

**Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation**

*On the Edge!*

Dear Park Service,

June 18, 2017

My family and I would like to thank everyone for their outstanding service for helping us in our time of need on June 15, 2017.

I'm thankful that you stopped for my granddaughter (Arianna) first even though you were not sure about me. She is very important to me. She is back to her old self. You would never know she had been that out of it. All she remembers is going for help for her Nana then waking up in the hospital. She did have to stay overnight. But she liked the fact that she could get popsicles when ever she wanted.

My son (David) is doing great. I'm thankful you were there in his time of need and jump on him as soon as you saw he needed help. He has a way of fighting through things to get a job done and at the time it was taking care of his mom. But as soon as he knew I was in good hands he let his guard down and the heat hit him like a ton of bricks.

As for the daughter-in-law (Valarie) she is doing well. She feels really bad about getting sick in the rangers car. The ER gave her an IV. And she was reunited with her daughter and husband in the ER. After David and Valarie were released they came up to Arianna's room and stayed with her.

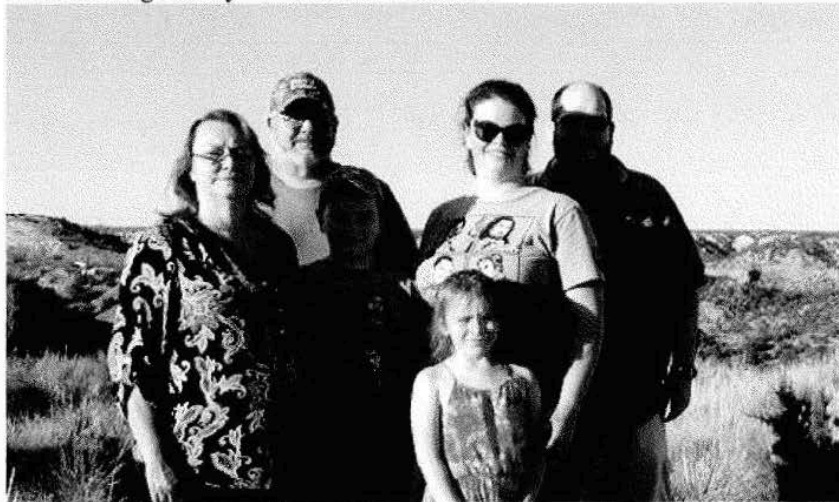
As for me, I want to thank all of the people that were there to help. Even though I was talking and seem to be doing okay I don't remember everything. I'm doing better every day. We are all home and taking it one day at a time.

Thank you,

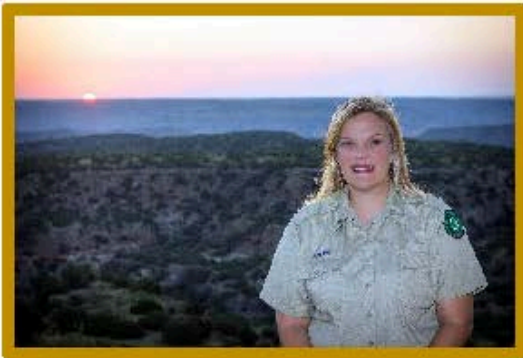
*Saundra Manning*

Saundra Manning  
And Family

The Manning Family - THANK YOU!!!!



Saundra, Weldon, Samuel, Arianna, Valarie and David Manning



### **Shannon Blaylock Park Superintendent**

All of us, at different times in our lives, have experiences that stick with us for a lifetime. We file them away, and they affect how we handle and carry ourselves forever. Park staff had one of those impactful experiences recently, and I'd like to share it with you all.

On June 15, 2017, at about 11:40 a.m., the Park received notification of an elderly female experiencing heat-related issues about two miles out on the Lighthouse Trail. It was already nearing 100 degrees on the rim, and so EMS and Canyon Fire Department were preemptively called to assist.

A response team, consisting of two Operations Rangers and a BSA Paramedic, were sent onto the trail to locate and begin assessment of the reported female. Long before reaching the woman, they came across a young girl.

Arianna was a little over a mile out on the trail and needed immediate medical attention. The team loaded her onto the UTV and brought her back to the ambulance staged at the Lighthouse Trailhead parking lot.

Seven-year-old Arianna was no longer able to cry tears, because her body was so dehydrated. Given her condition, Arianna was flown out of the canyon by helicopter.

Before Arianna reached the trailhead, additional calls for service came in. Multiple people, at numerous locations on the trails, were in trouble. Eight patients, two helicopters, four ambulances, and five hours later, the afternoon's events came to an end.

YOUR park team responded with care, excellence, and professionalism. LifeStar, Canyon Fire Department, Randall County Fire Department, and BSA were with us every step of the way. It was truly a testament to the efforts of staff in training and building meaningful relationships with the local agencies.

It was also a reminder to us all to stay prepared and aware. Heat-related incidents make up the majority of incidents we respond to in the Park. We ALL have a responsibility to educate ourselves and others to the risks associated with the unique heat that exists here.

All eight visitors treated on June 15<sup>th</sup> are doing well, and Arianna got to eat popsicles whenever she wanted during her overnight stay in the hospital—you can't beat that!

The outcome was positive, but sometimes incidents don't end happily. Situational awareness is so important, and so I ask that you all assist us in spreading heat-safety messages as often as you can. I also ask that you keep yourself and your family's safety first in mind ALWAYS when hiking.

Have a wonderful rest of the summer, stay cool, and drink lots of water!

Take care. *SB*





**Jeff Davis**  
**Park Interpreter**

There are few places on the earth more amazing than Palo Dur Canyon. With the wide-open vistas, colorful walls, fascinating history, exciting trails, dozens of campsites, impressive Visitor Center, fun-filled musical, and abundance and variety of plant and animal life, there is something for everyone who visits.

But being a wilderness area, Palo Duro Canyon is not without its dangers. Despite what many visitors think are the most treacherous things here—rattlesnakes, falling rocks, falls from ledges—heat and dehydration are by far the most dangerous threats a visitor is likely to encounter in the summer.

When hiking in temperatures over 100 degrees, your body is losing large quantities of water through sweating and breathing. An intrepid hiker or biker can quickly become fatigued, dehydrated, and overheated in the kind of conditions that are common here in the summer.

In a single day this summer, Park staff, along with local EMTs and firefighters, helped 10 different people off the Lighthouse Trail. Two were flown by helicopter to local hospitals to receive treatment (and a third would have been flown had the helicopter not

suffered a malfunction). The luckier ones received IV fluids in the ambulance and likely spent several days feeling sick and weak. Heat stroke is not something to take lightly. It can have serious consequences from permanent brain damage to death.

Fortunately—and frustratingly for first responders—heat stroke is very avoidable. In Palo Duro Canyon, the easiest way to avoid a heat injury is to hike in the cooler summer mornings or in the fall, winter, or spring. Also, one must be sure always to carry ample amounts of water. One or two sixteen-ounce bottles of water do not count as ample. A gallon of water per hiker, biker, and pet is recommended for a summer hike. If the temperature is over 100 degrees, you should not be on a trail. When you have drunk half your water, turn back. This could save your life.

Keep yourselves cool out there. We want all our visitors to have fun and be safe, and we want to see them all again next summer. *Jd*





**Mel Phillips**  
**Coming Soon**

**A new book about the Sacred Canyon,  
PALO DURO CANYON**

Those of us who are fortunate to live in what some call the Crown of Texas already know parts of beautiful Palo Duro Canyon, but there is more to be told.

Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting “our” canyon and working closely with Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel at the State Park, are pleased to announce that this year there might be a new book under your Christmas tree. It will make a perfect gift for friends and family who have wandered.

Drawing on talents and skills from contributors who know this magnificent canyon, the new book will give first-time

visitors, and even old hands, a better understanding of its economic and cultural importance.

The cover will feature a Jack Sorenson painting. Jack has logged literally thousands of hours searching for those special places that only a visual artist can find.

The back cover will feature words about the Canyon from best-selling author, S.G. Gwynne, author of *Empire of the Summer Moon*. The Canyon saw the ending of one world, that of Quanah Parker, the last great Comanche chief of the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American history, and the beginning of a new world of cattle and open ranges that covered hundreds of thousands of acres represented by Charles Goodnight and the JA Ranch.

A special thanks to professors Cindy Meador of WTA&M University for carrying the load about the plants and animals of the Canyon and to Doctor Gerald Schiultz, retired professor, also of WTA&M, for explaining the geology that makes “our” canyon unique among the special places of the world.

Did I mention the barbed wire that changed the West, mavericks and branded cattle that are descendants of those early cattle that roamed the Canyon? Or the sad story of the Sad Monkey Railroad that didn’t quite fit Austin’s view of the Canyon?

The new book will feature also stories of the strong hands of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930’s when the CCC built structures and roads that are still in use today.

Today, those same kinds of strong hands with Chris Podzemny and the “Palo Duro Canyon Corps of Engineers” are working daily with the Texas Parks and Wildlife officials to build and maintain the

foot trails and bike paths that each year play host to thousands of hikers and bikers.

**DO NOT TELL WALES...**

...but I have heard that this book will be dedicated to Wales Madden, Jr. for all his behind-the-scenes efforts to make Palo Duro Canyon State Park bigger and better than it would have been without his support and backing. His name may not be posted, but his brand is everywhere in the Park.

Shhashhh! Let him be surprised!

Finally, a word of thanks to a couple of very special sponsors of this book and a final chance for you to become a sponsor. Happy State Bank with Pat Hickman at helm stepped up big time by sponsoring the inside cover of the book and what could be called Page One.

Thanks, Pat.

Thanks to the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce and Eric Miller as well for again supporting projects that benefit not only Amarillo but also out entire region.

If you would like to support this unique book project with money or time, give Mel a call at 806-223-9225.

Mel Phillips, KGNC radio talk show host  
Cow/Calf Rancher  
Board member of Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation  
[www.FamilyRanchRaised.com](http://www.FamilyRanchRaised.com)



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**To Volunteer for the Visitor Center**

**Contact David Townsend**

**Phone: (806) 488-2506**

**E-mail: [partners@midplains.coop](mailto:partners@midplains.coop)**

**To Volunteer for the Park**

**Contact Jeff Davis**

**Phone: (806) 488-2227, ext. 2007**

**E-mail: [jeff.davis@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:jeff.davis@tpwd.texas.gov)**



Photo by Jeff Davis

**Trinity River Audubon Center**  
By  
**Jeff Davis**

High school aged volunteers from the Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas visited the park for camping trips on three different occasions this summer. While here, they volunteered their time cleaning out fire pits, picking up trash and removing the old trailhead thermometers that had become unreadable. Local volunteers from the Canyon Conservation Corps (check us out on Facebook!) helped to rebuild and replace those thermometers, which helps to ensure the safety of our visitors. Look for the shiny new thermometers the next time you're in the park. *Jf*



Photo Provided by Jeff Davis  
**Audubon Students Preparing Pizzas in a Dutch Oven**

### **Pork-Pie Hat and Bib Overalls**

He came into the Visitor's Center, and I thought, "Well, here's another strange one." I, and others, who work as volunteers in the Visitor's Center and Canyon Gallery, see many peculiar sights during the course of a year, such as four young men from the Netherlands clomping in wooden shoes.

This one wore a pork-pie hat, and on the bib of his denim overalls dangled a key chain with a number of keys attached and other ornaments. He came around to the cash register, pulled out his I-Phone, and showed me a picture of an exquisite squash-blossom necklace. "My grandmother made this," he said. His voice was so low that I could barely understand him. "I have a sixteen-by-twenty-foot room full of her jewelry."

He said that he was a member of a Native American tribe in New Mexico. I couldn't catch the name. I told him that David Townsend, our store manager, lived on the Navajo Reservation as a boy.

"Din' eh," he corrected me, giving me the Navajo name for their tribe, which means, "the people."

Trying to change the subject, I told him that David had been adopted as a brother into the Comanche Nation, and he began to speak to me in Comanche.

"I don't understand Comanche," I said.

"I speak nine languages," he said. I took his word for it. Whether they are Native American tongues or other languages, I don't know.

I gave him David's business card, thinking he might want to sell some of his grandmother's jewelry. He took the card, smiled, and said good-bye in English.

And so goes another day at the store.

*Cf*



**Image Courtesy of Jim Livingston Photo Gallery  
Image by Jim Livingston**

**In Memory**

**Henrietta Doss**

**1937-2017**

Henrietta was a member of Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation and worked as a volunteer in the Canyon Gallery for many years. She will be greatly missed along with her sense of humor and gentle demeanor.

**Mary Lou Nisbet**

**1937-2017**

Mary Lou will be remembered for her constant smile and gracious personality. She was the wife of Tommy Nisbet, long-time member of Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation, volunteer coordinator and volunteer in the Canyon Gallery.



Partners in  
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