



Russell Newsletter

January 2025

Would you like us to email you your newsletter? As long as you're not a Russell Boxholder we can email you the Russell Newsletter.

Email your request to: russellnews@fibmn.com

NOTICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
TO ENSURE YOUR AD GETS IN THE PAPER PLEASE SEND TO THE ABOVE EMAIL BY THE FRIDAY BEFORE NEWSLETTER WEEK.

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HAS DONATED MONEY TO THE RUSSELL NEWSLETTER LATELY! YOUR DONATIONS KEEP THIS NEWSLETTER GOING!

Russell Newsletter,
PO Box 360,
Russell, MN 56169.

Russell Bar & Grill
Open Monday thru Saturday
at 11:00 a.m.
If you would like to order
take out, call 507-823-9766

Kitchen Help Wanted!
Part-time cooks that are willing to
work days, nights and weekends. Stop
in to the RBG and pick up an appli-
cation or call Shelly at 507-530-9220
if interested!



Valentine's Day Special
at the
Russell Bar & Grill
Saturday, February 14th
Come in for a sweetheart of a
deal! Watch Facebook and fliers
around town for more details
soon to come!

Join Grace First Parish for church every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School to follow church



Blood Mobile
Monday, January 26th from 1:00 - 6:30 P.M.
At the Russell Community Center



Winners of the Russell Christmas Light Contest



1st Place:
Steve & Michelle Schou-
viller won \$100 donated
by Lyon Lincoln Electric!



2nd Place: Tim Pries won
\$50 donated by Nick Spoel-
stra Construction!



3rd Place: Greg and Lori
Grant won \$25 donated
by Hilary Buchert!



To Our Cherished Family, Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for filling our wedding day with so much love, laughter and unforgettable memories! Your Presence, well wishes, and generous gifts mean the world to us as we start our new life together. We are so blessed to have shared this special moment with all of you.

With Love and Light,
Jeff and Liz Reisdorfer



The City of Russell is offering for sale 3
buildable lots in
Bulldog Addition. A great place to build
some town homes or
apartments! Please contact the
City office at 507-823-4366 for
more information.

City of Russell Clerk

Office Hours:

Monday 6:30 am-2:00 pm
Tuesday: 11:00 am-5:30 pm
Wednesday: 6:30 am-2:00 pm
Thursday: 6:30 am-2:00 pm
Friday: 6:30 am-2:00 pm

Hours are subject to change due
to appointments.

If you have any questions, please leave a message at 823-4366.

More ways to pay!

You can now pay your utility bill online from our website if you wish to! For more information go to our website russellmn.gov or contact Laurie at the city office.

Russell City Council

Special meeting December 22, 2025

The Russell City Council held a special meeting on Monday December 22nd in the City Hall meeting room at 5:30 pm. Present at the meeting were Mayor Hilary Buchert, Council members Matt Kerkaert, Joel VanDamme, and Dawn Garbe, Laurie Millner Clerk, Shelly Sanow, RBG.

Mayor Hilary Buchert called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

M/S/C Dawn Garbe / Matt Kerkaert to open the public hearing on the question of whether the City should continue to operate a municipal liquor store.

M/S/C Joel VanDamme/ Dawn Garbe to close the public hearing.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Joel VanDamme to approve the agenda

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Joel VanDamme to approve an Allonge to Temporary General Obligation utility revenue note series 2023B due January 1, 2026 extending the maturity date to April 1, 2026.

M/S/C Joel VanDamme / Dawn Garbe to approve resolution 2025-11 a resolution accepting the completion of Russell Infrastructure Improvements project.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Joel VanDamme to approve the Certificate of Final approval for the Russell Infrastructure improvements project.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Joel VanDamme to approve a 59.8% levy for 2026.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Dawn Garbe to adjourn.

Laurie Millner
City Clerk

ANNUAL DOG TAGS

Per city code dog licenses are required for all dogs in City limits. Dog tags will be available in the City office beginning April 1st during business hours. Licenses are \$10.00 per dog until May 31st.

Dog licenses are required annually and expire on the last day of May. Any license for a dog present within the City, which is not purchased on or before the last day of May, shall be subject to an additional surcharge of \$25.00.

The City keeps a record of dog tags in the office. If you have had a license in the past and no longer have a dog, please call the office at 507-823-4366.

The Russell City council held their regular meeting on Tuesday December 9th at 5:30 pm in the City Hall meeting room. Present were Mayor Hilary Buchert, Council members, Matt Kerkaert, Glen Grant and Dawn Garbe. Also present were Jason Alberts, Public works, Laurie Millner, Clerk, by phone, Shelly Sanow, RBG, Deputy Lauwagie, Lyon Co Sheriff's office.

Mayor Buchert called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Matt Kerkaert to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S/C Dawn Garbe / Matt Kerkaert to approve the minutes from the November 5th regular meeting.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Matt Kerkaert to approve the minutes from the November 25th Truth in Taxation meeting.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert/ Dawn Garbe to accept the SCDP grant for \$600,000 for phase two of the infrastructure project.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Dawn Garbe to not pay the bill from Balaton ambulance. We are in their service area we do not need to pay them to respond and transport.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Hilary Buchert to approve the MN paid leave and ESST personnel policy as presented.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Matt Kerkaert to approve the Voter operations, technology and election resources (VOTER) account agreement.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert/ Dawn Garbe to approve the bills as presented.

The next regular meeting will be January 13th in the City Hall meeting room beginning at 5:30 pm.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Dawn Garbe to adjourn the meeting.

Laurie Millner

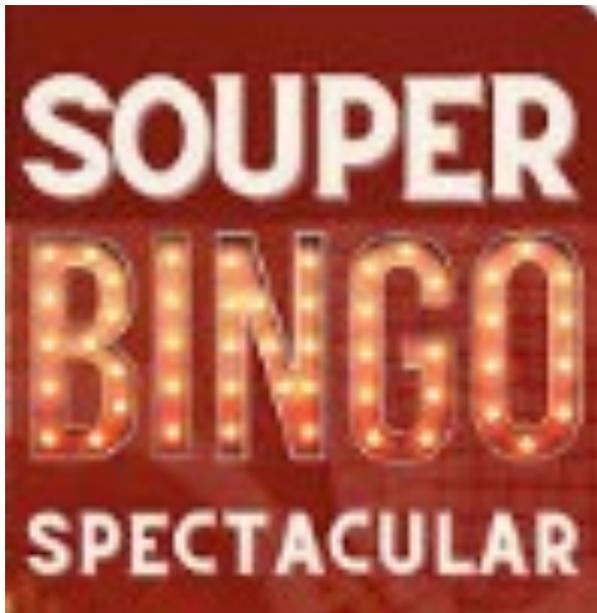
City Clerk

CITY OF RUSSELL FEES and PERMITS	As of 1/13/26
FIRE CALL	\$ 1,000.00 Plus equipment
1st RESPONDERS CALL	\$ 250.00
DOG LICENSE	\$ 10.00
Surcharge if purchased after May 31	\$ 25.00
ATV PERMIT	\$ 30.00 1st year
	\$ 20.00 2nd year
	\$ 10.00 3rd year
BUILDING PERMIT	\$ 50.00 Under \$5000
	\$ 100.00 Over \$5000
AFTER THE FACT FEE	\$ 250.00
SPECIAL USE PERMIT	\$ 250.00
MOWING	\$ 75.00 Per hour
NSF	\$ 30.00
PINIC TABLE RENTALS	\$ 150.00 Deposit per table
RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT	\$ 15.00

Minnesota Memories January 2026....jeopardy and more

We are habitual viewers of the TV Quiz Show "Jeopardy". I pit my memory/knowledge (to include the Minnesota part) against the program's questions and contestants. My performance is mediocre at best and I am frequently humbled by the questions and the contestants' eclectic knowledge (eclectic is one of those highfalutin words which would be a good Jeopardy question itself). As you may have surmised I do relatively well in subjects dealing with farming, animals, military history and word definitions. That said, even then much of the time I am unable match the contestants' speed of recall and find myself telling the TV that the contestant's response is correct/incorrect a split second too late. When it comes to classical music and recent music (rapping is music?) and music groups I am at a near complete loss (in my opinion – except for a few minor exceptions, late 1950s early 1960s music was the last era of good popular music). A Jeopardy high point for me is when in the Final Jeopardy portion of the program I get the answer right and none of the contestants do (such is rare, but it does occur)...I high five myself and pour a glass of wine on those occasions. Moving on, it is pretty quiet here in south central Pennsylvania, the weather is generally mild and we have no snow on the ground as I write this (14 Jan). Minnesota is much on the news and we follow developments with interest...while attending the University, we lived in south Minneapolis where it appears some/much of the turbulence is being experienced. All that makes this old fellow yearn for the days that when we talked about ice we were concerned if it was thick enough to support ice fishing houses. In closing, we hope the New Year is treating you and yours well and we remind you it is not too early to be selecting those trees you want to plant this spring. Be careful out there and may all of your ice be under your fish house. Marland J. Burckhardt ©

SOUPER BINGO!

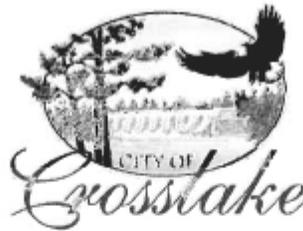


**STAY WARM ON A COLD
FEBRUARY DAY WITH
RUSSELL BANDWAGON
DAYS SOUPER BINGO!
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY
20TH**

**SERVING SOUP
STARTING AT 5:30 WITH
A FREE WILL DONATION
TOWARDS BANDWAGON
DAYS 2026.**

**FIRST BINGO GAME
STARTS AT 6:30
\$600 JACKPOT IN 55
NUMBERS OR LESS!**

Jackson M. Purfeerst
Mayor
815-904-9665
jpurfeerst@cityofcrosslake.org



City Hall: 218-692-2688
13888 Daggett Bay Rd
Crosslake, Minnesota 56442
www.cityofcrosslake.org

Minnesota Mayors

Representing Cities Across the State of Minnesota

December 22nd, 2025

Dear Minnesota State Representatives, Senators, & Governor Walz,

As mayors representing cities of every size across the State of Minnesota, we are on the front lines of delivering essential services, maintaining public safety, and ensuring that our communities remain places where families and businesses can thrive. It is from this position of direct responsibility that we write to express **deep concern**—and growing frustration—about the fiscal direction of the state and its increasing impact on our cities and the residents we serve.

Minnesotans watched an historic \$18 billion surplus disappear in a single biennium, only to now face an updated projected \$2.9 billion–\$3 billion deficit in the 2028–29 biennium.¹ As mayors, we see firsthand how these decisions ripple outward. Fraud, unchecked spending, and inconsistent fiscal management in St. Paul have trickled down to our cities—reducing our capacity to plan responsibly, maintain infrastructure, hire and retain employees, and sustain core services without overburdening local taxpayers.

The recent Minnesota Chamber of Commerce report shows our state slipping in national economic rankings,² and these statewide indicators match what we observe at the local level. Between 2019 and 2024, Minnesota ranked:^{2,3,4}

- **33rd in GDP Growth**
- **39th in Job Growth**
- **40th in Labor Force Growth**
- **33rd in Per-Capita Income Growth**
- **46th in Median Household Income Growth**
- **44th in Tech Job Growth**
- **44th in Overall Tax Competitiveness**
- **Net out-migration of nearly 48,000 residents from 2020–2024**^{3,4}

These are not abstractions—they represent the real pressures faced by our cities: **workforce shortages, slowed business investment, rising operational and construction costs, and families choosing to leave Minnesota altogether.**

On top of these economic realities, many Minnesota cities are confronting significant property tax levy pressures. Preliminary statewide data, **on average**, for 2026 shows cities may raise levies by up to **8.7%**, with counties up to **8.1%**.³ These increases are not simply local decisions; they stem directly from state policies, mandates, and cost shifts that leave cities with no choice but to pass these burdens onto homeowners and businesses.

As mayors, we are committed to responsible budgeting, fiscal restraint, and delivering high-quality local services. Yet there is a growing disconnect between state-level fiscal decisions and the strain they place on the cities we lead. **When the state expands programs or shifts responsibilities without stable funding, it is our residents—families, seniors, businesses, and workers—who ultimately bear the cost.**

Cities are the level of government closest to the people, responding when snowplows don't arrive, when streetlights or water mains fail, when businesses need permitting help, or when seniors seek support. Every unfunded mandate or cost shift forces us into difficult choices: raise taxes, cut services, delay infrastructure, or stretch thin city staff even further. This strain now extends to the very core of community safety—our police officers and firefighters. They are the frontline protection for our residents, yet rising levies and state-imposed costs are making it increasingly difficult for cities to invest in the additional public safety staff our communities genuinely need to stay safe.

Minnesotans expect the following from their elected leaders—at every level:

- **Responsible and transparent state budgeting**
- **A regulatory and tax environment that supports jobs and economic growth**
- **Protection for taxpayers—especially those on fixed incomes**
- **Stability and predictability for local governments**
- **Long-term fiscal sustainability that does not rely on one-time windfalls**

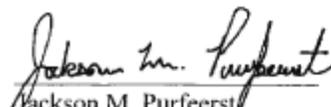
When these expectations go unmet, cities feel the consequences first—and our residents feel them the most.

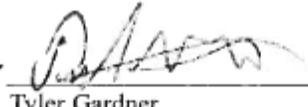
We extend our sincere appreciation to the legislators who continue to advocate for fiscal discipline, pro-growth policies, and local government stability. Your work does not go unnoticed.

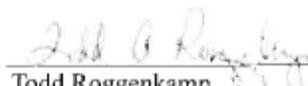
At the same time, we must emphasize:

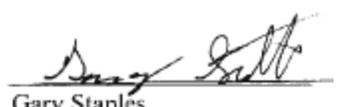
Our residents deserve better than deficits, economic decline, and policies that push families and businesses away. **We, as mayors, can only support our cities for so long before the heavy hand of state mandates and financial pressure demands more than our communities can provide.** Although state statute requires a balanced budget, relying on one-time surplus dollars to support ongoing commitments has created structural strain—reducing the state's ability to sustain existing programs or invest in new ones in the years to come. **Our state owes it to our citizens to practice responsible fiscal management and to stop taxing our families, seniors, and businesses out of Minnesota.** We urge the Legislature to course-correct and to remember that every dollar you manage belongs not to the Capitol, but to the people of Minnesota.

Respectfully,
The Undersigned Mayors of Minnesota


Jackson M. Purfeerst
Mayor of Crosslake

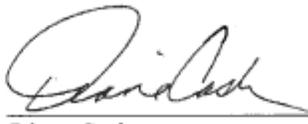

Tyler Gardner
Mayor of Pequot Lakes


Todd Roggenkamp
Mayor of Breezy Point

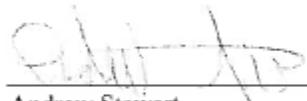

Gary Staples
Mayor of Fifty Lakes

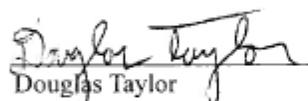

Tracy Jones
Mayor of Emily


Kevin Larson
Mayor of Manhattan Beach

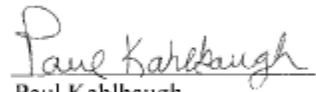

Diane Cash
Mayor of Crosby

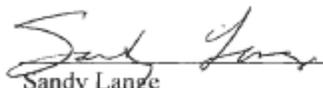

Tamara Hansen
Mayor of Pine River

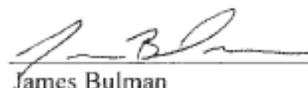

Andrew Stewart
Mayor of Lake Shore


Douglas Taylor
Mayor of Backus


Jennifer Carnahan
Mayor of Nisswa

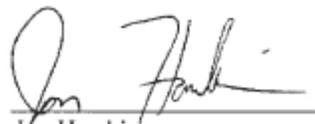

Paul Kahlbaugh
Mayor of Lengby


Sandy Lange
Mayor of Swanville

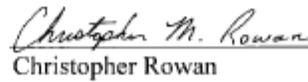

James Bulman
Mayor of Montevideo

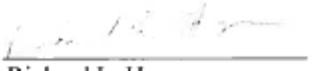

James Hemmesch
Mayor of Richmond


Jimmie-John King
Mayor of Stewartville


Jon Hawkinson
Mayor of Olivia


Hilary Buchert
Mayor of Russell


Christopher M. Rowan
Mayor of Watkins


Richard L. Hagen
Mayor of Hanley Falls



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jordan Stearns
Lakeland PBS
218-333-3027
jstearns@lptv.org

Lakeland PBS to Premiere "The Last Stop": A Journey into Minnesota's Vanishing Railroad Heritage

BEMIDJI, MN – Lakeland PBS is proud to announce the premiere of its latest original documentary, "**The Last Stop: Railroad Depots of Minnesota**" a poignant exploration of the railroad depots that once served as the lifeblood of Minnesota's small towns. Produced by Lakeland PBS's own Randy Cadwell, the film goes beyond architecture to tell a deeply personal story of community, connection, and the enduring legacy of the rails.

For Producer Randy Cadwell, this project was a labor of love rooted in his own history. Growing up as the son of a Depot Agent, Cadwell spent his childhood witnessing firsthand the vital role these hubs played in the daily lives of his neighbors. His lifelong appreciation for the railroad was reignited after discovering the book *Shadows of Time: Minnesota's Surviving Railroad Depots* by Bill Schrankler, who is featured in the film, which inspired him to traverse the state and document the remaining structures that shaped our region.

"I grew up knowing exactly what these depots meant to their communities—they were the windows to the rest of the world," says Cadwell. "With this film, I wanted to honor that history while celebrating the organizations and towns that recognize their value today."

Community Early Screening Event: In celebration of the film's upcoming release, Lakeland PBS invites the public to a special early screening at a location that perfectly embodies the documentary's message.

Join us on **Friday, January 23rd at 5:00 PM at the Little Falls Chamber of Commerce**, housed in the beautifully preserved **Historic Little Falls Depot**. Attendees will have the unique opportunity to view the documentary inside one of the very landmarks featured in the film and participate in a brief Q&A session.

Broadcast and Streaming Information "The Last Stop" will officially premiere on **Lakeland PBS on Thursday, January 29th at 7:00 PM, with a re-airing on Saturday, January 31st at 7:00 PM.** Viewers can also watch the documentary on-demand for free starting January 29th via the **PBS App**, which is available on most smart TVs and mobile devices.

Event Details:

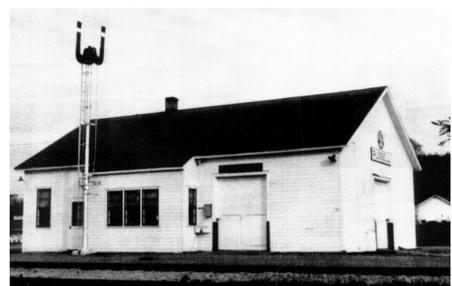


- **What:** Early Screening of "The Last Stop"
- **When:** Friday, January 23rd at 5:00 PM
- **Where:** Little Falls Chamber of Commerce (606 1st St SE, Little Falls, MN)
- **Admission:** Free and open to the public
- **RSVP:** Seats are limited. 218-333-3027 or jstearns@lptv.org

About Lakeland PBS

Lakeland PBS is the only local public television station serving the citizens of north and central Minnesota. Operating two full-power digital broadcast stations (KAWE Bemidji and KAWB Brainerd), Lakeland PBS provides vital local news, public affairs programs, and educational content across an estimated 7,500 square miles. The station is determined to continue its mission despite a significant budget shortfall caused by the loss of federal funding.

Lakeland PBS' mission is to educate, inform, and enrich our viewers with the programming we produce right here in northern Minnesota and the nationally available programs we know our members enjoy. Lakeland PBS' vision is to be a valued and trusted source of news, entertainment, and storytelling that connects and uplifts our diverse region. We strive to empower citizens while serving and connecting the diverse communities across our broadcast region.



Randy Cardwell, video producer with Lakeland PBS of Bemidji, also a Russell resident produced an hour documentary about depots and included the city of Russell.



Kristy Joanne Jones, born April 29, 1957, in Tracy, Minnesota, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on December 15, 2025, in Sioux City, Iowa. A Celebration of Life Service will be at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 20, 2025, at Meyer Brothers Colonial Chapel with Reverend Patti Meyer officiating. Abiding by family wishes, cremation will follow. Visitation, with family present will begin at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, prior to the Celebration.

Kristy was born to Edward and Evonne Fuhrmann. She was known for her sharp wit, love of practical jokes, and her extremely loving nature. Kristy had a way of making people feel comfortable and cared for, always going out of her way to ensure everyone around her was happy—and fed. She brought laughter and warmth into everyday moments.

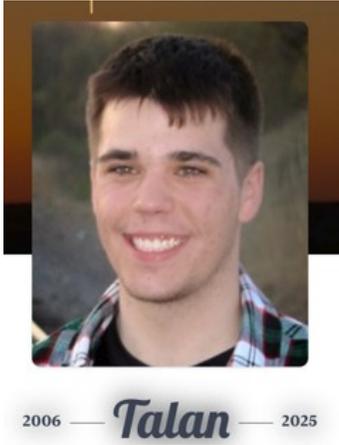
She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Southwest Minnesota State University in Hotel and Restaurant Management, and later met David in Brookings, SD, where she was his boss at Sambo's. They married, and true to form, she's still running the show—even from above.

Throughout her life, Kristy held many jobs, but her greatest passion was helping others. She found deep fulfillment in supporting individuals with disabilities, advocating for them with compassion, patience, and dedication. Alongside her career, she and David pursued another dream by opening BJ's Food and Spirits in 1994 in Watertown, SD. Kris retired in 2022 from Whispering Creek Retirement Center, yet continued to work part-time, finding joy in her role as an ambassador.

Kristy was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Evonne Fuhrmann, and her beloved older sister, Ellen; her mother-in-law, Mary Kerschmann; father-in-law, Jack Jones; brother-in-law; Steven Jones, and her cherished grandparents. She is survived by her loving husband of 43 years, David; her sons Tony, Nick (Sara), and Jordan; her cherished grandchildren Mia, Max, and Ben; her sister Elise (Steve) Williams; sisters in law, Jackie (Tim) Engle, Bettie (Dick) Bond, Tammie (Mark) Hapke, Kim (Ken) Wheeler; and many nieces and nephews.

Above all else, Kristy was an extremely loving woman who gave freely of herself to those around her. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Mitchell House in Sioux City, Iowa, in Kristy's memory.



Talan Bradley Greve

Talan Greve, age 19, of Balaton, Minnesota, died at the Sanford Medical Center in Tracy, Minnesota, as the result of a motor vehicle accident near Balaton. Funeral Services are 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 19, 2025, at Grace Life Church in Marshall, Minnesota. Following a light reception at the church, interment with Military Honors will be in the Lynd City Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 18, 2025, at Grace Life Church in Marshall. The evening will conclude with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. followed by time to share memories. Visitation will then continue one hour prior to his celebration, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. on Friday, also at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the family - to assist in covering final expenses and a future headstone in honor of Talan.

Talan Bradley Greve was born on July 17, 2006, in Marshall, Minnesota, to Brad Greve and Elizabeth Sanow. He grew up primarily in the Marshall and Tracy areas; but Talan most fondly remembered Lake Shetek as home. He attended Tracy High School and graduated with the class of 2025 before entering basic training for the United States Army National Guard. Just this fall, he completed his Advanced Individual Training and was incredibly proud of his service and accomplishments for his country.

Talan was described by many as a good kid with a great personality and no lack of charisma. He had a heart of gold, lit up a room, never complained, and was very kind to others. He also had a great sense of humor and would joke around with family and friends regularly, especially if you had that familiar Minnesota accent. He loved making others laugh.

Talan worked in carpentry off and on while in high school and currently was a coordinator at the Cottonwood Co-op Elevator. He had been active in football and baseball while in junior high and was a proud junior volunteer member of the Garvin Fire Department for two years. His home often became the gathering place of his friends before they embarked on their many adventures.

Talan loved the outdoors primarily duck hunting and fishing. He preferred ice fishing to summer days on the water. He thrived in the camaraderie that the ice shacks provided once the mini cities began to take shape on winter days. He was excited to start working on his Chevy truck after returning from basic training. What Talan loved most of all was enjoying the company of those around him.

Talan died tragically on December 13, 2025, near Balaton, Minnesota. He reached the age of 19 years, 4 months, and 26 days. Blessed be his memory.

He was survived by his mother, Elizabeth Sanow of Lynd; father, Brad Greve (Kim Nelson) of Marshall; sister, Alexis Sanow (Chase Petrik) of Oklahoma City, OK; brother, Landon (Shayla) Ohman of Maricopa, AZ; grandmothers, Brenda Sanow of Lynd, LaVonne "Vonnie" Greve of Hendricks; aunts, uncles, other relatives and many friends.

Talan was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Richard Sanow and Frank Greve; several great-grandparents; and uncles, Shane Sanow and Gerald Holmes.

Russell Community Newsletter
PO Box 360
Russell, Minnesota 56169

Return Service Requested

PRSRT STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
RUSSELL MN
PERMIT NO. 1