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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Memorial Middle School Student Represents Rockdale County in Essay Contest**

Paige Cano, a student at Memorial Middle School, is the Rockdale County winner in the sixth annual water conservation and water quality essay contest, sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Water District). The Water District is a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive watershed, wastewater and water supply and conservation plans to be implemented by local governments in the 16-county metro Atlanta region. The Clean Water Campaign and Water Use It Wisely are public education campaigns designed to educate and promote behavior changes in water conservation and water quality.

Cano was presented with an award at Memorial Middle School on Thursday, December 6, 2007. Roy Middlebrooks, Rockdale County Commissioner Chairman, presented Paige Cano with the County Award. Chairman Middlebrooks said, "Rockdale County is one of the 61 counties included in the history making drought. As a policy maker in Rockdale County, it is my job to implement policies and laws to preserve our community resources. But I can not do it alone; we need the support from the community, Cano has started by educating others through her essay." In Cano' essay, she says, "There are many ways to correct the problem of water pollution and water conservation. This includes something as large as finding a way to recycle water, and as simple as throwing away a runaway newspaper."

The two campaigns, Clean Water Campaign and Water Use It Wisely, teamed up to encourage children and parents to address the growing need to improve water quality and conservation efforts in Georgia. Students researched and shared their thoughts on why conserving water and preventing water pollution are important for the future of their river, lakes and streams. The main goal of this program is to encourage students to create inventive solutions to water conservation and water quality in metro North Georgia.

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The contest was open to sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Each participating school submitted its winning essay for the county competition, and one overall winner was selected from among the county winners. County winners receive a \$25 check along with a Clean Water Campaign / Water Use It Wisely certificate presented by an elected official from that county.

To view the names of the winners and the winning essays, visit the Clean Water Campaign's Web site ([www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com)) and click on the essay contest link.

**About the Campaigns**

*The **Clean Water Campaign** ([www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com)) is a cooperative, multi-agency education initiative spearheaded by local governments in metro Atlanta, supported by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the 16-county District.*

***Water- Use It Wisely** ([www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com)) is a program that educates consumers about simple water conservation measures. It is a multi-state program that is being sponsored in the metro Atlanta area by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.*

***Memorial Middle School** is located at 3205 Underwood Road, Conyers, GA 30013. For more information about the school or student, please call 770-922-0139.*

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