn and broader bioeconomy ecosystem.

Investment decisions will be made following a comprehensive due diligence process, with selected winners announced at the Bio Innovations North America conference on Sept. 9 in Omaha, Nebraska.

For more information about The Radicle Corn Challenge sponsored by U.S. Corn Farmers, and to apply, visit radicle.vc/radicle-corn-challenge.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES BY READING

Spencer Public Library is hosting a Beat the Blues Winter Reading Challenge Jan. 19 through Feb. 28. You can join through Beanstack online or get a paper copy at the library. The more you read, the more chances you have at winning a prize drawing! The activity is free to the public. Call 712-580-7290 for more information.

HOPE & HEALING SUPPORT GROUP MEETS

The Hope & Healing Support Group meets every fourth Tuesday of the month starting Jan. 27. It is 7-9 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1900 N. Grand Ave., in Spencer. It is open to all adults affected by mental health challenges personally or through family, and those navigating the emotional effects of recovery. It is hosted by NAMI Northwest Iowa and Project Recovery Iowa. For more information, contact Ayaan Thomas at 712-339-4424 or nwoutreach@namiowa.org.

BLOOD DRIVES IN SPENCER, PETERSON

LifeServe Blood Center is having a blood drive in Peterson Monday, Jan. 26, from 2-6 p.m. at 101 Second St. As a token of the organization’s appreciation, anyone who makes a donation at a LifeServe Blood Center donor center or mobile blood drive during the month of January will be entered to win a Peloton exercise bike or an under-desk walking pad. For more information, call 800-287-4903 or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org.

FUNERAL NOTICES

JOYCE EILEEN LEMKE

Joyce Eileen Lemke, 74, of Spencer, passed away Thursday Jan. 15, 2026. Service information was pending from Warner Funeral Home.

JERRY FREDRICK GROENEWOLD

Jerry Fredrick Groenewold, of Spencer, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, at Warner Funeral Home in Spencer. There will be a private family burial preceding the memorial.

KAREN ANN CROSS

Karen Ann Cross, 82, of Spencer, passed away Saturday Jan. 10, 2026. Visitation is Monday, Jan. 19, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at Warner Funeral Home in Spencer. A celebration of life service will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

NORMA JEANNE NAGEL

Norma Jeanne Nagel, 93, of Peterson, passed away Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026. A memorial service will be Friday, Jan. 23, at 10 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Peterson. Visitation will be 9-10 a.m. at the church. Warner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

BIRTH

SOPHIA GRACE SCOTT

Daniel and Katie Scott of Spencer are the parents of a daughter, Sophia Grace Scott, born on Jan. 14, 2026, at the Spencer Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

Grandparents are Steve and Linda Kladstrup of Spencer, Lynn and Donsa Scott, and Liz Scott of Winterset.

Sophia is welcomed home by sisters Callie and Olivia.

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