

February 8, 2007

KINDRED HIGH SCHOOL “REPEAT CHAMPIONS”

BISMARCK – Kindred High School repeated last year’s champion efforts, winning the 2007 state LifeSmarts competition with "all the right answers" to some very challenging questions. Jamestown High School #2 took second place and Northern Cass School came in third in the annual state competition held yesterday in Bismarck.

As state champions, the Kindred students will compete in the national LifeSmarts competition to be held April 21-24, 2007 in Orlando, Florida. The championship team members are: Eric Hall (Captain), Mike Bjertness, Acelynn Boisjolie, Jacob Nordquist, Sadie Skarloken and Coach Nancy Kummer. Team members Hall and Boisjolie were on Kindred’s 2006 championship team, lead by Coach Kummer.

“We are all so excited to be going to the national competition,” said Coach Kummer. “It is an honor to be representing North Dakota for the second year in a row.” Coached by Kummer for several years, Kindred has won four of the last six annual state championships. Kummer would not share her secret for success, but commented “The information students learn by participating in the LifeSmarts program will result in them making more informed consumer decisions.”

LifeSmarts Question Master Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division, offered congratulations to all LifeSmarts participants, saying, “There are no losers in the LifeSmarts competition. The students learn to avoid common consumer scams, cut through red-tape, and gain a better understanding of issues that are affecting the world and shaping their future.”

Twelve teams from ten North Dakota high schools competed for the chance to qualify for the national competition. The teams answered questions in six subject areas - personal finance, health, safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities – over ten rounds before Kindred, Jamestown High #2 and Northern Cass made it into the Championship round. The final score was Kindred – 120, Jamestown #2 – 80, and Northern Cass – 65.

LifeSmarts, a consumer education competition that tests teens in grades 9-12 about personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities, is a program of the National Consumers League. The Attorney General’s office hosts the annual state competition. Sponsors include Microsoft, Gate City Bank, ND Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., Capital Trophy and the North Dakota Army National Guard.

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