

Press Clippings 03/15/2019

---The Daily Herald---03/15/2019

United Way of Elgin merging with Metro Chicago agency

By: Elena Ferrarin



- United Way of Elgin will be merging with United Way of Metro Chicago effective July 1, officials announced. Pictured are Lynne Bosley, president, left, and Elissa Kojzarek, director of marketing, the only two full-time staff members in Elgin.



- United Way of Elgin will be merging with United Way of Metro Chicago, officials announced. Lynne Bosley, the longtime president of the Elgin agency, will be retiring effective July 1.

After 18 years at the helm of [United Way of Elgin](#), Lynne Bosley will be retiring after an upcoming merger with United Way of Metro Chicago, which she hailed as a positive move.

"The question was, 'Do we want to survive or thrive? We know we can survive, but do we want to grow?'" Bosley said. "For so many reasons, it seemed to make sense."

The Elgin agency was founded in 1924 -- it would have celebrated its 95th anniversary in September -- and serves Elgin, South Elgin, Hampshire, Burlington, Pingree Grove and La Fox. It has two full-time staff members: Bosley and Elissa Kojzarek, director of marketing. The office at 1750 Grandstand Place will remain open through June 30, and the merger will be effective July 1, when United Way of Metro Chicago will assume all responsibilities.

The merger was announced recently, but the idea of merging with another United Way agency -- there are 48 in Illinois -- had been floating internally for five years, Bosley said.

It was all a matter of finding the right partner, and the timing couldn't have been better, Bosley said. "Our lease ends June 30, both Chicago and Elgin on June 30 end their fiscal

years, and both of us are wrapping up two-year investments. Everything lined up very, very neatly."

The Elgin agency is about half the size it was 10 years ago -- both in terms of staff and community investment -- and has gradually dipped into reserves, but it is still financially healthy, Bosley said. This year it is disbursing \$486,000 to local nonprofits and special initiatives and has a little more than three months' worth of operational reserves, the accepted standard, she said.

The Chicago agency has lots more staff focused on increasing resources and "more capacity to think about innovation," Bosley said. "Because of their size, they have a breath and depth of skills. Elissa and I are good, but it's the two of us," she said.

United Way of Metro Chicago has a six-county footprint and the Elgin area will be absorbed into the agency's north-northwest suburban region, which includes 47 communities. Elgin board members will be given "emeritus" status on the regional board, said Marcia McMahon, chief professional officer for that region.

"We all really felt that joining forces with United Way of Metro Chicago would bring an ability to create a deeper impact within that (Elgin) community," McMahon said. "United Way of Metro Chicago has a fundraising team that can, hopefully, raise more money."

Grant funding in the Elgin area will be extended at current levels through June 2020 and a steering committee including Elgin board members will determine "the best use of donor dollars" moving forward, she said.

The merger will put Elgin Area **School District U-46** in a single United Way area, opening up opportunities for new partnerships, Kojzarek added.

Mergers are becoming increasingly common among nonprofits. Elgin's Ecker Center for Mental Health and Renz Addiction Counseling Center merged last year.

Bosley said she will move to Kentucky, where her younger son and his family live. Kojzarek, who's worked for the Elgin agency for 10 years, said she'll get another job.

"As much as I'd like to protect my job and say I love working for the United Way of Elgin," Kojzarek said, "the two of us can't sustain this. United Way of Metro Chicago has so many more resources."

---The Courier-News---03/15/2019

Late-season flu cases up in Kane County due in part to new strain moving through the area

By: Rafael Guerrero



- Pharmacist Prit Patel holds up a box of Tamiflu, commonly prescribed to patients dealing with the flu. A late-season resurgence of the influenza virus has hit over the final weeks of the winter.

What had been a mild [flu](#) season has picked up in the waning weeks of the winter, with more the 6 percent of Kane County emergency room visits last week being attributed to people coming in with flu-related symptoms, officials said.

March has been a busy month for the illness, with the county's five hospital ERs reporting the highest number of visits for people seeking medical attention for flu symptoms — 280 — during the week of March 3.

Nearly every state in the county, including Illinois, has seen “widespread” influenza activity, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) reported. The increase is attributed to a number of reasons, including a new strain of the influenza virus strengthening over the late winter, the CDC said.

“We’re seeing folks sick for three, four weeks,” said Chris Scalzitti, pharmacist at the Medicine Stop of Elgin. “Those that do hang on to the flu, it’s rougher for them.”

In addition to ER visits, Kane County also monitors the number of children kept home from school with flu-like symptoms. The number has increased for four consecutive weeks. Last week, the number of student absences

The number of parents and guardians in Kane County calling in their children sick for flu-like symptoms rose for a fourth straight week, according to Kane County. About .38 percent of student absences last week were for students with flu-like symptoms, officials said.

One school — Cambridge Lakes Charter in Pingree Grove — was particularly had hit by illness. When 10 percent of its students called in sick Monday, classes were canceled Tuesday.

Some had influenza-like symptoms: fever of more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, coughing, sore throat. Others, however, had strep throat or the stomach flu.

Other schools in the county fared better. Between 2 percent and 3 percent of the absences at [School District U46](#) were due to the flu, spokeswoman Mary Fergus said.

The Elgin Math and Science Academy charter school reported only two of its 200-plus students out sick Wednesday, while 1 percent of St. Charles School District 303's absences were due to the flue, said school nurse Juanita Gryfinski, who heads the health services department.

VNA Health Care said they had 167 patients come in during the week of March 3 for a flu-like illness at its multiple locations, which include Kane County clinics in Elgin and Aurora. Clinical Services Vice President Claire Dobbins said the number was an increase from the week prior and just below the 195-count peak during the week of Feb. 17.

A CDC report last month estimated the effectiveness of this year's flu vaccine against the more potent strain was at 47 percent and particularly effective — more than 60 percent — for children between the ages of 6 months and 17 years. That contributed to the milder start to the flu season, and was far better than last year's vaccine, which was only about 25 percent effective against that season's more potent strain, the CDC said.

"We still have vaccines available," Dobbins said. "We still encourage people to come in. You can just walk in, you don't need appointments."

Prit Patel, a pharmacist at Primisha Pharmacy in Elgin, said far more people were vaccinated this year because last year's flu strains sent so many people to the ER.

"People learned from last year. Vaccination is getting very common — it works," Patel said. "I would take the vaccine rather than not take it. It does minimize your chances of getting the flu."

Historically, flu seasons can have a late-season spike, said Steven Lewis, an infectious disease physician at Geneva's Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital. This year's is different in that it appears to be happening a couple of weeks later than normal, he said.

Common-sense approaches to lessening the chance of getting the flu or spreading it remain the same, he said. Stay home when sick, cover the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and frequently wash your hands.

"What people fail to keep in mind is how severe the flu can be," Lewis said. "When it's severe, people die. It can be an extremely aggressive disease."

SPORTS

---The Courier-News---03/15/2019

Uptown Sinclair

Sophomore guard takes the reins, leads rising Bartlett to final of Class 4A sectional

By: Paul Johnson



- Bartlett sophomore guard Lexie Sinclair averaged 15.3 points, second on the team, a team-high 3.0 assists and 2.6 steals.

Bartlett's Lexie Sinclair remembers watching her older brother Brandon play basketball in driveway. She wanted to get out there and give it a try.

Step by step, Sinclair worked on her game from there. She eventually started playing AAU in sixth grade, when she streamlined her focus on one sport and one sport only.

This season, the sophomore guard led the Hawks to a Class 4A sectional championship game, ending up as the Courier-News 2018-19 Girls Basketball Player of the Year.

"A big part of how I got here is all the time I put into the game and the enjoyment I have playing it," Sinclair said. "If I'm not playing, I'm either going to a game or watching a game on TV.

"During March, I just zone in on March Madness. It just comes naturally to me because I enjoy basketball so much."

That gym-rat mentality gives Sinclair an innate ability to know where everybody on the court should be, maximizing her teammates' abilities. It allows Sinclair to be an extension of coach Brad Hunt on the court.

"She's special," Hunt said. "She's the consummate leader for our team. She's definitely team-first. Her basketball IQ is off the charts."

Sinclair averaged 15.3 points for the Hawks, second on the team to only freshman guard Mackenzie Hare's 16 points. The unselfish Sinclair also averaged a team-high 3.0 assists and 2.6 steals.

Hunt said Sinclair attended camps at Bartlett growing up, so he had an idea of what he was going to get. Sinclair started from day one as a freshman.

“She was a dominant player in junior high,” Hunt said. “She could have played varsity basketball in junior high, that’s how talented she was.”

It’s one thing to come in and perform well as an underclassman. It’s another to be able to lead at a young age, and Sinclair has mastered that art.

“Everything just flowed and everyone trusted what we were doing was right,” Sinclair said. “By the end of the season, I found it was a lot easier than I thought it would be. It’s big for everyone to understand what we all want as a team.”

The season didn’t finish up the way Sinclair and the Hawks hoped as Bartlett (29-5) lost 37-22 to Wheaton Warrenville South in the Batavia Sectional final.

“We need to focus on knowing that we don’t want to be in that position again,” Sinclair said. “We need to work harder so we’ll feel more comfortable in that position. It made us realize what we can be in the future.”

Sinclair’s future continues to evolve. Several mid-major NCAA Division I programs have been in contact with her, and that interest only figures to intensify in the offseason when she plays AAU.

“It gets a little overwhelming at times, putting it all together with school, basketball and recruiting,” Sinclair said. “It’s a lot to do, but I’ve managed to figure it out.

“Ever since I was little, I always dreamed of playing in college, but I didn’t know I could do it until I played (AAU). I realized I had the ability to play in college.”