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December 4th, 2023

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Hospice Provider News

[Hospice of the Valley becomes hospice provider for Banner Health](#)

Arizona Business Magazine

December 1, 2023

Hospice of the Valley will become the hospice provider for Banner Health in the Phoenix and Tucson areas beginning Dec. 1. Banner Hospice staff will join Hospice of the Valley, ensuring a seamless transition of care for current Banner patients.

Notable Mentions: Debbi Shumway, Hospice of the Valley Executive Director Debbie Shumway.

Clinical News

[Volunteers stepping up to help Hospice of the Red River Valley finish holiday gifts](#)

Fargo (ND) Forum

December 1, 2023

Fargo, ND—The community is stepping up to give grieving families a special gift for the holidays. Hospice of the Red River Valley makes teddy bears called Celebration Bears using the clothing of patients who have passed away as keepsakes at the request of their families.

['It will put us out of business'—Remington pharmacist fights corporate fees, under-payments](#)

Culpeper (VA) Star-Exponent

December 1, 2023

Remington, VA—A local pharmacist is joining voices calling for reform and oversight of corporate-run "Pharmacy Benefit Managers" (PBMs) he said are straining the historic small-town pharmacy he runs, located on Main Street since 1913, still with its original soda fountain. Travis Hale, PharmD, president of Apothecary Solutions Inc., doing business as Remington Drug Co., said the payment practices of the prescription drug middlemen are responsible for community pharmacies closing at an alarming rate.

[20 companies awarded licenses to start Alabama's medical marijuana industry](#)

Birmingham (AL) News

December 2, 2023

Birmingham, AL—The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission awarded licenses on Friday to 20 companies to cultivate, process, transport, test, and sell medical marijuana products, a key step toward starting the new industry in Alabama. Patients who receive a recommendation from a doctor will be able to buy the products to treat chronic pain and a wide range of conditions and symptoms.

[New Grief Resources for the Holidays](#)

Press Release 12/3/23

Composing Life Out of Loss offering multiple grief resources for individuals and providers.

Regulatory News

[OIG FY 2022 Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program Annual Report](#)

Press Release 11/14/23

OIG publishes the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program Report for Fiscal Year 2022 and posts two enforcement actions. Three hospice actions in this report (download report and search for "hospice").

Post-Acute Care News

[Trinity slims operating loss to \\$58.6M in FY Q1](#)

Becker's Hospital CFO Report

December 1, 2023

Livonia, Mich.-based Trinity Health reported an operating loss of \$58.6 million (-1% margin) in the first quarter of the fiscal year—the three months ended Sept. 30—compared to a \$146.3 million loss (-2.9% margin) during the same period in 2022. For the fiscal first quarter, operating revenue increased 12.4% year over year to \$5.6 billion.

[Dying Broke: The High Cost Of Help Desperate Families Search for Affordable Home Care](#)

New York Times

December 2, 2023

... Frank Lee's search for trustworthy home health aides—an experience that millions of American families face—has often been exhausting and infuriating, but he has persisted. ... There is precious little assistance from the government for families who need a home health aide unless they are poor. The people working in these jobs are often woefully underpaid and unprepared to help a frail, elderly person with dementia to bathe and use the bathroom, or to defuse an angry outburst.

[Editor's Note: This article is part of The New York Times' "Dying Br oke" series examining how the immense financial costs of long-term care drain older Americans and their families. For additional coverage, see the accompanying article in this package, "[What to Know About Home Care Services: Finding an aide to help an older person stay at home safely takes work. Here's a guide.](#)"]

Let's expand access to PACE to improve eldercare

By Shawn Bloom

Modern Healthcare

December 4, 2023

... Today, PACE participants are, for the most part, those who receive both Medicare and Medicaid benefits. However, it could act as the desired model of care for millions of Medicare beneficiaries who aren't eligible for Medicaid. In fact, many impartial experts and think tanks, such as the Milken Institute, the Bipartisan Policy Center, Duke University Margolis Center for Health Policy and AARP's Public Policy Institute, have cited PACE as a potential solution for the nation's eldercare crisis, which will only worsen as the baby boomers continue to flood the aging and nursing services infrastructure.

[Editor's Note: The aut hor is President and CEO of the National PACE Association.]

General News

Kids fighting health battles take off from Dulles to the North Pole

WTOP-FM (Washington, DC)

December 2, 2023

Dozens of kids facing tough health battles and in hospice care took a special United 'fantasy flight' from Dulles International Airport on Saturday. Their final destination? The North Pole, to meet Santa.

Ready Pet Go! Meet the 125 lb. dog comforting people in hospice care

WKYC-TV (Cleveland, OH)

November 29, 2023

Strongsville, OH—When your loved one is ready to move on to the other side, you hope they'll find comfort in a place of peace, serenity, and care. At the Thomas P. Perciak Hospice of Southwest General, there's someone there to help. His name is Winston. He's an 8-year-old Bernese mountain dog, about 125 lbs., and is the biggest lover you'll ever meet.

Non-print News

UCP Developing Scripted Series Based On 'The In-Between' Memoir From Hospice Nurse Hadley Vlahos

Deadline

December 1, 2023

The In-Between: Unforgettable Encounters During Life's Final Moments, a book about death, written by hospice nurse Hadley Vlahos is set to be turned into a scripted series. UCP, a division of Universal Studio Group, has landed the rights to the project in a competitive situation. In *The In-Between*, Vlahos recounts the most impactful experiences she's had with the people she's worked with—from the woman who never once questioned her faith until she was close to death, to the older man seeing visions of his late daughter, to the

young patient who laments that she spent too much of her short life worrying about what others thought of her&md ash;while also sharing her own fascinating journey.

State & National News

[2024 Hospice & Palliative Care Organization Education Calendar](#)

Today's Encouragement

[Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. ~Mahatma Gandhi](#)

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