

May
2020

Colt Connection

Richland #44 School District & Community Newsletter



Richland #44 Class of 2020 Graduation - May 24



Senior graduation is an exciting day that all students look forward to. We know these last couple months have been unique for many reasons. As we think of our seniors, we are doing everything we can to provide a special event for their graduation ceremony and at the same time, taking into consideration guidelines and safety precautions released by the Governor.

On Sunday, May 24th at 2pm, our seniors will walk across the stage in the Richland #44 gymnasium and receive their diploma. Each student will be allowed to have 4 members from their household attend. The event will be livestreamed for family, friends, and community members to watch this memorable event.

In addition, a Senior Awards night will be held Tuesday, May 19 at 7pm. This will be a virtual event and will also be livestreamed. Please watch for more details as they become available.

A note from our Superintendent>>>



Colt Country,

Thank you for your patience with us as we continue distance learning for the rest of the school year. Parents, you have done an incredible job helping us from home! I know there are many stories (good, bad, or otherwise) from this experience, and we will be so glad to be back at school when allowed. We will plan on and hope for a regular school opening this fall and will continue with that plan until told otherwise.

I want to take this time to thank our teachers and other staff members. We recently celebrated Educator Appreciation Week. Having been an educator for over a decade I have seen firsthand how hard educators work. This experience of COVID-19 has shed light on just how hard our educators work and strive to deliver excellent instruction every day. THANK YOU to our teachers and staff for your commitment to Richland #44 students.

We are still finalizing plans for events for the end of the year and summer. We will share these details as they become available. More than anything, I hope to honor our seniors during their graduation ceremony and wish them well as they leave us. This was not the senior year they anticipated, and we hope for nothing but the best for them as they move into adulthood. While this has been a hard experience, I believe they will be stronger for it.

We will finish the school year strong with our final two weeks of CONNECT #44 and will be communicating plans for wrapping up the school year. As always, please reach out with questions, suggestions, or comments. We are better together, Colt Country!

Warmly,
Dr. Gandhi

RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

SPRING CONCERT

MAY 12th @ 7:00PM

VIRTUAL FACEBOOK CONCERT

facebook.com/Richland44MusicParents

3rd Grade Country Projects >>>

Mrs. Klein's third graders worked and prepared Country Projects this year during the CONNECT #44 experience. Each student researched and wrote a report on a specific country and then shared and presented it during a ZOOM meeting!!

GREAT JOB

Excellent THANK YOU! KUDOS Well Done! YOU ROCK! Great Job!

Sweden's geographical features include scandinavian mountains, plateau over 150,000 lakes.

Capital of Tanzania is Dodoma, Dodoma has a population of 410,956.

Capital of BOTSWANA is Gaborone, there are 208,411 people living in Gaborone.

3rd GRADE

From the Elementary Principal's Desk>>>

Greetings Richland Colts,

As we have spent a few weeks in Connect #44, I hope each one of you is doing well. We miss seeing your children at school every day. Although it is fun to connect virtually, we miss their faces, smiles, and hugs.

The partnership between the home and school is a key component and now more than ever we appreciate your partnership and support during these unprecedented times. Preparing for school closure in such a short amount of time has been, and will continue to be, a team effort from every member of our district. We will continue to do what we can to support your child's learning at home. Most importantly each child needs to know they are loved and going to be okay as we go through this pandemic.

I would like to commend the Richland Elementary Staff who are making the most of this new learning opportunity we have been given. A reminder that K through 4th grade will provide live instruction and intervention to students as needed and 5th and 6th grade teachers have set office hours from 9:30 – 10:30 and 1:30 – 2:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please continue reaching out to teachers when you or your child has a question.

Thank you for your continued support of Richland Elementary, Go Colts!

Elicia Hofmann, Elementary Principal



Counselor Corner>>>

Hello Richland Colts,

I hope you and your families are doing well, staying healthy, and enjoying the beautiful weather we've been having (finally!).

Over the last several weeks, I have created weekly videos for your child on various topics. I have discussed feelings, reviewed the calm-down steps from Second Step, and encouraged random acts of kindness. I hope your families have enjoyed these videos at home! J

Recently I received a large response from the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders wanting to know how they can manage their time better and stay on task during Connect #44. I created a mini lesson and provided these students with a few tips to get them thinking! I highlighted the importance of making a to-do list of their assignments, including Zoom or Google meetings with their teachers, as well as planning for some of their free time to be non-screen related (go outside, read, pick up an old or new hobby, etc), and finding a balance between it all. So far, it sounds like many of them loved the tip of listening to music with headphones to stay focused and ignore distractions while working on their assignments. The second highly requested topic, how to handle stress and anxiety, will be the focus of my next video!

You can locate my school counseling website at <https://counselingwithmsbaker.weebly.com>. On my website under the resources tab, you will find several of my favorite resources for parents. I have linked self-care tips for parents & caregivers at home, social media safety for teens, why kids need mindfulness, and tips for parents on helping their child with worrying/anxiety. These resources will be ever-changing – please let me know if you have a request!

If you need anything at all, I am here for you and your family. I can be reached by phone at (701) 428.1513 (call or text), or by email at laura.baker@k12.nd.us

Take care and stay well,
Laura Baker, School Counselor
Richland Elementary



Rotary Student of the Month>>>

Each month, the high school faculty votes on the Rotary Student of the Month. The Student of the Month is selected from the junior class. The faculty looks at students who excel in many areas including academics, extra-curricular activities, character, and community involvement. Congratulations to the following on being named Student of the Month:



Gunnar Miller
May SOTM

Coach Openings>>>

Richland #44 currently has several coaching positions open.

Varsity Football Coach: Starting August 2020

Junior High Football Coach: Starting August 2020

Varsity Volleyball Coach: Starting August 2020

Assistant Volleyball Coach: Starting August 2020

Questions? Contact our activities director at

Spencer.Timm@k12.nd.us



To apply, visit <https://richland44schooldistrict.weebly.com/job-openings.html>

Speech made a return to Richland #44!>>>

Speech has made a return at Richland 44! We are beyond thrilled that the school district made the decision to get this activity going again. Eight students took the leap to join the team. Before practice began, we gave the students the opportunity to go to a speech meet and watch the categories they were most interested in. It was a great chance to see experienced speakers and to allow them to see how meets are ran. We spent a week picking categories, choosing topics, and reading through pieces. Once the students made their decision we began practicing 2 nights per week. They were all diligent in coming to practices and running through their pieces as many times as we asked them to! We ended up competing at a total of 5 meets this year with the students placing at every meet! Which, for the first year back and a young team, is a huge accomplishment. We were, and continue to be, so proud of their hard work this past season. They surpassed our expectations! While the unexpected and abrupt end to our season was tough, we enjoyed the time we did get to spend with the students and look forward to working with them next season.



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Meet the coaches: Jackie (Lee) Hovind is a 2012 graduate from Richland and Dylan Hovind a 2010 graduate from North Sargent. Both of us were active members of our speech teams - competing mostly in Humorous Duo, Serious Duo and Serious Prose. We know the importance of this activity and the long lasting results it provides in everyday life. From the presentations in high school and college to your first job interview – speech WILL make in impact. Richland was a powerhouse in the speech community for many years and our goal is to bring that back. We have a desire to see our students succeed and thrive in this activity. Any student can join at any point in the season and we encourage students AND parents to ask questions. Feel free to reach out to us at any time. We look forward to many more years of coaching at RHS! Go Colts!

School Board Election >>>

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT #44 LEGAL NOTICE OF THE 2020 ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN **that on June 9, 2020** the Annual School Board Election will be held in the Richland School District #44 for the purpose of electing school board members to fill any expired or vacated terms. **This will be an ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY** election.

Applications were mailed from the office of the Secretary of State. When completing this application please make sure School Election is selected. Persons not receiving an application may obtain one from the Business Manager of Richland Public Schools, the County Auditor's office, or on our website at www.richland.k12.nd.us.

Contact Kendra Dockter with any questions or to obtain an absentee ballot application

Absentee Ballot **APPLICATIONS** can be returned in one of the following ways:

1. USPS mail Richland #44 School District % Kendra Dockter PO BOX 49 Colfax, ND 58018
2. Drop off at the secure drop box located at the high school in Colfax, ND 58018
3. Emailed, with signature, to kendra.l.dockter@k12.nd.us

** It is encouraged that you return the application as soon as possible to allow for turn around of ballot.

Absentee **BALLOTS** can be returned in one of the following ways:

1. USPS mail Richland #44 School District % Kendra Dockter PO BOX 49 Colfax, ND 58018
2. Drop off at the secure drop box located at the high school in Colfax, ND 58018

****BALLOTS must be postmarked no later than June 8 and must be in the drop box by 5pm on June 8.**

ONE MEMBER SHALL BE ELECTED FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

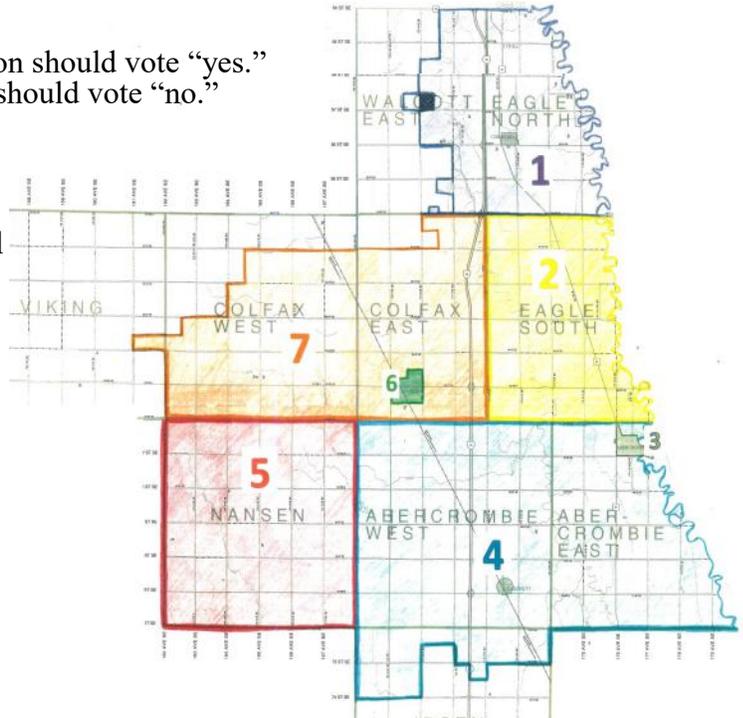
AREA 2 (two) - One member shall be elected from that area in Eagle Township between the Walcott road and Abercrombie Township. **(3-year term)**

AREA 6 (six) - One member shall be elected from the village of Colfax, ND **(3-year term)**

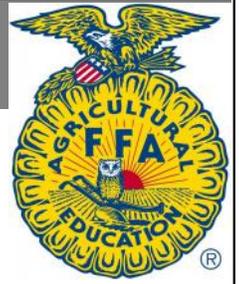
PROPOSITIONS:

Voters desiring to vote in favor of said proposition should vote "yes."
Voters desiring to vote against such proposition should vote "no."

"Shall Richland Public School District No. 44, County of Richland, State of North Dakota, publish a record of the proceedings of the School Board in the official County newspaper of the school district for the succeeding two years?"



FFA News>>>



Congratulations to the Richland 44 FFA members who have completed their American FFA Degree Application. This is the highest honor bestowed by the National FFA and is awarded at the National FFA Convention. Mikayla Lacher, Aaron Meyer, John Haverland and Caleb Boehm.

Congratulations to the Richland 44 FFA members who were District Winners in their FFA Proficiency Award. Applications will be judged mid-May and state winners will be announced the first week of June.

Congratulations to Zachariah Ringdahl and Jett Foley who applied and should easily qualify for their State FFA Degree!

Agricultural Education - **Parker Crooks** Landscape Management - **Kariann Sahl** Poultry Production - **Jett Foley**
Diversified Ag Production - **Bret Hegseth** Turf Grass Management - **Zach Wulfekuhle**
Fruit Production - **Kiersten Boehm** Goat Production - **Drew Guinness** Beef Production - **Brock Hegseth**
Forage Production - **Brock Hegseth** Outdoor Rec - **Kiersten Boehm** Fiber/Oil Production - **Bret Hegseth**

Job Openings>>>

Richland Elementary is currently seeking applicants for **Preschool/Title I Teacher starting in the 2020-2021 school year. This position will be teaching one class of PreK three days a week and Title I interventions two days a week. Applicants should hold certification for teaching PreK. Apply at: <https://www.applitrack.com/ndseec/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?FromAdmin=true&AppliTrackJobId=2255>

Richland #44 School District and Wyndmere Public Schools are seeking a K12 **Speech/Language Pathologist. Three days a week will be in Richland #44 and two days a week will be in Wyndmere. Must hold ASHA Certification with ND licensure. Apply at: <https://www.applitrack.com/ndseec/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?FromAdmin=true&AppliTrackJobId=2253>

Richland #44, along with Milnor and Northern Cass Schools are currently seeking applicants for **TWO Literacy Coach positions. The positions are funded with the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant that was recently awarded to the group and will operate 2020-2025. The Literacy Coach is a critical lever in improving student achievement and supporting learners from birth to grade 12. For further description of position and to apply, visit: <https://www.applitrack.com/ndseec/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?FromAdmin=true&AppliTrackJobId=2256>

Contact Dr. Gandhi at britney.gandhi@k12.nd.us or 701-372-3713 for more information on all positions.



MAY 22
Last Day of School
Student Supply Drop
Off Day
9am - 3pm

Watch for specific details to be emailed.

Subscribe

Did you know that you can subscribe to the *Colt Connection*? If you would like each issue mailed to you, we ask for a \$10 donation each year to cover the cost of postage. You can also subscribe to have each issue emailed to you by emailing Kendra at:

Kendra.L.Dockter@k12.nd.us



For convenience, we also place copies throughout the community. You can find the *Colt Connection* at Colfax Express, Aber Grocery, Red River Communications, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Galchutt Lutheran Church, the post offices in Abercrombie, Colfax, and Christine, and at both the elementary and high school offices.

You will find current and past newsletters on our school website by clicking on the "Newsletter Tab" at www.richland.k12.nd.us.

THANK YOU from Coltbackers >>>

Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased tickets to make our Golf Cart Raffle a SUCCESS even during a pandemic and social distancing! Congratulations to our raffle winners:

Golf Cart - Todd Johnson
\$500 Cash - Kati Ulven
\$300 Cash - Tonya Kemper Poole
\$200 Cash - Pat Flaa
Coltbacker Prize Package - Laurie Quamme



The purpose of the Richland Coltbackers Booster Club is to provide financial and moral support for athletic programs at Richland #44 Schools to ensure continued growth and development of our student athletes and athletic programs. These efforts are made possible through fundraising events like this raffle. Without the support of our parents, athletes, and community, none of this would ever be possible.

A large project the Coltbackers will be funding this year is the replacement of Gym Mats in the old gym in Colfax. With a new, beautiful refinish to the gym floor last summer, these mats will enhance the look even more!



Each year, Richland #44 Coltbackers recognizes each sport by inviting senior high athletes, families, and coaches to celebrate. Awards, highlights, and memories are shared during this event.

Even though it may look a little different this year, we will still be hosting an Athletic Banquet! It will be held Thursday, May 21st at 7pm via ZOOM and Live Streamed on the Richland Schools YouTube Page: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzxTkNeViihj5IDF3elcHQg?view_as=subscriber

Congratulations to all of our athletes this year! We are especially thinking of our athletes who missed out on spring sports and hope for things to return to normal soon.

Richland #44 PTO Is Here For You>>>

We hope you've all been staying safe and healthy. Even though things are different than we all expected them to be, PTO is still here to support students, parents, teachers, and staff. If you need household or personal supplies, we're providing them weekly--Contact Mrs Gandhi for more information.

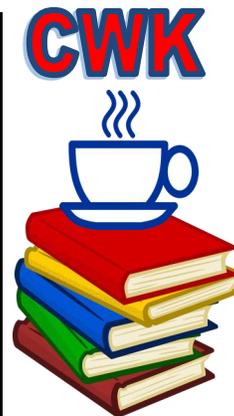


We want to thank the families, individuals, and businesses who have donated to our Family Support Program. And thanks to the Colfax Farmers Elevator for donating 150 rolls of TP. We're so grateful for the support.

We have a lot of great applications for our PTO scholarship! We're reviewing and will notify the recipients in the coming week

CONNECT #44 VIRTUAL SPIRIT WEEK and CWK>>>

Richland Elementary celebrated CONNECT #44 with a Virtual Spirit Week!. On Friday, May 1st Mrs. North Dakota joined a CWK Zoom session and read a story! The following week, May 4-8 students celebrated with dress up days at home to have a virtual spirit week!



PJ Day



School Spirit



Wacky Wednesday



Dress for Success



Hat & Sunglasses



Don't Miss Out..... IT'S YEARBOOK TIME!!

Preserve those memories for years to come

2020 Richland #44 Yearbook

Buy yours today!!



The deadline to order has been extended to MAY 22, 2020

Order your 2019-2020
Yearbook TODAY!

NEW EVEN LOWER Price \$20

There is nothing like getting your copy of the Richland #44 Yearbook in the fall and looking over all the fun pictures from the past year. Don't let your student miss out on sharing and reliving the big events that will make this year special! Our schooling might look different for a portion of the year, but we promise to provide a book FULL of memories and events documenting this unique experience.

add name to front cover +\$5

Please fill out the order form at <https://forms.gle/4V1N8q6Q9XCDKvuF7>
by May 22, 2020 to place your order.



- *Elementary sports and activities
- *All grades will be featured with a 2 page spread
- *New lower price!



Health/Safety Tips During the COVID-19 Pandemic>>>

Quarantining with young children at home can be challenging. Check off these simple safety steps.

- Baby Safety:** I always place my baby to sleep on his/her back to sleep in a crib, bassinet or play yard that meets current standards with a fitted sheet only. Bare is Best!
- Inclined Sleepers:** I am following CPSC's recommendation to stop using inclined sleepers. I have checked www.cpsc.gov/cribs for inclined sleeper recalls.
- Anchor It:** My furniture is anchored to the wall to prevent injuries or death from tipping TVs, dressers, bookcases and other furniture/appliances.
- Window Coverings:** I have replaced corded window coverings with cordless blinds. If I cannot replace window coverings, I am making sure all window cords are secured out of the reach of children and eliminating any dangling cords.
- Magnets:** I have stored high-powered magnet sets away from children. Swallowed magnets can stick together across intestines causing serious lifelong health effects or death.
- Drowning Prevention:** I never leave young children alone, even for a moment, near any water. That includes bathtubs, bath seats, buckets, decorative ponds or fountains. I have installed multiple layers of protection to prevent pool/spa drownings, including: minimum four-foot fence around entire perimeter of the pool; pool/spa cover; door and pool alarms; and self-latching, self-closing gates on the fence.
- Laundry and Cleaning Products:** My laundry and cleaning products are stored in their original containers, locked up and away from children.



Home Safe with Young Children

Prevent Infant Suffocation: Bare is Best! Always place baby on his/her back in a crib with a firm, tight-fitting mattress. Do not put pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, pillow-like bumpers or stuffed toys in the crib. Use only a fitted bottom sheet specifically made for crib use. www.CPSC.gov/cribs

Inclined Sleeper Recalls: Do NOT use inclined sleepers. CPSC has recalled millions of inclined sleepers and urges consumers to take advantage of the remedies. See www.CPSC.gov/cribs

Prevent Furniture/TV Tip-Overs: Unsecured and unstable TVs, furniture and appliances are a hidden hazard in your home. Parents and caregivers should inspect and secure them to protect young children from injuries or death. www.AnchorIt.gov

Prevent Window Covering Entrapment: All shades and blinds in homes should be examined for accessible cords on the front, side and back and replaced with cordless window products. Go cordless! If you cannot replace window coverings, make sure window cords are secured out of the reach of children and eliminate any dangling cords.

Prevent Serious Intestinal Injuries, or Even Death: Small high-powered magnets can cause death or serious lifelong health effects. When two or more high-powered magnets are swallowed, they can link together inside a child's intestines and clamp onto body tissues, causing intestinal obstructions, perforations, sepsis and death. Keep high-powered magnet sets away from children.

Prevent Drownings: Young children can drown quickly in even small amounts of water. Keep a young child within arm's reach in a bathtub. If you must leave, take the child with you. Don't leave a young child in a bathtub under the care of another young child. Never leave a bucket with even a small amount of liquid unattended. Toddlers can fall headfirst into buckets and drown. Drowning related to pools and spas is the leading cause of unintentional death in young children. Layers of protection are so important – you never know which safety step will save a life until it does. www.PoolSafely.gov

Prevent Poisonings from Cleaning Products and Laundry Packets: Did you know in 2018, more than 70,900 children were seen in the ER due to unintended pediatric poisoning? More than 85% of these incidents occurred in the home and most often with these five products: blood pressure medications, acetaminophen, bleach, ibuprofen, and laundry packets. Make sure you keep household cleaning products and laundry packets in their original containers and in cabinets with child safety latches or locks. Never transfer these products to a different bottle without a child-resistant closure and a label. Children and others can mistake them and drink or eat the contents. Put the Poison Control Center's hotline (800-222-1222) in your cell phone.

Sign up for Recall Information: www.CPSC.gov

PARENTS LEAD.ORG

Talking to Your Child about COVID-19

Elementary School

The World Health Organization officially declared coronavirus a pandemic. Health experts predict that the virus and its impact on our communities are just beginning.



You play an important role in helping children and teens better understand what's happening and help them manage their own related worries or anxiety.

Here are some tips that can help:

School-age children will be more aware of what is going on. They have probably had discussions at school and with friends.

- Talk to your elementary age children. Explain what happened while reassuring them that you and your child's teachers will do everything to keep them healthy and safe.
- Children this age are also concerned about their own health, as well as that of family and friends. For example, they may have heard that kids aren't impacted by coronavirus but that older people are, triggering fears about grandparents. They may be worried about money if they know adults are off of work. Try to spend extra time together. This will provide extra reassurance.
- Don't be surprised if they are more irritable and touchy. Be extra patient.
- Limit media coverage.
- Try to continue normal home routines, especially at bedtime. If routines are disrupted due to school or after school activity closures, explain that this is part of the precautions grown-ups are taking to prevent people from getting sick. It doesn't mean that all of your teachers and friends are sick.
- If fear persists, point out all the things adults are doing to help and to prevent the virus from spreading. Children like to be helpful and feel like they can do something from hand washing to writing letters to nursing homes.
- Ask them if they have any questions. If they do, stick to the facts and tell them what you know without exaggerating or overreacting. Use these resources to help them learn more about the virus:
 - "Understanding Corona Virus and How Germs Spread" – Brains On Podcast (plus a kid-centered series on news literacy called "Prove It.")
 - "Just for kids: A comic exploring the new coronavirus" – Minnesota Public Radio

CLEANING PRODUCT SAFETY:

- Read and follow ALL directions and safety warnings on the label before using any products
- Always dilute concentrated products (such as bleach) as directed--using them at a higher concentration than recommended can be dangerous
- Open windows and doors to ensure adequate ventilation
- Store products up high and out of the reach of young children

HAND SANITIZER SAFETY

While a small lick or taste of hand sanitizer is usually not concerning, swallowing larger amounts can cause children to have low blood sugar or slow down their heart rate and breathing.

Prevention Tip:

Always supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer and keep it out of their sight/reach between uses.



Poison experts are available 24/7 at 1-800-222-1222 to provide free and fast advice.



Community Opportunities

2020 VBS!
Climb aboard for...



The best week of the summer!

New friends · Amazing Experiments · Creative games
Super-fun snacks · Surprising adventures · Incredible music

Location: **Eagle Valley EFC**

VBS will last from: **July 19th – July 23rd**

Each day begins at: **6:10 P.M.**

The VBS day ends at: **8:30 P.M.**

For more information or to register,
call Amy Clark at **(218) 280-8308** or visit
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/eaglevalleyvbs>



Check us out on Facebook
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT #44



Music Parents Community Calendar Sales>>>

Calendars can be ordered at:

<https://richlandmusicparents.weebly.com/calendar.html>

or by calling Darla Rufer

(701) 261-0550



Be sure to pay online on the ordering website or
send checks to:

Darla Rufer PO Box 8 Christine ND 58015

Thank you!!!

Get your community calendar and stay informed with everything happening all year long. This calendar includes music events, sports events, school events, FFA events, community events, birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, and more!



Wall Calendar
\$12

Pocket Calendar
\$6

