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SPC Michael Mastin of Hoopeston, who has served two tours of duty in Iraq since graduating Hoopeston Area High School, gives the keynote address at Monday's Veterans Day service at McFerren Park, as Larry Baughn listens.

Community support is important to soldiers in Iraq war

American soldiers fighting in Iraq depend on community support to get them through the tough times, according to a man who has been there.

SPC Michael Mastin was the featured speaker at Hoopeston Veterans Day services Monday at McFerren park. He has served two tours of duty in Iraq since graduating from Hoopeston Area High School in 2004.

"It's really hard being away," Mastin told those attending the ceremony. "We need community support like this. For us to be able to give our best, we have to know that you're here giving us your best."

The ceremony, held at the Grant Township Veterans Memorial, including music by Hoopeston Area High

See SUPPORT on other side

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As Superintendent Hank Hornbeck sits down, Hoopeston Area School Board member Russ Walder gives a letter during “Sparkle,” a spelling game board members played with Honeywell School students Kaycee Morgan and Michael Newman. The event was part of Thursday’s school board meeting at Honeywell, which showcased the school and its students. Other board members pictured are, from left, Dwight Judy, Sara Johnson, Mark Wagoner, Lawrence Jahn and Mark Schaumburg.

‘Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?’ Hoopeston Area board bested by fourth graders

Hoopeston Area school board members wouldn’t go far on the game show Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader.

At Thursday’s board meeting, Honeywell School students Michael Newman and Kaycee Morgan invited the board to participate in Sparkle, a spelling game played at the school. Under rules of the game, a word is given and each player gives one letter of the word. If an incorrect letter is given, that player is out. A player is also out if he is next in line after the word is spelled. That player says “Sparkle” and is out of the game.

It took only two words to end the game. “Lieutenant” took out most of the board and Superintendent Hank Hornbeck, leaving board President Mark Wagoner and Mark Schaumburg to duel on the letters to “pneumonia.” The last letter of the word fell to Schaumburg, who won the match.

The board also failed to correctly answer the four stages of a plant’s life cycle. Even gardener Sara Johnson failed to answer correctly. Teacher Chris Newman answered the question.

Seventeen students took part in showcasing Honey-

well, talking about classes and activities at the school

The December 20 meeting will showcase Maple Elementary School.

Weather



Chance of showers today. High 62. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 48. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 58, low 32.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Police News



A **34-year-old** woman reported Sunday that someone broke the windshield of her vehicle while it was at Parkview Court.

Anthony S. Comstock, 26, of 9 Parkview Court was arrested at 12:30 p.m. Sunday at CVS Pharmacy, 805 S. Dixie Hwy. He was charged with forgery on a complaint from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Comstock was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, to await a bond hearing.

Obituaries

ALLEN - Mary Eileen Allen, 77, of Milford died at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007 at home. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Milford Christian Church. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, and one hour before service Thursday at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church, Iroquois Memorial Hospice or a charity of the donor’s choice.

Support continued from other side

School students, invocation and benediction by the Rev. Lewis Mershon and laying of the wreath by Guardsman Derek Hahn. The American Legion/VFW Color Guard gave a 21-gun salute and Caleb Thrasher played “Taps” to close the ceremony.

Afterwards, both the American Legion and VFW served chili and potato soup luncheons for local veterans.

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