



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LPGCD RECOGNIZES LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FOR
OUTSTANDING ESSAYS ON WATER**

[GIDDINGS, TEXAS | December 18, 2025] – The Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District (LPGCD) is proud to announce the winners of its High School Senior Essay Contest. This year, LPGCD invited high school seniors who live or go to school in Bastrop or Lee County to write an essay that shares their personal water story, or imagines future worlds shaped by water conservation, or explores how their communities can adapt to challenges like drought and growth. This year’s submission reflected strong writing, creativity, and moving personal connections to water and community.

The 2025 Essay Contest winners are:

- **1st Place:** Teal Brockenbush, Lexington High School
Essay Title: *The Rain that Raised Me*
Award: \$500
- **2nd Place:** Erick Bandala, Elgin High School
Essay Title: *The Old Pipe*
Award: \$300
- **3rd Place:** Sharron Adair, Giddings High School
Essay Title: *More Than a Memory: What Water Means to Me*
Award: \$200

The winners were honored at our December 17 board meeting at 3:30 PM at our district office. Please see attached photo. From left to right: Teal Brockenbush, LPGCD Board President, Kay Rogers, Erick Bandala, and Sharron Adair.

“We were very moved by the depth and sincerity of this year’s essays,” said Sheril Smith, Chair of the LPGCD Education Committee. “These students shared powerful personal reflections while also demonstrating a clear understanding of how water shapes the strength, resilience, and future of their communities.”

ABOUT THE LOST PINES GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District is dedicated to the protection and conservation of groundwater resources in Bastrop and Lee Counties. Through educational programs, community outreach, and strategic resource management, the District strives to ensure sustainable water supplies for current and future generations.

For more information on this topic, please contact Claire Marks at (512) 360-5088 or cmarks@lostpineswater.org.

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