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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SOHI REGAINS CFK CHAMPIONSHIP IN 16TH “CARING FOR THE KENAI” COMPETITION

Kenai, April 21, 2006 – Thomas Kircher, a Soldotna High School freshman from Chris Hanson’s class, took first place honors and \$1,500 cash in last night’s “Caring For The Kenai” (CFK) competition sponsored by Chevron and Agrium.

Taking second place was Michael Bruxvoort, a Connections student from Soldotna who won \$1,000 cash with his river power generating invention called “The Contraption II.”

In third place and claiming an \$800 prize was John Chihuly from Ninilchik High School. Chihuly created a program to deal with human waste on the upper Kenai River. “From river guides to biologists and everyone I talked to agreed that this is a major problem that needs to be addressed,” Chihuly’s idea would provide easily accessible relief stations in the area with collection tanks that could be floated out for proper disposal.

Taking fourth place honors and \$600 was another Ninilchik student Anna Berger, who created a plan to build a fish waste grinder in Ninilchik for sport fishers. Coming in fifth and winning \$450 was the Ninilchik team of Courtney Schnabl and Lauren Wolford, that developed a catch and release program designed to enhance the Halibut population called “Protecting Hali-butts.” Sixth place and \$300 went to J.R. Cox from Nikiski for his Tsunami awareness plan.

In addition to the \$6,000 in cash awards for the finalists this year Agrium, Chevron and the Kenai River Sportfishing Assoc, awarded \$10,000 to the science departments of schools that participated in CFK 2006. This year SOHI, Nikiski, Ninilchik, Hope, Kenai and Connection home school students all used CFK as part of their classroom curriculum. Each school receives \$500 for participating and the remainder of the \$10,000 will be allocated proportionately to how their students placed last night. Additionally, over 40 semi-finalist entries received special recognition awards from community sponsors.

Other CFK finalists who earned \$150 cash for their oral presentations last night were Leesha Keener from SoHi, with her litter prevention activity book. Jennifer Lukassen of Nikiski wrote a program to educate children about dangers of household hazardous wastes. Deric Flensberg of Nikiski told the judges of a means to take oil from fishing boats out of the water with a bilge filtration system. Juanita Millyard from Nikiski created a volcano game that she had the judge’s play which teaches the meanings of the volcano alert system and how to respond. From Kenai High School Brian Moon demonstrated a “Penny Drive” program to raise funds and awareness for disaster victims. And Tristin Rutherford of Nikiski High worked out a plan to increase newspaper recycling at schools.

In addition to the cash awards all finalists received a hooded CFK sweatshirt and the 2006 CFK T-shirt in their school colors. Next Friday all finalists and guests will attend an awards banquet hosted in their honor by Chevron and Agrium. Lt. Governor Loren Leman will attend the banquet and join the CFK sponsors to present the awards. The banquet also will feature the original music of Mike Morgan. Again this year all participants will receive the CFK 2006 original T-shirt just for entering the contest.

CFK Oral Presentation Judges included Kenai City Mayor, Pat Porter, KPBSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donna Peterson, John Zager, Chevron Alaska General Manager, Tim Johnson Agrium Coal Gasification Project lead, Deric Marcovelle from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Robert Ruffner executive director of the Kenai Watershed Forum and last year’s CFK winner, Hannah Watkins from Kenai High School. The oral presentation program was streamed live over the internet to an international audience and is available for viewing at

www.caringforthekenai.com

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