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# THE SPIGOT

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from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

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## Patrick Denne Memorial Scholarship Awarded to NDSCS Student

The North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) is pleased to announce that Desiree Lennie of rural New Salem has been named the recipient of the 2010 Patrick Denne Memorial Scholarship. Lennie will receive \$500 to be used towards tuition, books, and other college-related expenses.

Lennie graduated from New Salem High School in 2009 and has been attending North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton since last summer, where she is studying to be an occupational therapy assistant. She is the daughter of Jeff and Faye Lennie who are customers of the Missouri West Water System.

A selection committee evaluated the applicants and selected the scholarship recipient based on academic performance, career goals, extracurricular activities, leadership, financial need, and an essay. "We received more than 70 applications for this year's scholarship and Desiree's essay was definitely one of the best," says Melody Kruckenberg, executive director of NDRWSA. This year's essay topics were "how rural water has improved my quality of life" or "what my life would be like without rural water."

Lennie was active in numerous school activities, including volleyball, track, National Honor Society, student council, and the prom committee. She has also volunteered at Elm Crest Manor for several years and has been actively involved with her church as a youth leader and Sunday school teacher. "I am currently striving to maintain a 4.0 GPA in college and upon completion of my training as an occupational therapy assistant, I may further my education by completing courses in the related field of physical therapy," Lennie says.



**Desiree Lennie**

The NDRWSA's staff and board of directors extend their warmest congratulations to Lennie and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

Lennie's winning essay is printed on the following page.

Water. Cool, clean, refreshing water. This is a valuable commodity, which many people take for granted. My family and I live in the country, on a farm/ranch 14 miles northeast of town. I am thankful that we receive our rural water from the Missouri West Water System. This is especially important, since our region of the state often endures many long periods of drought. We now receive an ample supply of good, quality water for our home and our livestock.

We were not always so fortunate. Growing up as a young child, I lived in the small, rural community of Judson, east of New Salem. The families that lived there relied on their own well water. We also had a well on our property. The water tasted good, but it would leave iron deposits on the bathroom sinks, tubs, showers, and toilets. My mother had to use very strong cleaning products to try to remove the unsightly, rust-colored stains. The well water also left our white and light-colored clothing looking discolored.

In the early 1990s, a rural water system extending west of Mandan to the New Salem area was beginning to become a reality. Many people were involved in the early stages of this project – my father was one of them. He worked at his full-time job during the day. During the evenings, he spent many hours traveling around the area, contacting the landowners. He would get easements signed, so that the pipeline could be built across their private property. He also signed up some people that

hadn't done so yet. He informed them of the many benefits of having ready access to a reliable source of quality water for their residences and their pastures. Soon, miles and miles of white pipelines were lined up across the countryside waiting to be trenched in.

Not long after we received rural water in Judson, my family moved to our new home northeast of New Salem on my great-great-grandparents' homestead. Everything was in place to receive rural water in our new house, too. There is a well here on the farm, but the water has a brownish tint to it, due to the water running over coal deposits. We still use the well to provide some water for our livestock when they are in the barns or corrals. Several of our pastures that don't maintain an adequate supply of fresh water from the stock dams or creeks, have pasture taps and stock tanks. We would not be able to keep our livestock in some of our pastures all summer if we didn't have rural water.

Rural water has greatly improved our quality of life. I also feel that rural water has several advantages over well water. Our family has health and dental benefits from the chlorine and fluoride that are added during the water treatment process. We spend less money on cleaning products and our laundry looks nice. We don't need to buy drinking water from the store. Having rural water is cost-efficient and reliable. It's a convenience I'm thankful my family has.

## Patrick Denne Memorial Scholarship

Since 1999, the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) has awarded a college scholarship to a deserving student enrolled in the MSU-Bottineau Branch, Water Quality Technology program. This scholarship is named the Patrick Denne Memorial Scholarship in memory of the long-time NDRWSA water circuit rider who lost his battle with cancer in 2004.

In the summer of 2007, after offering the program for more than 10 years, MSU-Bottineau informed NDRWSA that, because of declining enrollment, it would no longer be offering the Water Quality Program. Even without this program, NDRWSA's board of directors wanted to continue to award money to deserving students, while keeping Denne's memory alive, so it decided to re-create the scholarship program to make it available to more students than ever before.

The newly revised scholarship program is open to students, who themselves or whose legal guardians receive water from a rural water system in North Dakota. Depending on the amount of money raised for the Patrick Denne Memorial Scholarship fund, more than one scholarship may be awarded. A selection committee appointed by NDRWSA's executive board evaluates applicants and selects the scholarship recipient(s) based on academic performance, career goals, extracurricular activities, leadership, financial need, and an essay on a predetermined topic.

For more information on the scholarship, call 800-349-6951 or e-mail [melkruck@ndrw.org](mailto:melkruck@ndrw.org). Tax deductible contributions to the scholarship fund may be made through the NDRWSA, 2718 Gateway Ave., Suite #201, Bismarck, ND 58503.

NDRWSA appreciates your donations!