

## Press Clippings 5/11/2018

---Courier News--- 5/11/18

### **Teacher union, U-46 reach tentative deal**

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

The union representing **School District U46** teachers has reached a tentative contract agreement with the Elgin-area district, officials said.

Elgin Teachers Association President Richard Johnson confirmed an agreement is awaiting membership approval, but declined to discuss details until members are briefed on it. A union ratification vote is scheduled for May 24.

“The only thing I can say is I’m happy that we reached an agreement,” Johnson said.

Union negotiators have spent about 140 hours hammering out the deal with the district since negotiations started in January, he said.

Informational sessions to explain the contract to members will be held over the next week, Johnson said.

District spokeswoman Mary Fergus also confirmed they had a tentative agreement but would not discuss what it contains. No date for school board approval has been set.

The current contract expires Aug. 10.

Teachers have been working under a one-year contract extension that was approved in March 2017.

Both sides agreed to the extension, under which only the portions of the contract related to compensation and training were adjusted, in order to postpone lengthier and possibly more contentious negotiations until the 2017-18 school year. Under the deal, the base salary increased 0.94 percent for 2017-18, moving the entry-level salary to just below \$43,000.

The Elgin Teachers Association represents more than 2,400 educators in what is the largest school district outside of Chicago.

---Courier News--- 5/11/18

## U46 recognizes teen's award-winning app

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Farrah Stephen, Patrick Stephen Jr. and Patrick Stephen check out champion robots in the window of the Got Robot? team headquarters in Elgin. The younger Stephen is part of the robotics team and launched an app designed to help student drivers keep track of their hours. (Mike Danahey/Courier-News )

An Elgin teen's venture into digitizing student drivers' practice time has earned him local, regional and congressional recognition.

The latest came Monday night, when the **District U46 School Board** honored Patrick Stephen, an Elgin junior attending Bartlett High School's STEM academy.

Stephen's Student Driver app was the first-place winner in the 6th Congressional District's App Challenge, part of the U.S. House of Representatives' 2018 Congressional App Challenge.

The mobile app uses GPS to detect motion and track how much practice time happens behind the wheel.

The app automatically tracks a student driver's drive time without manually entering it.

"I had my permit and didn't like how they were having us keep track of our driving time with a sheet of paper. So I created an app for it," Stephen told The Courier-News in April.

U46 board members and district officials presented Stephen with a certificate recognizing his achievement.

The winners from each congressional district were invited to participate in a demo day for their projects and a reception on Capitol Hill last month.

Stephens' app is available for free on the Apple App Store.

---Daily Herald--- 5/11/18

## **'You learn something new every single day'**

Retiring U-46 educators share their wisdom

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

Everything Nancy Stade needed to know she learned in kindergarten from her former kindergarten teacher, Lorraine Ripzinski.

From kindergarten through retirement, Stade has spent 52 of her 57 years in the classrooms of Elgin Area School District U-46 schools.

"If I didn't pick it up as a kindergartner then, I got it later on in life from Miss Lorraine as a teacher. She was so nurturing, loving," said Stade, of Elgin, a first-grade teacher at Creekside Elementary School in Elgin.

An Elgin High School graduate, Stade began as a student teacher at McKinley Elementary School in Elgin working under Ripzinski, from whom she later took over after Ripzinski retired.

"Miss Lorraine was a legend at McKinley," Stade said. "Stepping into her class and taking over, it was a bit intimidating. I felt like I was at home. I remember the first time I entered my classroom as a teacher there and thinking how wonderful it was to be able to continue my journey at the place where my school career began."

Stade has been teaching in U-46 for 34 years. She is among 108 U-46 employees retiring at the end of this school year.



**Nancy Stade takes questions Thursday from her first-graders at Creekside Elementary School in Elgin.** - Rick West | Staff Photographer

Her daily interactions with students and their sheer joy and excitement over learning is what she will miss the most, she said.

"They come in so young and enthusiastic. ... The growth that you see in first grade ... it's phenomenal," Stade said. "You are building that foundation. That is where it all starts ... these skills that they can apply to the rest of their lives."

Among this year's retirees is Barbara Toth, 65, of Rolling Meadows, an English Language Learners teacher at Highland Elementary School in Elgin, who has spent 29 years in kindergarten classrooms at various district elementary schools.

She began her career with U-46 in 1985 teaching science at Elgin High School with the bilingual department. Now, her daughter, Maureen, is a dual language math teacher at Elgin High.

A native of Colombia, Toth said bilingual education was a new concept when she started with the district. She said she loves when young students first learn to speak either Spanish or English, making "innocent" mistakes and soaking up a new language.



**English Language Learners teacher Barbara Toth reads a story to her students Thursday at Highland Elementary School in Elgin. Toth is retiring at the end of this school year after 32 years with U-46. - Rick West | Staff PhotographerD**

"I will miss the development ... how they started with zero and they end up like climbing a ladder," she said. "I will miss the innocence of these kids and how they are learning behavior and rules in the classroom."

Joanne Caporale, a special skills paraeducator at Sunnydale Elementary School in Streamwood, is retiring after working in the same classroom for 21 years -- her entire U-46 career.

Caporale, of Streamwood, was a parent volunteer at the school years ago when she was offered the opportunity to become a classroom assistant in 1996. She works with kindergarten through third-grade students with learning and developmental disabilities, including Down syndrome and autism.

"You learn something new every single day," Caporale said.



**Joanne Caporale, a special skills paraeducator at Sunnydale Elementary School in Streamwood, is retiring this school year after working in the same classroom for 21 years. - Courtesy of Joanne Caporale**

Patience and being nice is key to helping the students learn new tasks, anything from social skills to math, which at times might take a couple of weeks of repetitive reinforcement, she said.

"It's different with every single child," Caporale said. "What worked with a child yesterday may not work with that child the next day."

Setting goals for students and positive reinforcement when they accomplish something also go a long way, she said.

"I love what I do and I've loved it from the first day, but it's time to move on," she said. "It's physically and mentally exhausting. It's time to let other people do it, but I will miss the kids."

## SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 5/10/18

### **Bartlett scratches out victory over West Aurora**

BY ALLEN OSHINSKI

Bartlett managed just 5 singles against West Aurora, but the Hawks took full advantage by doing the little things right in a 5-4 win in Upstate Eight Valley baseball action in Bartlett Thursday.

Tyler Yang overcame a 3-run third inning to earn the win for the Hawks. Leadoff man Joey Allen had 2 hits and scored twice, and Andrew Fehr scored a run and drove in 2 without a hit for Bartlett (9-14).

Paulo Maravillo homered and Dustin Tomas had 2 hits for the Blackhawks, who still took the series 2 games to 1.

"We played little ball in a lot of ways and we did the little things to win the game," said Bartlett coach Devin Rosen. "It was good to see that. It's a nice, clean win for us."

The Hawks snapped a 4-4 tie in the sixth when Joey Tomazin led off with a walk. Ben Fisher sacrificed him to second and he came around to score on Mike Vaca's grounder through the hole.

Bartlett had taken the lead an inning earlier when Sam Mallinas walked. Allen reached when his high pop to short center field fell amid four Blackhawks. Jacob Chowanec singled to score a run and Fehr delivered a sacrifice fly.

West Aurora (17-7) grabbed a 3-1 lead in the third. Maravillo led off with a line drive that cleared the fence in left-center. Alec Lossel-Young and Tomas delivered RBI hits later on.

Yang settled down after that inning, retiring 9 of the final 11 batters he faced. The only Blackhawk to touch him for a hit was Tomas, who doubled in the sixth. He scored on Adrian Ruiz's sac fly to tie the game at 4-4.

Yang walked 1 and struck out 3 in 6 innings. Chowanec pitched the seventh to earn the save.

Bartlett took advantage of 4 walks, not to mention the botched pop up.

"What did we have, four walks, and I think three of the walks scored," said West Aurora coach John Reeves. "That's the name of the game. You give some free passes and it

seems like every time you do that, they score. It's unfortunate that we gave them some runs there."

The Blackhawks had a chance to tie in the seventh after Ryan Tiescher led off with a single to center. Anthony Malczyk sacrificed him to second, but Fehr caught foul pop-ups by Cam Zimmerman and Lossel-Young to end it.