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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**KENAI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL RETAINS CFK CHAMPIONSHIP AT 18th
CARING FOR THE KENAI COMPETITION...**

Kenai, April 17, 2008– With the dedication of a new “Kardinal Red” curtain for the KCHS Little Theatre, compliments of Caring for the Kenai sponsors Chevron and Agrium, the annual environmental and disaster preparedness competition got underway Thursday evening. Lincoln Wensley, a KCHS sophomore from Rick Frederic’s science class, took first place honors and \$1,500 cash at the 18th Caring for the Kenai (CFK) competition. “I’m really proud to be here and to be a CFK Champion from KCHS,” said Wensley, “The competition was really stiff and with only 1 point separating James and me it was pretty amazing.” Wensley’s winning project focused on educating the public about how important the dunes are to the ecology of the Kenai beach.

Taking second place was a KCHS freshman James Watkins with his fishing regulation flip cards, “The purpose of the cards is to make regulations easier for residents and tourists to understand, reduce fishing violations and encourage care for the river banks. I’ll be selling them this summer,” said Watkins, who wins \$1,000 cash as runner up.

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In third place and claiming an \$800 prize was Matthew Fellman from Mr. Nolden's science class at Soldotna High School. Fellman's project promotes the use of "Wag Bag waste kits," for disposal of human excrement from fishers and hikers along Peninsula Rivers and streams.

Taking fourth place honors and \$600 was Mackenzie Senn, another SoHi student in Mr. Nolden's class. Mackenzie has initiated a disaster response training program for teens. Coming in fifth and winning \$450 was Erica Byerley of SoHi and Mr. Hanson's class. Byerley plans to seek local government support for requiring green space for new development. Another SoHi student, Jessica Duke created an Enviro-Clown character to teach youth how they can help the environment. Duke won \$300 for taking sixth place.

In addition to the \$6,000 in cash awards for the finalists this year Agrium, Chevron and the Kenai River Sportfishing Assoc, awarded \$20,000 to the science departments of schools that participated in CFK 2008. This year SOHI, Nikiski, Ninilchik, Kenai, Skyview and Hope all used CFK as part of their classroom curriculum. Each school receives \$750 for participating and the remainder of the \$20,000 will be allocated proportionately to how their students placed last night. Additionally, 30 some semi-finalist entries received special recognition awards from community sponsors.

Other CFK finalists who earned \$150 cash each for their oral presentations were Kaitlyn VanMeter from SoHi for her plan to market recyclable shopping bags. Amber Smith, Mr. Morin's student plans to have an art show with recyclable materials being the only art medium. The team of Maggie Braun and Bob Seater from Mr. Peless's class at Nikiski High, proposed a "Protect Your Child" program in case of a natural disaster. Michelle Klaben of KCHS impressed the judges with her recycling program called "Message in a Bottle." The trio of Jordan Harrison, Josh Hall, and Brandon Wik, of Nikiski want to construct a wilderness observatory behind their high school. A team from Skyview, Sophia Taeschner and Bailey Walgenbach proposed that ports like Homer and Ninilchik construct a bilge water disposal station to reduce hydro carbon emissions from fishing boats.

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In addition to the cash awards all finalists received a 2008 hooded CFK sweatshirt.

Monday April 28th, all finalists and guests will attend an awards banquet hosted in their honor by Chevron and Agrium at The Crossing Restaurant in Soldotna. The banquet will feature entertainment by Mike Morgan. All students who participated in CFK 2008 received a custom Nalgene CFK "I did it!" water bottle.

CFK Oral Presentation Judges included Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor John J. Williams, KPBSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donna Peterson, John Zager, Chevron Alaska General Manager, Lisa Parker, Agrium manager USA government relations, Benjamin Jackinsky Kenai Watershed Forum Board of Directors, Deric Marcorelle from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Ricky Gease Kenai River Sportfishing Association Executive Director, and last year's CFK runner-up, Stacy Edgmon of Nikiski. The oral presentation program was streamed live over the internet to an international audience and is available for viewing at www.caringforthekenai.com

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(Recorded actualities with top 3 students available on MP3 file by request from sikorski@caringforthekenai.com)