

## Cordt Kassner

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<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>  
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## Hospice Provider News

### [God's work—West Virginia Caring plans Morgantown hospice center](#)

*Dominion Post (Morgantown, WV), 12/23/23*

Morgantown, WV—There's a big brick building at 501 Van Voorhis Road—48,000 square feet or so shaped like a giant H. The sign above the front door says "Friendship Manor." Malene Davis calls it "The building God picked out." You see, Davis has spent the last 30-plus years working in hospice care. These days, the registered nurse serves as the

president and CEO of West Virginia Caring, formerly Hospice Care Corp., which serves 12 counties—basically covering everything from Flatwoods, north.

### **Hope Hospice employee brightens holidays with gifts for New Braunfels seniors**

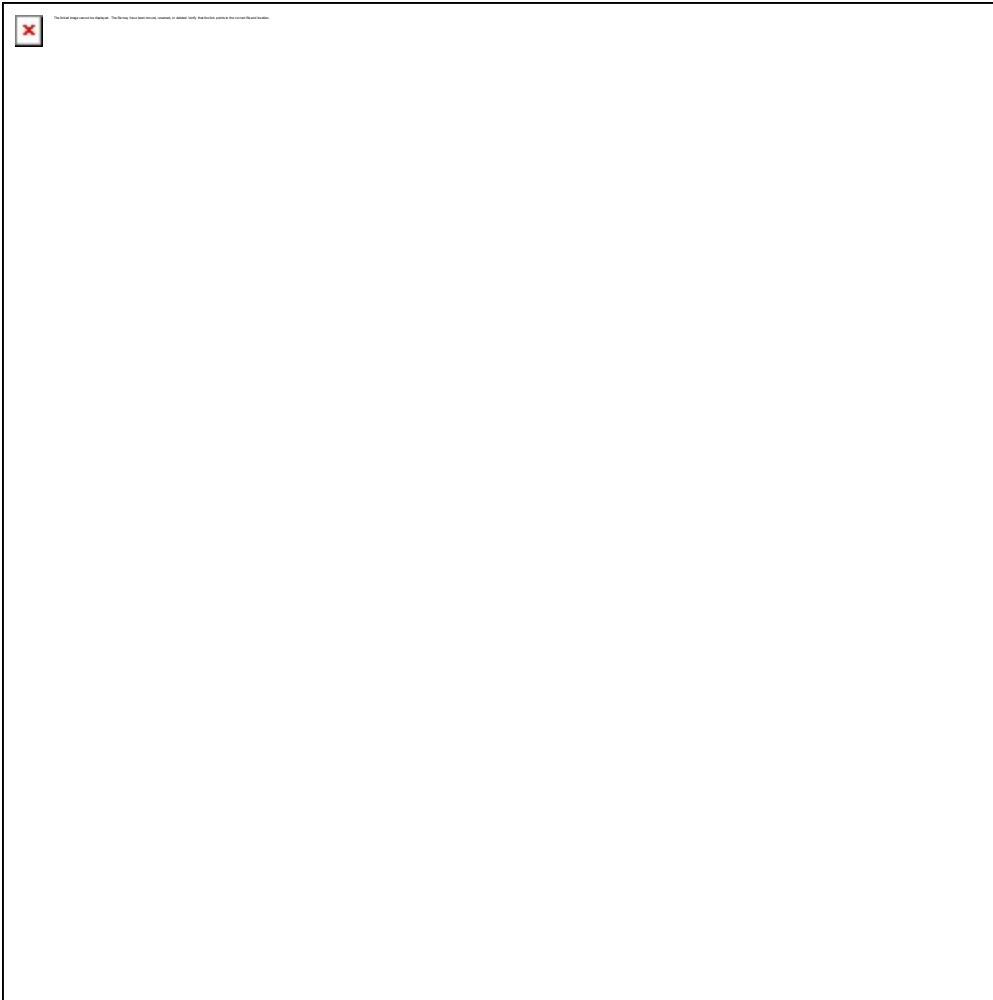
*Herald-Zeitung (New Braunfels, TX), 12/21/23*

New Braunfels, TX—For the last six years, New Braunfels resident Julie Hubertus has played “Secret Santa” to area senior citizens, bringing smiles to their faces and brightening their holidays. Hubertus works as the medical records specialist at Hope Hospice, a nonprofit that provides hospice and community grief services. Through her job, she has witnessed residents who do not have anyone to visit them or bring them presents around the holidays. Some of them have outlived their family members or do not have any family nearby. Some of the seniors also have dementia or Alzheimer’s and resort back to childhood, Hubertus said, so seeing a Christmas gift for them is like being a kid again. ... Hubertus gathers and puts together Christmas gifts through community donations, picking a different facility each year. This year, she provided about 90 gifts to seniors at EdenHill’s skilled nursing facility.

### **HomeCare & Hospice’s move into Motherhouse a promising partnership**

*Olean (NY) Times Herald, 12/21/23*

Allegany, NY—The association of Community Care of Western New York and the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany will grow even closer after Christmas when HomeCare & Hospice resumes its operations at the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse.



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### **[The meaning behind the 3.5-mile Lake Park Light Show](#)**

*WFLA-TV (Tampa-St. Petersburg, FL), 12/23/23*

Largo, FL—A Pinellas County neighborhood is sure to make your spirits high with its extraordinary effort to make an extravagant light show. Growing every year, the Lake Park Estates community's light show off Bryan Dairy Road in Largo is now 3.5 miles long. Neighbors have come together for 30 years now to make it happen.

## **Public Policy News**

### **[Cuba quietly authorizes euthanasia](#)**

*Reuters, 12/22/23*

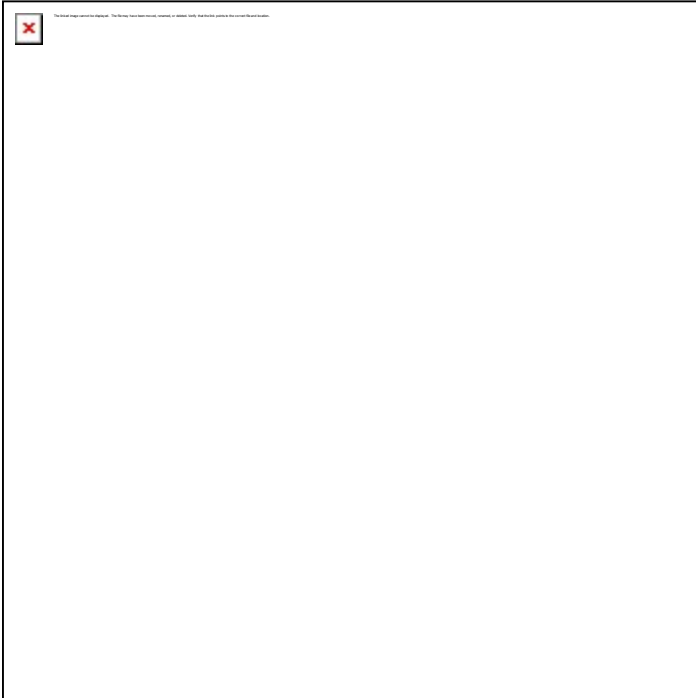
Havana, Cuba—Cuba on Friday became the second country in Latin America and the Caribbean to authorize euthanasia, following Colombia. The Communist-run country's National Assembly passed the measure as part of legislation updating the nation's legal framework for its universal and free healthcare system.

## **Mergers & Aquisition News**

## [Following failed merger, Putnam’s Day Kimball sells home-care business to Cheshire firm](#)

*CT Insider, 12/22/23*

Cheshire, CT—Putnam’s Day Kimball Healthcare sold its home-health division to Cheshire-based Assisted Living Services Inc., the companies announced on Thursday. The approximately 150 clients of Day Kimball Homemakers have been transferred and all of the 25 workers have been offered jobs at Assisted Living Services.



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## **Post-Acute Care News**

### [Nursing home complaints up 38% since last year](#)

*South Dakota Searchlight, 12/21/23*

Complaints against South Dakota nursing homes are the highest they’ve been in at least eight years. The state Department of Health oversees 97 long-term care facilities, according to its website, It fielded 54 complaints as of Dec. 19—a 38% increase over 2022 and three times higher than 2021 and 2020, when the state received 18 complaints each year. Most complaints in 2023 concern quality of life and care, neglect and abuse, and nursing services. In just over two-thirds of the cases, inspections found no violations. Of the complaints deemed credible, many involved a lack of adequate care and documentation for residents after a fall or change in health condition.

### [Family Caregivers Far Prefer Hospital At Home Over Brick-And-Mortar Alternative](#)

*Home Health Care News, 12/22/23*

The hospital-at-home model can help alleviate caregiver stress, and that could be one of the model’s main selling points moving forward. The evidence behind that is from a new

DispatchHealth case study, which explored caregiver fatigue within the hospital-at-home model by asking, “Does this innovative care model alleviate or exacerbate caregiver stress?” The results were encouraging, Kevin Riddleberger—the co-founder and chief strategy officer of DispatchHealth—told *Home Health Care News*. ... An overwhelming majority (95%) of respondents preferred in-home care over the traditional hospital setting, with 68% saying they had a strong preference for hospital-level care in the home. The other 5% selected hospital-based care as their preference. An almost identical number of caregivers—96%—found in-home care less stressful than a previous in-patient hospital experience.

## General News

### [The Corvallis group singing by the bedsides of the dying and grieving](#)

*Corvallis (OR) Gazette-Times, 12/23/23*

Nearing the end of a long career as an educator at Corvallis’ Garfield Elementary, Susan Breckenridge began searching for post-retirement activities that she could do with others and still be in service to her community. Around this time, a friend who played the harp for a hospice organization told her about the Threshold Choir. Breckenridge had never heard about it before, but that evening she went online to read about the group. The volunteers sing at the bedsides of the dying and grieving, to be a source of comfort. “I was like, that’s it! That’s what I’ve been looking for: something that I can be in service to others and use my singing voice,” Breckenridge said on a Zoom call. Now-retired physician David Grube said he’d first learned about the choir while attending a “compassion and choices” lecture in Portland.

### [A broken immigration system keeps workers out of jobs the U.S. needs to fill](#)

*Washington Post, 12/21/23*

Bismarck, ND - North Dakota’s hospitals are desperate for nurses, but backlogs and other problems in immigration agencies block the way. The leaders of Sanford Medical Center had waited all summer to learn the fate of the 59 nurses planning to move across the world to their isolated state capital. The reinforcements from the Philippines, Kenya and Nigeria would allow the hospital to expand its heart unit and staff a new wing. Costly temporary nurses would go. The scramble to fill shifts would finally be over. But by the time the hospital’s department heads gathered in a conference room this fall to hear the latest development, the news already had spread. The nurses were delayed—again.

## Today's Encouragement

[Merry Christmas! Our best to you this Holiday season.](#)

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