



November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month A Caregiver's Guide

More than 3 million cases of Alzheimer's disease are diagnosed in the US each year. This diagnosis doesn't just affect the patient but also the family who will care for their loved ones. Like most struggles in life, however, you don't have to go it alone.

The Alzheimer's Association has a number of resources for families dealing with the disease, including a number of support groups.

—> [Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

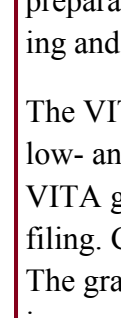
and access a list of online tools

Learn About Social Security's Online Tools

With the aging population becoming increasingly tech savvy, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has moved a lot of services online. From applying for Social Security benefits to replacing a card, the SSA has online tools to help.

To access most of the online services, you need to create a [my Social Security](#) account. This account allows you to receive personalized estimates of future benefits based on your real earnings, see your latest statement, and review your earnings history. You can also request a replacement Social Security card, check the status of an application, get direct deposit, or change your address. If you are a representative payee, you can use my Social Security to complete representative payee accounting reports. Even if you don't get benefits, you can use the account to request a benefit verification letter.

—> [Click Here for the Full Article](#)



IRS announces 2019 Tax Counseling for the Elderly and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program grants

The Internal Revenue Service recently awarded over \$24 million in Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grants to organizations that provide free federal tax return preparation.

This year, the IRS awarded grants to 29 TCE and 249 VITA applicants. The TCE grants cover one year and the VITA grants cover two years. The IRS received 336 applications requesting \$60.5 million.

The TCE program, established in 1978, provides tax counseling and return preparation nationwide to people who are 60 or older. Volunteers receive training and technical assistance.

The VITA program, created in 1969, assists underserved communities, such as low- and moderate-income individuals and limited English proficient taxpayers. VITA grant recipients provide free federal tax return preparation and electronic filing. Congress first appropriated funds in 2007 to establish a grant program. The grant program helps expand VITA services to underserved populations and increases the number of taxpayers able to file electronically.

—> [Click Here for More Information](#)

Message from Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church in Novi

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church in Novi (9 Mile & Meadowbrook) is launching a new community outreach program for individuals with Special Needs. We are trying to identify those individuals with Developmental Disabilities who might participate, and are hoping families, care-givers and group home staff can assist us.

The "Jesus Cares" ministry is a unique program that is tailored to the needs of its participants, and volunteers will assist to ensure everyone feels comfortable and can take part to the best of their ability.

The "Worship at the Cross" service will begin Tuesday December 11 at 6:30 PM and run for about 25 minutes. Following the service, we will enjoy a snack and interactive project. This special program will occur on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (1/11/19, 2/12/19.....)

We encourage questions as well as names of perspective participants be addressed to Pastor Thomas Schroeder, available at 248-349-0565. E-mail: wels.novi@aol.com

Church web page: www.GoodShepherdNovi.org

All perspective participants are requested to register. Thank you.



New Law Mandates Creation of a Bill of Rights for Air Travelers with Disabilities

It may soon be a new day for airline travelers with disabilities. In a groundbreaking development, a new law directs the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to create a bill of rights for passengers with disabilities to protect their right to fly free of discrimination.

Although the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) governs federal disability discrimination law in airports, air travel is governed by the Air Carrier Access Act. The new law directs the FAA to create an Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights expanding on the previous protections.

—> [Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

MDHHS submits Section 298 Initiative progress report to Legislature

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced today that it has submitted a progress report on the implementation of the Section 298 Initiative to the Michigan Legislature. The initiative is a statewide effort to improve the coordination of physical and behavioral health services in Michigan.

Under Section 298, MDHHS was directed to implement up to three pilots and a demonstration project to test the integration of Medicaid-funded physical health and behavioral health services. MDHHS is also required to submit a progress report on the implementation of the pilots, demonstration project and any related policy changes.

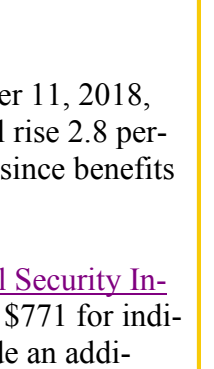
—> [Click Here for More Information](#)

Study: Medication review can help drop use of antipsychotics in LTC

Conducting a focused accounting of a residents' medications can help to reduce the prescribing of antipsychotics.

That's according to a [new study](#) by University College London researchers, published in *JAMA*. Based on a review of 26 different studies, the authors found clear evidence that undertaking what they call a "psychotropic medication review" was associated with a reduction in the prescription of such drugs among elderly nursing home populations with cognitive impairment. Before-and-after studies consistently showed a drop, regardless of the population studied.

—> [Click Here to Continue Reading](#)



Do I Qualify for Medicaid's Caretaker Exemption If I Took a Six-Month Break in Caring for My Parents?

I would like to know whether I would qualify for the caretaker exemption under Medicaid rules if my parents transferred their home to me. I have been caring for my elderly parents in their home in New York State for more than two years. However, for a period of approximately six months I transferred them to an assisted living facility in Florida. They paid for the assisted living themselves, and Medicaid was not involved. They are now back at home, and I am continuing to care for them. Will that six-month period need to be deducted from the overall time I have cared for them or will a new two-year period of eligibility have to start following the date they returned home?

—> [Click Here for the Answer](#)

Senators claim nursing homes unprepared for natural disasters in scathing report issued Friday

Nursing homes were woefully unprepared for natural disasters last year, and the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Finance called for more oversight in a report issued Friday.

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) said hurricanes Harvey and Irma caused problems that were not accidents, including the deaths of [12 seniors at one facility](#). He called them "preventable tragedies that resulted from inadequate regulation and oversight, ineffective planning and communications protocols, and questionable decision-making by facility administrators."

Wyden issued an [84-page report Friday](#) focused on what went wrong in those two storms.

"My investigation found that in too many cases, nursing homes were ill-equipped to keep their residents comfortable and safe in the face of natural disasters, in some cases with fatal consequences," he said in a [statement](#). "This is a failure of responsible governing from top to bottom."

—> [Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Social Security Payments, Medicare Premiums and Deductibles, to Rise in 2019

Social Security payments are set to grow next year, although for some recipients the extra income will be slightly offset by an increase in Medicare premiums and deductibles.

[Announced by the Social Security Administration \(SSA\)](#) on October 11, 2018, and effective December 31, Social Security payments for 2019 will rise 2.8 percent, an [increase from a 2 percent rise in 2018](#) and the largest gain since benefits rose 3.6 percent in 2012.

This means that the more than 8 million recipients of [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) will see their average monthly benefit go from \$750 to \$771 for individuals, and from \$1,125 to \$1,157 for couples. Some states provide an additional supplement on top of this amount. For [Social Security Disability Insurance \(SSDI\) beneficiaries](#), the average monthly benefit will increase from \$1,180 to \$1,220.

—> [Click Here for the Full Article](#)

Claim for Attorney Malpractice Resulting in Improper SNT Is Time Barred

An Illinois appellate court applies the statute of repose to bar a legal malpractice action against an attorney for improperly setting up a special needs trust (SNT). [Doyle v. Hood](#) (Ill. App. Ct. 2d, No. 2-17-1041, Sept. 28, 2018).

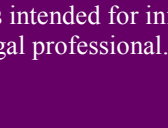
—> [Click Here to Read about the Case](#)



The Office will be closed Thursday and Friday November 22nd and 23rd in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



For more news and information about Patricia and Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates please visit us online.
www.pekdadvocacy.com
www.pattidudek.typepad.com/



Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates
30445 Northwestern Highway, Suite 310 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Tel: 248-254-3462 Fax: 248-928-9233
pdudek@pekdadvocacy.com

If you would like to add anyone to or be removed from the e-mail list please notify the editor, dwelsh@pekdadvocacy.com

This e-newsletter is a publication of Patricia E. Dudek & Associates. The legal information presented in this e-newsletter is intended for information purposes only and is not a substitute for consultation with a legal professional.