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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brownfield, TX (January 2, 2018) - The Llano Estacado UWCD (Gaines County), Sandy Land UWCD (Yoakum County), and South Plains UWCD (Terry County) conduct an annual Scholarship Essay Contest open to area seniors who are seeking to advance their education. Principals, counselors, and teachers are notified in October of the upcoming contest topic as well as submission guidelines. One first place and one second place winner will be selected from qualifying entries received from each high school within each district. LEUWCD and SPUWCD award \$1,000 for first place and \$500 for second place to winners from each high school while SLUWCD awards \$2,000 for first place and \$1,000 for second place to winners in each participating high school.

Essay Topic for 2018: "Texas Constitutional Amendment of 1917"

Why is the Texas Constitutional Amendment of 1917, known as the "Conservation Amendment", important to groundwater conservation districts in Texas?

The criteria for the contest is:

1. The essay must have a **minimum** of 500 words and **maximum** of 650 words.
2. The essay must be typed and double-spaced in MLA format.
3. Essays must be submitted electronically via email to savegroundwater@gmail.com or mcooper@spuwcd.org. One hardcopy must also be submitted. (new criteria for 2017)
4. References **must** accompany paper in the form of a works cited page.
(The library and Internet offer many resources.)
5. The essay must have a **cover sheet** containing the following: student's name, essay title, local high school, and date.
6. Hardcopy and electronic submissions are **due no later than Friday, March 2, 2018 (11:59pm)**.

Hardcopy submissions may be left with the high school counselor, delivered by hand, or mailed directly to the your local water district office (contact information below). All electronic submissions must be received by SOCOP at the email address in criteria #3 by **11:59pm Friday, March 2, 2018**.

Recipients will be notified individually if awarded a scholarship. Presentations will be made during local high school awards assemblies and in accordance with school guidelines. Awarded funds will be paid directly to the university/college upon confirmation of enrollment, not to the individual student.

For further information, please contact your local water district office or email the education coordinator, Michelle Cooper, at savegroundwater@gmail.com. Information can also be located on the SOCOP Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SOCOsavingh2o.

Local Underground Water Conservation District office contact information:

LEUWCD - 200 S.E. Ave C, Seminole, TX 79360	phone: (432)758-1127	(Seminole, Seagraves, Loop)
SLUWCD - 1012 Ave F, Plains, TX 79355	phone: (806)456-2155	(Denver City, Plains)
SPUWCD - 802 Tahoka Rd., Brownfield, TX 79316	phone: (806)637-7467	(Brownfield, Meadow, W-U)