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NO TRASH TALK

UP FRONT

Winter storm warning: 5-7 inches of snow tonight in Q-C

► Winter storm threatens holiday travel. **C5**



The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for the Quad-Cities region from 6 p.m. today through 6 p.m. Sunday.

Julia Rhodes works to remove ice from the windshield of her car in Madison, Wis., on Friday after freezing rain that had hit the Quad-Cities earlier moved on to southern Wisconsin.

At times, 1 to 2 inches of snow per hour could fall, according to the NWS. Blowing snow also is expected with sustained winds of 10 to 20 mph and gusts up to 30 mph possibly limiting visibility to as low as a quarter of a mile.

Today's high could reach 32 degrees before the snow starts. After the snow arrives, highs for Sunday are forecast around 28, followed by a high of only 6 on Monday. Monday's nighttime low is forecast for minus 8 degrees.

—Staff report

Poll: Adults say 'whatever' is like totally annoying

POLIGKEESIE, N.Y. — When it comes to phrases that annoy, it looks like it's 'whatever' forever. Pollsters at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., found that Americans considered 'whatever' to be the most annoying word or phrase in conversation for a fifth straight year.

Thirty-eight percent of adults polled said 'whatever' was most annoying in conversation, followed by 'like' at 22 percent and 'you know' at 18 percent. Bringing up the rear were 'just sayin'' and 'obviously.'

The telephone poll of 1,173 adults living in the continental United States was conducted Dec. 3-5.

—Associated Press

Trying to spread cheer, Santa in NH scares instead

HOLLIS, N.H. — Police in southern New Hampshire say a man dressed as Santa Claus was only trying to spread some cheer but ended up panicking officials when he knocked on school windows and entered the building.

The Nashua Telegraph reports that administrators at Hollis Primary School called police about 10 a.m. Thursday after they saw the man running around the school, tapping on windows and waving.

He was buzzed into the building but fled when he saw a look of alarm on a staffer's face.

—Associated Press

Judge grants Reagan shooter more time away from hospital

WASHINGTON

The man who attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan will get to spend more time outside a mental hospital where he has been confined for most of the past three decades, a judge ruled Friday.

John Hinckley will

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'Courthouse violates law'

Chief judge lashes out at county board's vote against referendum

BY STEPHEN ELLIOTT
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ROCK ISLAND

 — Fourthteenth Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Jeffrey O'Connor criticized the Rock Island County Board on Friday for refusing to put a referendum on the ballot next March asking voters to build a new courthouse.

"In fact, the board has articulated no meaningful plan, yet the courthouse remains obsolete and in violation of the law," Judge O'Connor said in a statement.

Referencing to concepts expressed by some board members that the courthouse vote would reduce chances of

voters approving a tax hike to support Hope Creek Care Center, the judge said, "Nursing homes are not a duty of a county board, but an optional project which would be fine if it would run in the black on its own merits."

On Tuesday the board voted 8-15 against holding the courthouse referendum.

Consultants were hired and a plan was formed to ask voters in March for up to \$72 million to build a new courthouse and renovate the existing county office building in downtown Rock Island.

In his statement, Judge O'Connor said, "the county board has chosen to seek a taxpayer levy to save an op-



In this file photo from April 3, 14th Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Jeffrey O'Connor discusses a ballot initiative to address problems at the Rock Island County Courthouse. After the Rock Island County Board decided this week not to pursue another referendum next year, the judge said the courthouse "remains obsolete and in violation of the law."

► Full text of Judge Jeffrey O'Connor's statement. **A4**

"There ultimately will be political accountability and the 14th Judicial Circuit continues to weigh alternatives

in the spirit of county."

Although the chief judge is disappointed and the circuit judges have threatened litigation, the political implications of a courthouse referendum

See **COURTHOUSE**, page **A3**

Operation Toy Soldier



Bob Weber / webber@qonline.com

U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Preston Parker, left; Jenny Kerr, Family Advocacy Program manager and Army Community Service liaison; Marine 1st Sgt. Justin Stokes; Reid Trimble, of Trimble Funeral and Cremation Centers; and Army 1st Sgt. Michael Bernard work on Friday to pack more than 100 toys gathered for Operation Toy Soldier at Trimble Funeral and Cremation Centers in Moline. Operation Toy Soldier was sponsored by Veterans Funeral Care to collect toys for families of local active duty soldiers, sailors and Marines in need.

'Autistic angels' get boost from Good Fellow/Santa

BY LEON LAGERSTAM
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ALEDO — Contributors to The Dispatch Good Fellow and The Rock Island Argus Santa Fund put some warm smiles and warm clothes on an Aledo family's "autistic angels."

Jamicyann Allen, 9, was the youngest person nominated and selected for holiday help this year.

"I just felt she and her family could use the assistance this time of year," said nominator Rebecca Bimberg, a servicer facilitator of the ADC

of the Quad Cities. "She's a child with autism, and her brother has autism, and her brother's dad's had a couple recent knee surgeries, too. Their dad's had a knee surgery before Christmas, donations to The Dispatch Good Fellow and The Rock Island Argus Santa Fund have reached \$90,113, but the campaign needs \$9,887 more to meet this year's \$40,000 goal.

"Mrs. Allen said, 'If looked like we'd have nothing. But now I'll be able to get the kids a little bit of candy, some new clothes and a present or two. I'm excited. We appreciated that we were nominated and thank everyone who donated.' With less than a week left before Christmas, donations to The Dispatch Good Fellow and The Rock Island Argus Santa Fund have reached

making the holidays brighter!

