

This and That

By Janine L. Kock, Times Editor and Publisher

I love this time of year...No, not because it's football season, not because it's time for the baseball World Series, not because basketball at all levels is on the verge of getting underway, not even because of the beautiful fall colors and the excitement of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner.

Those are all contributing factors into why I love fall but, as you can see on page 3, it's subscription campaign time here at the Manilla Times, and that's a great opportunity for us at The Times to add to our subscription list and to add to the total of money we have been able to contribute to the IKM-Manning Schools since we started this adventure in 2011.

Be sure to look over the ad explaining the details of the campaign, which runs through Monday, December 11, and then check out the nine students on the IKM-Manning Middle School Student Council who are this year's salespeople. After speaking to the middle schoolers last Thursday, I hadn't even made it out of the building when I saw not one but two of the kids actively making their first sales. Those sales -- which demonstrate the fact that making sales is really as simple as I always tell the kids it is -- have to be an indication of a great sales campaign just getting underway, and that is something everyone should be excited about!

If you have questions, don't hesitate to call the Times office at 654-2911, or stop in on Main Street in Manilla to make your purchases! You can choose your favorite of the nine kids to receive credit for your sale! Watch for our first updates in the student sales contest and in the amount of Kock Publishing's contribution to the student council in next week's paper.

This past weekend I joined the crowds of area residents who were taking advantage of the beautiful weather to get ready for the coming weather which won't be so nice. I cleaned out my backyard storage shed and then packed everything back in neatly so I could make room for summer yard items and other "stuff" that has been taking up room in the garage this summer.

I'm on the verge of getting on my favorite carpenter's "to do" list, so a brand new deck will be making an appearance at my house next summer, and that is a very exciting thought. I'm hoping the little black bugs stay away so I have a chance to enjoy some more fall days on the old deck before it is a piece of history.

Middle Age in a Nutshell

"Who cares if it looks good? I'm comfortable!"
 "Has anyone seen my phone?"
 "Stupid scale...that cannot be right!"
 "Shoot, did I already take my vitamin?"
 "Huh, I wonder how I got this bruise!"
 "Why is the print on these instructions so tiny?"
 "\$5 for a box of cereal? They raised the price and shrunk the box... such a racket!"
 "Software update again? I don't like updates!"
 "Who in the world is calling me at 9:30 p.m.?"
 "Sorry, I forgot what I was going to say!"
 "Wait! What did I come in here for?"
 "I could have sworn that was my password!"

Speaking of football... (I was speaking of football earlier, right?)

It was certainly fun to see Iowa State grad Brock Purdy on the field Sunday during his San Francisco 49ers' blowout loss to the Kansas City Chiefs. If you recall, Purdy received the title of "Mr. Irrelevant" after he was the last player picked in last year's pro football draft.

Only one time since 1936 has a quarterback picked last in the draft ever played in a regular season game. That was Chad Kelly, who played in a game for the Broncos in 2018, recording one rush for negative one yards. Purdy entered Sunday's game late and actually completed his first pass for 20 yards to 49ers receiver Ray-Ray McCloud and went on to complete four of his nine throws for a total of 66 yards, with one interception.

Hopefully Purdy can stay on the 49ers roster and can see more playing time. Things have been going his way so far, as he won the QB3 job over Nate Sudfeld during training camp, and then moved up to backup when the team's 2022 starter at the beginning of the season, Trey Lance, was injured, putting Jimmy Garoppolo back in the starter's role.

Because Phyllis wants more jokes...

What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet?
 "Supplies!"

What did the three-legged dog say when he walked into the saloon?
 "I'm lookin' for the man who shot my paw."

I've got a great CIA joke! But I can't tell ya!

I had a great time travel joke, but you guys didn't like it!

Did you hear the rumor about the butter??
 Well I'm not going to spread it

A blond runs into a fire station and yells, "There's a fire down the street!" A fireman jumps up and asks, "Ok, how do we get there?" She looks a bit confused, and replies, "DUH, in the big red truck!"



OUR IOWA HERITAGE

By Manilla Native Craig R. Saunders, M.D.

SOUTHWEST IOWA'S MEGAFUNA

(Continued)

Megafauna archeological sites like these are important. Not only do they tell us about the lives and deaths of mammoths, but they also tell stories of what Iowa was like 12,000 years ago when the mammoths thrived. In this case, the Iowa landscape consisted of tundra-like regions followed by extensive forests of fir and spruce trees with some broadleaf trees adapted to withstand cold year-round temperatures. Naturally melting glaciers also caused rushing rivers, extensive wetlands, bogs, and fens.¹

So, what about Rusty? Rusty is a life-sized recreation of a giant ground sloth with long shaggy rusty-toned hair, massive claws, and a face that NOT just a mother can love. Everyone loves Rusty. He was once an integral part of campus life at the University of Iowa, donning appropriate costumes for campus events like Homecoming, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break.

However, the wear and tear of a heavy workload began to take its toll on Rusty. Perhaps there is a reason college is only 4 years - he now enjoys more of an emeritus status. After all, he's no spring chicken. Rusty swears he's not a day younger than 9,500 years. That's probably true. That's the time his species went extinct.

Nevertheless, he's still in pretty good shape, as they say, for the shape that he's in. During his prime, he stood 10 feet tall and weighed somewhere between 2-3 tons. Eventually, Rusty "graduated" and is now the tenured mascot, dignified elder statesman, and spoke-sloth, hosting school children and other visitors to his unnatural 'natural' habitat, which is The University of Iowa's Museum of Natural History.

Rusty's modern-day story began in 2002. Bob and Sonia Athen of Shenandoah found some bones in a creek bed on their property. Curious, they brought them along when visiting their daughter at the University of Iowa. U of I geology professor Holmes Semken was quoted as saying, "I stepped through the door, saw that thigh bone, and I knew right away that this was an extinct giant Ground Sloth..."

The university has been excavating the unique Shenandoah site ever since. According to Sarah Hogan of the U of I Museum of Natural History, not only have they found 104 adult sloth bones but there are also 41 juvenile bones and a shoulder bone from a baby... that's unheard of... there's no other site to compare... scientifically, this is in a league of its own."

David Brenzel, who spent 8 years excavating the site, says, "Their fossils aren't uncommon, but sites of a dozen bones or more are extremely rare - there are just a half-dozen. It's an amazing fact that few appreciate - the animal is so often pictured one assumes the fossils are common and that the animal is well-understood. It's not. T-Rex skeletons are many times more common and, on average, far more complete!"

"DNA tests didn't yield any guaranteed sloth DNA, so the family relationship is presumptive... family, extended family or unrelated - either way, finding three (giant ground sloths) together raises a whole set of new in-

triguing questions about the species and juvenile care. The more you learn about this animal, the more questions you have... There are many mysteries about our "Giant Claw."²

Also roaming with the Giant Ground Sloth and Mammoths were ancient species of Buffalo much larger than today's, Camels, a forerunner of the Horse, Giant Beaver, Muskrat, Caribou, big cats classified as Panthera, and an extinct pig-like animal called a Peccary, and Wolves.

"Things are still turning up," Trina

Roberts, associate director of the university's Museum of Natural History, was quoted as saying in a 2014 interview. For example, in 2008, Joe Walker, who farms near Atlantic, found the state's first giant short-faced bear. Regarding saber-toothed cats, which would have been in Iowa, "No one has found one yet," Roberts emphasized. "We would've been saying that about giant short-faced bears five years ago, and now we don't have to say that anymore."³

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