

Cordt Kassner

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TODAY**

May 19th, 2024

Sunday newsletters focus on headlines and top read stories of the last week (in order) - enjoy!

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Headlines

Retraumatization when an adult child cares for the parent who harmed them through serious illness or the end of life

Journal of Pain and Symptom Management; by Jaime Goldberg, Jooyoung Kong; 5/24

Adult children caring for a parent who harmed them through the parent's serious illness or the end of life are at high risk for experiencing retraumatization. This session will offer trauma-informed, culturally responsive, person-centered tools and techniques hospice and palliative care professionals can use to effectively identify, assess, and intervene with this often-overlooked population of caregivers.

Publisher's note: This current article summary is for an upcoming AAHPM conference workshop. The study was previously published in JPSM 5/24 [here](#).

Musician grants dying wish to hospice patient

The Platte County Citizen; by Rimsie McConiga; 5/14/24

Jazz musician Stanton Kessler was surprised when he was contacted recently by his friend, a hospice nurse, who reached out to him with an unusual request. A patient at the Kansas City hospice where she works told her his last wish would be to hear his favorite song, 'Feels So Good' before he died. During their conversations Kessler's impression was that this was his friend's first experience with a request such as this. "There was an element of urgency," Kessler said. "She said he was near death." ... An incredibly emotional and rewarding moment followed when Kessler began to play the patient's beloved song. The man's eyes remained closed, but his fingers began to move. ...

Editor's Note: For research-based, hospice clinical stories, and rich music metaphors for ways to use music with the dying and bereaved, examine the book, [Music of the Soul, Chapter 7 "The Final Cadence,"](#) in Routledge's international Series in Death,

Dying, and Bereavement (series edited Robert A. Neimeyer), authored by Joy S. Berger, DMA, FT, BCC, MT-BC (editor for this newsletter).

Care Synergy appoints Dr. Pradeep Rai as Chief Medical Officer

Care Synergy Network; 5/13/24

Care Synergy announced the selection of Dr. Pradeep Rai, MD, as the company's chief medical officer. Additionally, Dr. Rai will serve as The Denver Hospice's (TDH) medical director as well. As Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Rai will lead clinical operations across all of Care Synergy's hospice, palliative care, and home health affiliates. These affiliates include The Denver Hospice, Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care in Colorado Springs, Pathways Hospice in Fort Collins, and the Colorado Visting Nurses Association (CVNA) which serves patients across the Front Range. He will also spearhead medical operations for Colorado PACE upon its anticipated Q4 2024 launch.



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In praise of hospice

JAMA; by James R. Nicholas, MD; 4/24

In this narrative medicine essay, a retired physician describes the kindness, companionship, and skill of the hospice workers who helped his wife and him prepare for her death. ... Joan did what she wanted to do: she, with the help of hospice, made her dying as easy as possible for me and our children. I have the same wish for myself. I doubt if I will achieve it as well as did Joan, but I will have her as a guide. And I hope I will have the kind of hospice team that Joan had.

Nurse Practitioner care, scope of practice, and end-of-life outcomes for nursing home residents with dementia

JAMA Health Forum - JAMA Network; by Cyrus M. Kosar, PhD; Bishnu B. Thapa, MPA, PhD; Ulrike Muench, RN, PhD; Christopher Santostefano, RN, MPH; Emily A. Gadbois, PhD; Hyesung Oh, MA, MBA; Pedro L. Gozalo, PhD; Momotazur Rahman, PhD; Elizabeth M. White, APRN, PhD; 5/10/24

Question: Is nurse practitioner (NP) care associated with end-of-life outcomes for nursing home residents with Alzheimer disease and related dementias (ADRD), and do these associations differ between states with full vs restrictive NP scope of practice regulations?

Findings: The results of this cohort study including 334,618 US nursing home residents with ADRD indicated that decedents with greater NP involvement at end of life had fewer hospitalizations and higher hospice use. The adjusted differences in outcomes between decedents with extensive vs minimal NP care were larger in states with full scope of practice regulations than in states with restrictive regulations.

At age 99, Jimmy Carter is still exercising his right to vote

Story by CNN and Atlanta News First; 5/10/24

Former President Jimmy Carter, age 99, is still exercising his right to vote. Carter's grandson, Jason Carter, said the nation's 39th president cast a mail-in ballot this week for the May 21 Georgia primary, emphasizing his grandfather is not going to miss an election. The former president entered hospice care more than a year ago in his hometown of Plains, Georgia. Since then he celebrated his 99th birthday last October and [attended](#) the annual Peanut Festival, which celebrates the region's cash crop. He also mourned the loss of his wife, Rosalynn Carter, who died in November at the age of 96. To date, that has been Jimmy Carter's last public appearance.



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Utah man angry: "Why am I still alive?"

Cat Country 107.3/94.9; by Andy Griffin; 5/10/24

George Ball (not his real name) is angry. He's dying soon, he knows that. But what he's really mad about is that he's still alive. "I signed the paper. I made the request," he said. "So, why am I still alive?" ... The 72-year-old Utahn recently had a heart attack (cardiac arrest), and was essentially dead for a few minutes before being resuscitated at a Utah hospital. Life-saving measures were taken, including

shooting adrenaline into his heart. He was gone, but they brought him back. Happy ending, right? The only problem was, Ball had signed and certified a DNR - - a do not resuscitate order -- so that if he, well, died, heroic measures would not be taken to bring him back to life. ...

Addus HomeCare expects 2024 acquisitions

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 5/7/24

Addus HomeCare Corp. is poised for further acquisitions, potentially including some hospice deals. The company is seeking to pair its clinical services with its personal business in its existing markets. This is a cornerstone of its acquisition strategy. But Addus Chairman and CEO Dirk Allison does not rule out the possibility of moving into new markets if circumstances are right. ... When examining new markets, Addus focuses on regions where they can quickly become the largest or second-largest provider by market share, according to CFO Brian Poff. ... Addus' roughly 33,000 employees provide hospice, home health and private duty nursing services across more than 200 locations in 22 states.

Industry professionals reflect on five years of medical marijuana in Arkansas


Arkansas Advocate; by Mary Hennigan; 5/13/24

Since the launch of medical marijuana in Arkansas in 2019, more than three dozen storefronts have opened, at least 102,000 residents have registered for patient cards and revenue has topped \$1.1 billion. The latest card count exceeds 102,000, and there's no indication of a letup in new applications, ... As of June 2023, one in three Arkansans with a patient card listed post-traumatic stress disorder as their qualifying condition, ... The next highest qualifying condition was intractable pain, or pain that has not responded to ordinary medications for more than six months, at nearly 30%.



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Beyond medicine: 'Being Mortal' challenges healthcare's approach to death and dying

SwiftTelecast; by Shawn Butlere; 5/11/24

This video from the “Frontline” series, titled “Being Mortal,” follows Dr. Atul Gawande as he explores the complex relationships between doctors, patients, and end-of-life decisions. Based on his best-selling book “Being Mortal,” Gawande discusses how medical training often falls short in preparing doctors for the realities of death and dying. The documentary highlights personal stories, including Gawande’s own experiences with his father’s illness and death, to illustrate the challenges in balancing hope with realistic outcomes and the importance of quality life in the face of terminal illness.

Upskilling and retraining for talent innovation in the AI era

Tech Trends Post; 5/13/24

According to a report from the IBM Institute for Business Value, more than 60% of executives say generative AI will disrupt the way their organizations design customer and employee experiences. Employees must change to meet these demands. Many are turning to AI upskilling – the act of providing the workforce with the skills and training to use AI to do their jobs. ... A 2024 Gallup poll found

that about 25% of workers worry that their jobs could become obsolete due to AI. ... [This article outlines the following:]

- Upskilling and reskilling ...
- Opportunities to advance AI skills across sectors and industries ...
- How AI enhances upskilling opportunities ...
- Why AI advancements provide added value to your organization ...

Today's Encouragement

I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept. ~ Angela Davis; quoted on the TCN Talks podcast Judi Lund Person: Unleased.



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