

WESTERLY WINS

Falcons a favorite to win MAC, get to state. **SPORTS**



▶ AT QCTIMES.COM: SEE PHOTO GALLERIES FROM BETTENDORF'S SOCCER VICTORY, MOLINE'S SOFTBALL WIN.

Allies step up for RI Arsenal

Federal, local officials present united front

By Kurt Allemeier
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The Quad-City congressional delegation is well-armed to fend off a threat to Rock Island Arse-

nal's Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, local officials say.

The Arsenal has four U.S. senators and three congressmen to fight for it, and they are well-versed in its importance to the Quad-City economy and national security as it faces a

budget-cutting task force from the U.S. Army that is considering JMTC as a possible target.

The bistate and bipartisan Quad-City congressional delegation sent a letter to Army Secretary John McHugh last week seeking a meeting regarding JMTC.

Local officials say they keep an ear to the ground for good and bad news when it comes to the Rock Island Arsenal. They raise the importance of the facility during lobbying trips to Washington, D.C., and arrange tours for Iowa and Illinois' congressmen and senators. They seek

new tenants.

"We need to be proactive on this," said Rock Island County Board chairman Jim Bohnsack, who leads the Rock Island Arsenal Development Group. "We have friends in government that let us know there is a task force."

— ARSENAL | **A4**

Stimulus spurs RI rebirth

Jackson Square project gets boost from government

By Alma Gaul
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Inside the shell of what was warehouse and office space for the Illinois Oil Co. in Rock Island, 30 new apartments take shape.

Drywall is up, 66 new window openings have been cut into the north side to bring in light, and a one-story addition has been built on the south, including a three-story elevator, a community room and a porte-cochere, or covered driveway.

Known as Jackson Square, the project by the foot of the Rock Island Viaduct — 24th Street and 4th Avenue — should be finished in September, with occupancy shortly thereafter, said Paul Fessler, a construction director with the Rock Island Economic Growth Corp., a nonprofit community developer.

The \$8.2 million project is the single biggest Quad-City recipient of funds from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or federal "stimulus" bill, that is funneling a total of \$20.1 million into Rock Island, Moline and Davenport through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Jackson Square will receive \$5.9 million in program money,

— SQUARE | **A3**

IN HOME & GARDEN

Rehabbed Broadway homes open for tours. **PAGE D1**

Moline builds new apartments in old row houses. **PAGE D3**

Davenport couple gets help buying home. **PAGE D3**



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HIGH **LOW**

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CLASS OF 2011

TEEN RISES ABOVE PAIN



Shawn Schoonover joins classmates in cooking class at Bettendorf High School.

Senior at Bettendorf High graduates on time after recovering from severe burns suffered 2½ years ago that covered more than half his body.



Shawn Schoonover takes part in graduation practice Wednesday at Bettendorf High School. The 18-year-old has recovered from severe burns that covered more than half of his body.

Photos by Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES



ON PAGE A4

- Kimberly Center East graduate balances school, job, motherhood
- Welding skills help Davenport West grads earn scholarship
- Cerebral palsy can't slow down Rock Island grad.
- A list of area schools' graduations.

Shawn Schoonover still remembers finding that red gasoline can in the garage.

Now 18, he describes how he poured some of the gas into an old apple juice container, tucking it into his backpack and walking to his ex-girlfriend's house two and a half years ago.

He can see himself standing in her yard, pouring the gas all over his body.

"I remember I barely flicked the lighter," the Bettendorf teen said, moving his right thumb to demonstrate.

Instantly, searing-hot flames engulfed his body, he said.

Schoonover doesn't know exactly

how long he burned before someone doused the flames with a garden hose. But it was long enough to leave him critically injured, with severe burns covering more than 50 percent of his body.

"It was really bad," his mother, 38-year-old Sandy Windham of Bettendorf, said. "It was grim."

Yet, here he is — after four months of intensive burn treatment at University Hospitals in Iowa City, 15 to 20 reconstructive surgeries and countless physical therapy sessions — graduating this weekend with his class from Bettendorf High School.

— TEEN | **A4**

By Kay Luna | kluna@qctimes.com

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