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WEM ADVANCES TO SECTION FINAL

IN LOCAL & STATE, B1

TRICK OR TREAT ACROSS THE AREA

IN NATION & WORLD, A3

BOY SCOUTS TO RAISE FEES

TODAY'S OBITUARIES

- Aaron Bernard Everett
Faye Michaletz

OPINIONS

Impeachment

Republicans are attempting to delegitimize the impeachment hearings with half-truths and lies. — A4

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Man turns self in after photoshop ploy

KANKAKEE, ILL. — All it took for one fugitive in Illinois to turn himself in was a little photo manipulation. WBBM-TV in Chicago reports that the Kankakee County Sheriff's Department posts notices about fugitives on its Facebook page each Wednesday. This week, the department posted a picture of Brandon W. Conti. The 25-year-old was wanted for failure to appear on a drunken-driving charge. Conti commented on the post and asked, "Where's my costume?" Sheriff's office staff then edited the photo to add a sailor suit and a hat that read, "Ahoy." An officer wrote, "We held up our end of the bargain." Conti replied with laughing emojis, noting he would turn himself in "before noon" and asked that police "have the paperwork done and ready." The department confirms Conti subsequently turned himself in. The Associated Press

LOTTERY

- Thursday's Daily 3 6-7-7
Wednesday's Gopher 5 8-11-36-43-46
Wednesday's Powerball 19-22-52-56-67 and 21
Wednesday's Lotto America 3-6-28-32-44 and 2
Thursday's Northstar Cash 12-17-25-26-30
Tuesday's Mega Millions 4-9-17-27-39 and 22

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WEATHER, PAGE B4

Cloudy
High of 40.
Low of 25.

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Mankato, Minnesota

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

A video accompanies this story at: mankatofreepress.com



Above: Australian artist Guido van Helten works on his mural on the Ardent Mills silos in Mankato. The mural on the 122-foot silos is expected to take about eight weeks to complete. Top: A close-up view of the artwork. Left: The silos hug the bank of the Minnesota River in Mankato.

Photos by Pat Christman

St. Peter dog park on track

By Brian Arola
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ST. PETER — The group raising money for a new dog park in St. Peter has nearly reached its fundraising goal, increasing the likelihood of a spring 2020 construction start. The River Valley Dog Park Association has about \$28,000 of the \$32,000 needed for construction to commence. Three upcoming fundraisers will add to the total. Abbey Lane of the association said she's confident the group will have the money in hand by the time spring rolls around. "It is very likely we'll make that goal before spring and we can plan for a spring groundbreaking, which is exciting," she said. The new dog park would complement the existing one at Highway 99 and Rabbit Road. The current park tends to flood after rainy

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Studies: Measles hamper childhood immunity

Tribune News Service

It's an article of faith for many who refuse to have their children vaccinated against childhood diseases: When healthy children get and recover from an infection naturally, their immune systems come out stronger. When it comes to measles, the opposite is true, according to two studies published Thursday. In a group of 77 Dutch schoolchildren whose parents declined to vaccinate them on religious grounds, the new research documents several ways in which infection with measles can hobble a child's immune function for months or even years after that child has recovered from her bout with the virus. The effect was mild in some of the children. But in roughly 16% of those who suffered an active measles infection, the result was a severe case of "immune amnesia." In those children, a genetic census of antibodies — immune proteins that recognize and destroy invading microbes — showed that they had lost at least some immunity to more than 40% of common childhood diseases. Measles appeared to have stripped away immune protections these children had built over years of exposure to diseases and germs.

Please see STUDIES, Page A1

House passes impeachment inquiry rules

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats swept a rules package for their impeachment probe of President Donald Trump through a divided House Thursday, as the chamber's first vote on the investigation highlighted the partisan breach the issue has only deepened. By 232-196, lawmakers approved the procedures they'll follow as weeks of closed-door interviews with witnesses evolve into public committee hearings and — almost certainly — votes on whether the House should recommend Trump's removal. All voting Republicans opposed the package. Every voting Democrat but two supported it. Underscoring the pressure Trump has heaped on his party's lawmakers, he tweeted, "Now is the time for Republicans to stand together and defend the leader of their party against these smears." Yet the roll call also accentuated how Democrats have rallied behind the impeachment inquiry after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi spent months urging

caution until evidence and public support had grown. She and other Democratic leaders had feared a premature vote would wound the reelection prospects of dozens of their members, including freshmen and lawmakers from Trump-won districts or seats held previously by Republicans. But recent polls have shown voters' growing receptivity to the investigation and, to a lesser degree, ousting Trump. That and evidence that House investigators have amassed have helped unify Democrats, including those from GOP areas. Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa, said she was supporting a pathway to giving "the American people the facts they deserve," while Rep. Andy Kim, D-N.J., said voters warrant "the uninhibited truth." Yet Republicans were also buoyed by polling, which has shown that GOP voters stand unflinchingly behind Trump. "The impeachment-obsessed Democrats just flushed their majority down the toilet," said Michael McAdams, a spokesman for House Republicans' campaign arm.

Elsewhere at the Capitol on Thursday, three House panels led by the Intelligence Committee questioned their latest witness into the allegations that led to the impeachment inquiry: that Trump pressured Ukraine to produce dirt on his Democratic political rivals by withholding military aid and an Oval Office meeting craved by the country's new president. Tim Morrison, who stepped down from the National Security Council the day before his appearance, testified — still behind closed doors — that he saw nothing illegal in Trump's phone call with the Ukrainian president that is at the center of the Democrat-led investigation. Yet, Morrison also largely confirmed much of what William Taylor, the highest-ranking U.S. official in Ukraine, said in earlier, highly critical testimony about the call, which Taylor said he and Morrison discussed several times. The Democrats are still waiting to hear if Morrison's one-time boss, John Bolton, will testify. They have subpoenaed former national security adviser Bolton, who

quit the administration after disagreements with Trump over his handling of Ukraine. In the House inquiry vote, the only Democratic "no" votes were by Reps. Jeff Van Drew, a New Jersey freshman, and veteran Collin Peterson of Minnesota, one of the House's most conservative Democrats. Both are battling for reelection in Republican-leaning districts. Also supporting the rules was independent Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan, who left the GOP this year after announcing he was open to considering Trump's impeachment. Thursday's House debate was laced with high-minded appeals to defend the Constitution and Congress' independence, as well as partisan taunts. "What are we fighting for? Defending our democracy," said Pelosi. She addressed lawmakers with a poster of the American flag beside her and opened her comments by reading from the preamble to the Constitution.

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