



Panhandle Water News

MAY 2021 SPECIAL EDITION

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Mason Zamudio
1st Place Winner
Pampa High School



Jarique Mitchell
2nd Place Winner
Fort Elliott CISD



Michael Goad
3rd Place Winner
Fort Elliott CISD

In 2002, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District established a scholarship program for graduating seniors throughout the District. Over the years the District has given \$171,000 of scholarship money to many deserving recipients. The applicants are required to write a 500-1,000 word essay on a topic chosen by PGCD and to enroll as a full-time student at the college of their choice the fall semester immediately following selection. They must maintain at least a 2.5 college GPA to remain eligible. A committee of three board members and a staff member select the winners. The student awarded first place receives a \$4,000 scholarship, second place receives \$3,000, and third place receives \$2,000. The scholarship total is paid out over four years.

PGCD's topic this year was:

“With the ever-growing population of the State of Texas, which is expected to double in the next 50 years, list and explain what steps need to be taken now to ensure there is plenty of water for not only the next generation but future generations of Texas.” PGCD had thirty applicants this year and is proud to announce Mason Zamudio, Jarique Mitchell and Michael Goad as the top three 2021 winners of PGCD's scholarship.

Mason Zamudio, son of Maggie Zamudio of Pampa, is our First Place winner. Zamudio is set to graduate from Pampa High School with a 4.3 GPA. His future plans include attending Texas Tech University to study Education.

Jarique Mitchell, son of William and Shelia Umsted of Mobeetie, received second place. Mitchell will graduate from Fort Elliott CISD with a 4.0 GPA. He plans to attend West Texas A&M University to study Vet Science/Pre-Med.

Michael Goad, son of Shane and April Goad of Briscoe, received third place. Goad will also graduate from Fort Elliott CISD with a 4.0 GPA. He plans to attend Midland College to study Business.

PGCD wants to thank all of the applicants and congratulate the winners. We thoroughly enjoyed each essay and perspective on the topic. We wish you all the best of luck on your future endeavors.

Please see page 3 to read Zamudio's winning essay.

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PGCD Election Results

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors election was held on Saturday, May 1, 2021. Five seats were up for election this year, however only two precincts held an election. Three precinct positions were unopposed and the incumbent Directors were duly elected for another 4 year term. Those positions are as follows: Precinct 3 - Chancy Cruse, Precinct 5 - John R. Spearman, Jr. and Precinct 7 - William Breeding.

In Precinct 1, incumbent Phillip Smith received eight votes and Devin Sinclair received 19 votes. In Precinct 9, Lee Peterson received 2,088 votes, Brian Walker received 1,499 votes, Timothy Ingalls received 1,353 votes and J. Zimmer received 727 votes. After the canvassing period, the results show Sinclair as the new Director for Precinct 1 and Peterson as the new Precinct 9 Director.

Smith and Collard Retire from Board of Directors

Two longtime Directors retired from PGCD's Board of Directors in May. Phillip Smith, Precinct 1 Director since 1990 said he was grateful for the 30-year experience and wished the new directors the best of luck. "I feel like I've gained a lot of knowledge and life experience while serving on this Board, and it has truly been a pleasure working with everyone along the way," said Smith.

F.G. Butch Collard, who was appointed to the Board in 2011 said water issues are going to continue to become more important every day. He told the Board their job is one of the most important in our area, and he knew they would do a great job moving forward.



Smith (left) and Collard (right) with their retirement cake.

PGCD New Board Members Elected

At the May 11 PGCD Board of Directors meeting, two newly elected directors took the oath of office beginning their 4 year terms.

Devin Sinclair, Precinct 1 Director, was born and raised in Panhandle. He and his wife Mandy have three children, Savannah, Jackson and Augustus. Sinclair works for Triangle Insurance Company which specializes in Agribusiness Insurance. The Sinclairs live between Panhandle and Amarillo on their farm where they raise cattle and dryland farm.



PGCD asked Mr. Sinclair what unique perspective he would bring to the Board and he said, "I feel I have a unique perspective in groundwater since I was able to work for the groundwater district as a field technician for five years and since I am an owner/operator in the agricultural sector. My insurance territory is in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandle and I think that helps me get a broad sense of what concerns people have in groundwater matters."



Lee Peterson, Precinct 9 Director, was born and raised in Amarillo, where he attended high school before continuing education at Texas Tech University. He lives in Amarillo with his wife Dalana and they have two children Colt and Brittan. Peterson is a licensed well driller, a master pump installer and has owned a drilling company for over 30 years. He is experienced in drilling domestic, irrigation

and environmental wells. He also owns Dyess-Peterson Testing Laboratory, Inc, which is a construction materials testing lab/engineering firm and Texas Barricade & Signs, Inc. Peterson said, "I feel like my professional experiences, as well as being a landowner in Donley County, is going to bring additional knowledge to the Board. We have worked with the federal government as well as the State on drilling projects and I am familiar with water producing formations throughout the State of Texas."



Zamudio's Winning Scholarship Essay

The population of the state of Texas is exponentially increasing. With the population of Texas becoming increasingly larger, we must take steps to implement water conservation systems that not only decrease our water consumption but also allow for maximum usage of our water. With the cooperation of every Texan, I have outlined methods to decrease the amount of water consumption with watering schedules, and efficient water appliances. In addition to conserving our water, we can maximize the usage of precipitation produced by the weather through water collection systems in Texan's homes.

Implementing Watering Schedules

One of the first steps the state of Texas can take in decreasing the amount of water consumption is implementing a statewide watering schedule. This system will require all Texans to have specific times of day for outdoor watering. With any outdoor watering, the best time of day is in the early morning or early evening. These two times of day allow for maximum usage of your water because the temperature outside is generally cooler in the morning and evening. More often than not, the hottest part of the day in Texas is midday. With that being said, Texans should not be watering outdoors during this time of day. Watering outside when the temperature is hot outside causes large quantities of the water to evaporate, which ultimately wastes water. A watering schedule across Texas will provide Texans with the optimal time of day for watering, which will decrease the amount of water wasted due to evaporation.

Water Efficient Appliances

The next step the state of Texas should take to decrease the amount of water consumption is prioritizing the advertisement of water efficient appliances. These water-efficient appliances include, but are not limited to, low-flow toilets, dishwashers, and washing machines. While many of these appliances already exist today, the benefits are not heavily advertised to the public. Texas must be educated on just how much water can be conserved with the simple purchase of some of these water-efficient appliances. With the proper advertisement of these appliances, Texas will recognize the opportunity to conserve water, while also decreasing the dollar amount of their water bill. Water-efficient appliances should be advertised to the public because these products use a set amount of water, which allows for usage while at the same time preventing an excessive amount from being wasted.

Water Collection Systems

The last step the state of Texas must implement to ensure there is water in the future is through the development of water collecting systems in Texas households. These water collecting systems could be as simple as water containers that collect rainwater, snow and any other form of precipitation through household gutter systems. Although in our part of Texas, we do not receive large amounts of rain, it is important the amount of

water we do receive we use to our advantage. The water that is collected from precipitation can be used for outdoor watering of both plants and grass, which will in-turn decrease water consumption. A water Collection system in Texas households will allow for the maximization of nutrient-rich water for outdoor watering while also lowering the overall consumption of water.

The state of Texas has to do what is necessary and best for its citizens to continue to improve their quality of life. With the usage of watering schedules, water-efficient appliances, and water collection systems, the state of Texas will be able to maximize their usage of water while at the same time decreasing consumption. Following these steps to ensuring there is sufficient water for future Texans may not always be easy, but the feeling Texas citizens will experience when they realize their contribution to preserving water for future generations will be worth the sacrifice.

PGCD Hosts Students

PGCD Staff hosted 30 4th graders from White Deer Elementary earlier this month. The students toured the District Office where they learned about different programs including: Precipitation Enhancement, Rainwater Harvesting, Water Quality and Xeriscaping. The District is available anytime for educational presentations for students or adult groups. District staff is available to travel to presentations or can host them in our office. Presentations can be tailored to fit many topics. For more information, please call Britney Britten at 806-883-2501.



Upcoming Events

District DFC Comment Period Ends - June 28, 2021

Board of Director's Rules Workshop - July 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., at District Office

Board of Director's Regular Meeting - July 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at District Office

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Panhandle GCD is looking for a

PR/EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Must have strong communication and writing skills! Interested candidates should apply by visiting <https://www.pgcd.us/contact>

For more information, call Britney Britten at 806-883-2501