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Leaky water meter? Call one of our technicians at (308) 367-4281. They make 'house calls'.

LB701, shifting authority to the Republican River Valley.

Since 1972: protecting the natural resources of the district and assisting landowners in planning, funding, and applying conservation practices.

# SPRINKLES & SPLASHES

SPRING 2007

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDDLE REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

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## Local Students Prepare for National Envirothon

For the second year in a row, the Wauneta-Palisade high school Envirothon team is going to the National Canon Envirothon to compete as Nebraska's representative team. Last year, they competed at nationals in Canada. This amazing team is being led by Teresa Hayes, science teacher for Wauneta-Palisade high school.

This team has overcome many hurdles to win the privilege of competing at the Canon Envirothon, held in Geneva, New York, this year. However, they have one more hurdle to overcome before they can actually compete and no amount of studying this time will improve their chances. This team of five students including

Brennan Keiser, Donna Schluckebier, Jesse Skelton, Luke Wright and Stacey Wright will need to raise enough money to pay for their travel and lodging expenses. Last year's team needed to raise about \$5000.00 to attend last year's competition in Canada. It is almost certain this year's team will need to raise even more this year due to inflation.

The Nebraska Association of Resource Districts will be providing the team with \$1,000.00 to help with fees and expenses. Meanwhile, team members are approaching civic and service organizations, individuals, and businesses for donations. Each student is also committed to selling at least

\$350.00 worth of Reader's Digest products, a portion of which they can keep and put towards their plane fare. Hayes indicated that these students are also available 'for hire' and will mow lawns, work on your farm or fence. They've also been hired in the past to help with moves and cleaning out basements. Job requests and donations can be made by contacting Teresa Hayes at (308) 394 - 5427. She says that anonymous and cash donations are happily accepted.

The Canon Envirothon is the largest high school environmental competition in North America with students from 44 States and 8 Canadian Provinces participating. When they arrive on campus, the 50-plus teams of five students each, representing states and Canadian provinces, will compete in a hands-on competition

testing their knowledge of natural resource conservation in the areas of soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental

issue. The tests are written and administered by volunteer resource professionals in each topic area. *Check out the team scores on our website.*

## From Dan's Desk

### *Spring Rains Contribute to Allocations*

**LB 701 has been** signed by the Governor and is now available to be used by the NRDs. While parts of the legislation apply to all NRDs, only the Republican River Basin NRDs are allowed to issue what are referred to as River Flow Enhancement bonds. The specific projects for which these bonds can be used are to lease or purchase ground water use rights and surface water use rights. These funds could also be used to purchase or lease the management of an irrigation district, to pay for vegetation management or to fund augmentation projects.

### Inside This Issue

- ◆ Local Envirothon Team
- ◆ From Dan's Desk
- ◆ Scholarship Winners
- ◆ NeRAIN Volunteers Needed
- ◆ District Calendar

