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From: Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter
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Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 4:00 AM
To: Cordt Kassner
Subject: Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 12/11/23



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December 11th, 2023

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Headlines

[An educator who established Oregon's first hospice, Joan Buell dies at 90](#)

The Oregonian (Portland, OR)

December 9, 2023

Joan Strong Buell was a woman of many dimensions ... Most important, she was matter-of-

fact about death but deeply devoted to transforming the experience of dying—from a traumatic, clinical affair on an uncomfortable hospital cot to a peaceful, dignified occasion in a homelike setting. That conviction is what led her to open what is now known as Hopewell House, the first hospice in Oregon and one of the first in the United States. Joan died on Aug. 19, at the age of 90. A celebration of her life was held in Portland on Dec. 3.

Hospice Provider News

[Hospice of South Texas guided Woodsboro woman through transition to afterlife](#)

Victoria (TX) Advocate

December 9, 2023

Woodsboro, TX—Rebecca Roitsch had suffered an accidental overdose on morphine after undergoing surgery to remove both of her breasts. Roitsch was battling an aggressive Stage 4 breast cancer that had spread to her bones and other organs, riddling her body with more than 30 metastases. ... She became a patient of the Hospice of South Texas in Victoria where health care providers aimed to ease her pain and heal her spirit as the inevitable approached. ... When Roitsch was first admitted into the Hospice of South Texas in April, she feared the worst. She worried the hospice would be a sterile place without life or love, where she would languish in a cold, unfamiliar clinical setting. Quickly, she realized she had been wrong. ... “These people here came into (my hospice) room, and it was like lightning filled the room. I’m not kidding. They were real. They were just fabulous. They listened. They didn’t push you. If you couldn’t eat, then you couldn’t eat. They were just wonderful, and I started realizing that this was not what I had in mind at all.”

[100+ Men Red Rock Presented \\$5,550 Check Donation to Hospice of Pella on Friday](#)

KNIA-AM (Knoxville, IA)

December 9, 2023

Knoxville, IA—100+ Men Red Rock presented a check for just over \$5,500 to Hospice of Pella Friday morning. The donation will be used to support the Day of Care Program at Hospice of Pella. The program provides a way for families and friends to give their loved ones a day or days of routine care.



**HOSPICE
ANALYTICS**

[Hospice of Michigan Receives \\$10,000 Grant from the Fund for the Community of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation](#)

News Release

December 5, 2023

Petoskey, MI—Hospice of Michigan recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Fund for the Community of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation in support of its grief support services. The grant will help individuals in Emmet County, both adults and children, who are coping with the loss of a loved one.

Clinical News

[Ga. to become 1st state to allow pharmacies to sell medical marijuana](#)

WALB-TV (Albany, GA)

December 9, 2023

Albany, GA—Georgia is expected to become the first state to allow independent pharmacies to sell medical marijuana. According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Georgia Board of Pharmacy began accepting applications in early December. But the Drug Enforcement Administration is fighting it.

Public Policy News

[Sen. Jacques—No Patient Left Alone Act advances with bipartisan support](#)

Wis Politics

December 7, 2023

Madison, WI—Our loved ones would never be isolated from their families and friends again under legislation that cleared a State Senate committee today protecting our right to visit those dear to us in hospitals and care facilities. State Sen. André Jacques (R-De Pere), co-author of the proposal with State Rep. Chuck Wichgers, said research coming out of the pandemic has shown what we have known all along about the damage done to patients and their families by blocking human contact when they need each other most. ... Sen. Jacques said the No Patient Left Alone Act addresses these problems by allowing patients in health care facilities to receive visitors, subject to COVID-19 infections protocols, and to have in-person compassionate care visitation between a resident and any individual the resident requests to relieve physical or mental distress. ... The No Patient Left Alone Act (Senate Bill 257) passed the Senate Committee on Health earlier this morning on a bipartisan 5-1 vote. It must next clear the full Senate and Assembly, and be signed by the Governor, to become law.



['Nobody speaks about this'—Diana Rigg made impassioned plea for assisted dying law before death](#)

The Guardian (London, England)

December 9, 2023

Diana Rigg made an impassioned case to legalise assisted dying in a message recorded shortly before her “truly awful” and “dehumanising” death from cancer three years ago. The actor’s statement calling for a law that gives “human beings true agency over their own bodies at the end of life”, published today in the Observer, adds to the ongoing debate on assisted dying, with MPs [Members of the British Parliament] expected to publish recommendations to the government within weeks.

[Medical aid in dying allows patients to control their lives](#)

By Bella Solimine

Hartford Courant

December 8, 2023

Medical aid in dying, or MAID, frequently referred to as “physician assisted suicide,” is not a common topic of conversation among college students. However, over the past four years MAID has been a lingering presence in my life. My mother’s 56-year-old brother, who suffers from chronic pain after a crippling injury, began considering MAID as an option for ending his life in 2020.

[Editor’s Note: The author is a senior at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.]

Post-Acute Care News

[State—Nursing home dumped alleged rape victim at homeless shelter](#)

Iowa Capital Dispatch

December 8, 2023

An Iowa nursing home resident was evicted and dumped at a homeless shelter after complaining that an employee of the home raped her, according to state records. ... John Hale, a consultant and advocate for Iowa seniors, said “the story of what allegedly happened to this resident is absolutely sickening. It’s simply incredible that a nursing home and its parent corporation would allegedly have such an awful response to a rape allegation, allow an alleged rapist to continue to be employed, deal so inhumanely with a resident, and would suspend a facility employee who tried to do the right thing.” Hale also questioned the state’s response to the situation. “How the governor or any state legislator can sleep at night knowing that this kind of alleged cruelty exists in an Iowa nursing home is beyond me,” he said. “If this doesn’t serve as a wake-up call to take action, nothing will.”

Technology / Innovations News

[Ransomware group posts stolen Tri-City Medical Center documents to dark web](#)

San Diego Union-Tribune

December 8, 2023

Though Tri-City Medical Center got its operations back up and running 17 days ago, ransomware extortion efforts appear to be ongoing against the Oceanside hospital. Earlier this week, a cyber security expert noted in a message on X, formerly called Twitter, that "INC RANSOM", a well known group of cyber extortionists, announced its possession of records stolen from the health care provider on the dark web, an anonymous corner of the Internet where such information is often bought and sold.

Today's 10-Second Question

[Based on today's headline story, please share an example of how you honor our hospice and palliative care founders - before or after their death. Responses shared tomorrow.](#)

Yesterday's Question: Based on today's headline story, please share an example of how your organization supports caregivers during this Holiday season.

No responses.

Today's Encouragement

The shortest answer is doing. ~Jacula Prudentum, George Herbert, 1640

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