

State Park & Trailway. Pack a lunch for a visit to one of Copper Breaks State Park's iconic pyramid-style picnic shelters or brave the dark and try a nighttime starry selfie. Look great in front of Lake Meredith with the Panhandle plateaus in the background. For more information about GOSH 21 locations in the Panhandle, check out GOSH 2021 Panhandle Region.

In South Texas, snap a selfie at one of the park's wildlife watching or nature trails at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. With the Gulf of Mexico in the background, take a breezy break at the wooden beach picnic shelters at Mustang Island State Park. Grab a photo in front of the Republic of the Rio Grande Museum's seven flags or holding a copy of the Laredo Morning Times, with seven flags on its banner. Visit GOSH 2021 South Texas Region for more information.

In West Texas, turn the camera around to catch a snapshot below the CCC water tower at Abilene State Park and take a selfie from the CCC group pavilion on the top of the

hill at Big Spring State Park. Take a photo inside the courtyard at Indian Lodge at Davis Mountains State Park Indian Lodge. Wade into the lake, then snap a selfie at Lake Colorado. City State Park. Visit GOSH 2021 West Texas for more information.

See how to enter, rules, where to upload your selfies and more information on challenge locations regionally or statewide at TPWD GOSH 2021.

Those who complete activities regionally will receive a TPWD certificate and a shout-out in a future issue of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine. If participants complete all 30 activities (36 with bonus activities in each category) on this year's TPWD Great Outdoor Scavenger Hunt, they will receive a downloadable certificate and a two-year digital subscription to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine, plus some epic bragging rights.

Regional graphics highlighting GOSH challenge locations across Texas can be found on the TPWD Flickr Page.



Basketball Camp! Bronte ISD held their Longhorn Basketball Camp last week and kids of all ages had a great time working on their skills. The morning group consisted of campers in 2nd grade through 6th grade (top photo) and the afternoon session hosted campers in 7th grade through 9th grade.

Can sewage water save El Paso?

By Roberto José Andrade Franco

In southeast El Paso, where the city is quieter, the traffic not as heavy, and junkyards with broken yellow school buses are much more prevalent, the Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant is an unlikely beacon of hope. It's about 1,000 feet from the Rio Grande and less than 2 miles from the Zaragoza Bridge, an international point of entry. Just as there's a fence along the river, there's a fence around the plant, with a sign proclaiming this is a construction zone. Canals with open gates dot the landscape. Not that those gates matter since, in mid-March, there's no water here.

Instead, the irrigation drains look more like ditches where tall

weeds grow only to catch plastic shopping bags on days when wind races off the Franklin Mountains. On days when the blue desert skies turn the color of sepia and the sun struggles to shine, this seems like the last place for solving El Paso's persistent problem: water scarcity. But it's easy to forget El Paso is also a place of aspirations.

"There is no other project in the state right now that's proposing to do what we're doing," Gilbert Trejo says. As the chief engineer at El Paso Water, the city's water utility company, he's helping to design the Advanced Water Purification Facility to be built next to the Bustamante plant. By 2028, the former will take sewage water, treat it, then deliver it - 10

million gallons a day - back into the city of El Paso's taps.

This is the latest solution to the most essential, looming question that faces those living in and visiting El Paso and the West Texas desert. A report from the early 1990s showed that by 2020, without conservation efforts, the city would exhaust all its groundwater sources. It's why at this scale, no one else in Texas has done what El Paso is doing, though they soon might.

"We do things a little different," says Brooke Underwood, assistant general manager for Destination El Paso, which helps manage and promote the city's tourism. "At

one point, our slogan was, 'Do Texas Different.'"

Underwood sees this effort as a great marketing opportunity to promote El Paso's conservation efforts. It's also an opportunity to publicize the ingenuity and determination of a city that without water might have wilted and crumbled before getting blown away by the desert wind.

"The responsible thing for us in the desert is to reuse water as much as possible," Trejo says. "That's what this project lets us do." Born and raised in El Paso, Trejo's always been around the city's water. As a teenager, he worked for the irrigation district, cleaning the same canals he'd

played in as a boy. The ditch riders, who controlled the flow of water, taught Trejo how it moved from the Rio Grande, directed by opening and closing gates along the canals, and how that system was centuries old. "A lot of those canals were built by Native Americans," Trejo says.

Since it's the same question most who live here have asked themselves, it's easy to imagine Native Americans also struggling to answer the life-or-death riddle of finding water in the desert. It's the same problem that, for at least the past few decades, El Paso officials have also tried to solve.

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2019 Year in Review Issue

We are entering a new year, a new decade, a new century. This year, 2019, is a year of reflection, a year of looking back at the year that was. It is a year of looking forward to the year that is to come. It is a year of looking back at the year that was, and looking forward to the year that is to come. It is a year of looking back at the year that was, and looking forward to the year that is to come.

WEek AT A GLANCE

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