

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of February 26 to March 2, 2018

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Articles are listed in alphabetical order by state within each category, so you can easily scan through the articles for those within your state or other states in which you have an interest. *International* articles are near the end. The categories are: *Abuse and Neglect*, *Guardianship*, *Laws & Legislation*, *Studies & Statistics*, *Improved Supports*, *International*, and sometimes, *Miscellaneous*.

Check the categories below for a guide to types of abuse. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article.

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 1, 6, 63

Physical Abuse: 4, 6, 7, 10, 11

Financial abuse: 3, 9

Murder: 25, 61(noted as a “thrill killing”)

Neglected: 3

Related to special education: 10, 58

Related to law enforcement: 11

WINNER of most egregious award: 5: murder of 20-year-old son by his parents through neglect; 6: Father raped and tortured his twin daughters with disabilities for ten years.

WINNER of “good job” award: 13: Film Edith+Eddie is released; 15: Disability rights movement activities; 16: State bars less than legal wages for workers with disabilities.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 5, 6, 7

Carer: 1, 2, 3, 4, 63

Stranger: 5

Hospital security guard: 1

Disability services agency: 9

Men: 1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 63

Women: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 61

Good News: 44: New “app” to improve law enforcement interaction with people with disabilities; 60: Effort to change language from pejorative to respectful; 74: Mother of autistic son uses singing instead of talking successful in building his verbal skills.

Bad News: 37: Ongoing abuse in group homes documented; 38: schools plan to continue use of “seclusion rooms;” 43: 90,000 restraints occurred in Massachusetts public schools in 2017; 46: Budget cuts in MT would dismantle community services; 57: Feds found 23 civil rights violations at Utah schools; 58: Open discussion on restraint/seclusion: parents are concerned; 61: “Thrill Kill” murder of autistic child; 73: Attitudes in Uganda are that mental illness is the result of a curse, healing is through being restrained to release demons, also through “witchcraft.”

PLEASE NOTE: Visit our website at www.disabilityandabuse.org While on the homepage, we invite you to “like” us at the bottom of the page, making it easier to keep up with our activities! Prior weekly newsfeeds are archived at: <http://disabilityandabuse.org/newsfeed/contents.htm>

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Delaware psych center guard pleads guilty to making sexual advances at resident.” A 50-year-old Delaware Psychiatric Center security guard pled no contest to having an inappropriate sexual relationship with a resident of the facility, the Delaware Department of Justice announced Friday. --- wdel.com, February 23 (Delaware) <https://is.gd/UBjsre>
2. “Police: Two nurses, aide arrested in death of 89-year-old.” Police say that they have arrested three suspects in the death of an 89-year-old nursing home resident in DeKalb County. --- fox5atlanta.com, February 25 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/9js7kq>
3. “Bond granted to woman suspected of neglecting, exploiting disabled adults.” An Augusta woman suspected of operating multiple unlicensed personal care homes was granted bond Friday in Richmond County Superior Court. --- chronicle.augusta.com, February 23 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/tkzofZ>
4. “Parkwood development center worker arrested for assault on patient.” On February 16, 2018, the Valdosta Police Department responded to the Parkwood Developmental Center in reference to an assault incident. Officers arrived and made contact with Director of the Parkwood Facility. --- valdostatoday.com, February 23 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/iKJnV4>
5. “Clark County couple accused of murdering adult son with Down syndrome.” A Clark County couple is charged with murder after authorities say they murdered their adult son, who had Down syndrome. --- wkyt.com, February 27 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/w7PPCz>
6. “Minnesota man who tortured, raped his twin daughters for a decade impregnated one sister twice: report.” A Minnesota man chained, beat and raped his twin daughters — impregnating one of the sisters twice before his arrest, according to the charges filed against him. --- nydailynews.com,

February 23 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/ctTevg>

7. "Mother arrested in Mpls. abuse case of twin daughters with disabilities." A 48-year-old Minneapolis woman was jailed Friday on three counts of neglect in an abuse case that the prosecutor called the most horrifying case he's ever seen. The woman is the mother of 21-year-old twin daughters, who have developmental disabilities. Her husband and the twins' father was charged Tuesday. He remains jailed in Hennepin County accused of assaulting, stalking, raping and abusing their daughters. Both are jailed in lieu of \$750,000 bond. --- mprnews.org, February 23 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/rXLm8c>
8. "Father Allegedly Raped, Tortured Twin Daughters In Minneapolis House Of Horrors." Court records show Minneapolis police were repeatedly called to the home of mentally disabled twin girls in the years before charges of sexual assault, beatings and neglect were filed against their parents. Minnesota Public Radio reports that one of the 21-year-old twins escaped in May and told shelter workers that she was afraid of returning home. --- sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com, February 27(Minnesota) <https://is.gd/LEoEau>
9. "KIYC: Financial practices of agency that served autistic adults questioned." A Kane In Your Corner investigation raises questions about the financial practices of a North Jersey agency that served adults with autism. The Institute for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities abruptly shut down last week, leaving more than 60 employees unpaid and dozens of families scrambling to make care arrangements. --- newjersey.news12.com, February 28 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/j5M98J>
10. "Mother Claims Dallas ISD Teacher's Aide Physically Assaulted Special Needs Daughter." The mother of a girl with autism wants criminal assault charges brought against a Dallas Independent School District teacher's aide. --- nbcdfw.com, February 27 (Texas) <https://is.gd/o5S4IT>
11. "Harris Co. deputies who used Taser on wheelchair-bound woman escape punishment." After almost a year and a half, the Harris County Sheriff's

Office has completed its internal investigation into a Taser incident involving five deputies and a woman in a wheelchair. --- abc13.com, February 27 (Texas) <https://is.gd/qBD3DX>

12. “Two suspects arrested in Pierce County accused of kidnapping autistic teen from Arkansas.” A Pierce County man and woman accused of kidnapping an autistic teen girl from Arkansas were arrested at a home near Eatonville Thursday evening, according to the Pierce County Sheriff's Office. --- komonews.com, February 24 (Washington) <https://is.gd/KoJz0Q>

GUARDIANSHIP

13. “Oscar-Nominated Doc 'Edith+Eddie' Gets Honest About Abuse of Elderly.” Laura Checkoway certainly won't be the most famous director in the room at the 2018 Academy Awards ceremony. But that's exactly what makes it so special. Her second film, "Edith+Eddie," is one of five contenders for best short-subject documentary. --- 1063thegroove.com, February 23 <https://is.gd/Fxbgwt>
14. “Bill to update guardianship laws clears Senate panel.” A bill aimed at easing the state's growing burden as guardian of vulnerable elderly and disabled people moved a step closer to clearing the legislature Wednesday. --- richmondregister.com, February 22 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/PhcTHI>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

15. “'Our Lives Are at Stake.' How Donald Trump Inadvertently Sparked a New Disability Rights Movement.” One day last March, Kings Floyd’s boss came into work and asked if she’d like to get arrested. --- time.com, February 26

<https://is.gd/ns0b2z>

16. “Paying disabled workers less than minimum wage is legal in the US. Alaska has now banned it.” Alaska joins New Hampshire and Maryland as the only states to bar the decades-old practice. --- vox.com, February 23 (Alaska)
<https://is.gd/7ER98J>
17. “Lawsuit, report alleges Kern County's mistreatment of disabled youth.” A lawsuit was filed against Kern County on Wednesday by two disability rights groups claiming that youth in the county’s correctional facilities were discriminated against. --- bakersfield.com, February 23 (California)
<https://is.gd/evlNHt>
18. “Uber discriminates against people in wheelchairs, lawsuit says.” The ride-hailing company is sued in California for allegedly not providing enough wheelchair-accessible vehicles. --- cnet.com, February 28 (California)
<https://is.gd/uZyZJX>
19. “Southern Colorado family fights insurance system for autistic son's therapy.” On the last day of class for the 2017 calendar year, the Custer County Schools were in a state of controlled chaos. --- chieftain.com, February 25 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/G8SYn>
20. “England: House passes consumer protections for ‘surprise’ medical costs.” During the sixth week of the 2018 legislative session, the Georgia Senate unanimously passed the House of Representatives mid-year appropriations bill with only a few changes. We are working out the differences between the Senate and House versions and hope to see final passage very soon. A highlight of action last week under the Gold Dome was the House’s passage of a bill to end “surprise” medical billing. ---- barrowjournal.com, February 24 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/ET5e7Y>
21. “Campus responds to changes in disability laws.” As a new multi-million dollar plan is being rolled out to address compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, calls are being made for heightened discussion on

- disability to foster greater inclusion. --- thewichitan.com. February 27 (Kansas) <https://is.gd/tGXxf4>
22. “The missing pieces of Iowa’s mental health care puzzle.” Access to acute care mental health care beds saves lives. Unfortunately, Iowa’s mental health care system is missing key components that negatively impact access to services. --- desmoinesregister.com, February 26 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/ykaaiH>
 23. “Autism treatment firm lands \$8-million state grant, spends big on governor's race.” Centria Healthcare, the autism therapy provider under investigation for Medicaid fraud, has been among the most generous political donors to Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, who backed the company's successful bid for an \$8-million state grant. --- freep.com, February 24 (Michigan) <https://is.gd/VdtPNC>
 24. “Lakewood: Ex-special ed employee claims discrimination in lawsuit.” A former Lakewood schools administrator is suing the district alleging she was the victim of retaliation because she tried to expose corruption and is not an Orthodox Jew. --- app.com February 26 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/U3JaLr>
 25. “Utah Reps Should Support Citizens with Disabilities, Not Restrict Mothers.” Representative Lisonbee, R-Clearfield, has proposed a bill representing legislation at its worst. HB 205, “The Down Syndrome Nondiscrimination Abortion Act” is a proposed ban on abortion for women seeking to terminate a pregnancy affected by Down Syndrome. --- dailyutahchronicle.com, February 24 (Utah) <https://is.gd/MjIT22>
 26. “Utah Bill Banning Abortion in Cases of Down Syndrome Moves Closer to Becoming Law.” The controversial bill would prohibit expectant mothers from obtaining an abortion for the sole reason that their fetus suffers from Down syndrome. --- inquisitr.com, February 27 (Utah) <https://is.gd/V6bSgW>

27. "Special-Education Rule Issued by Obama Administration Is Delayed." The Trump administration is delaying the implementation of an Obama-era rule that seeks to address the high proportion of black and Hispanic children in special-education programs. --- wsj.com, February 27 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/e7WoiP>
28. "Ex-superintendent of deaf, blind schools' suit is dismissed." A judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by the former superintendent of West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind. --- seattletimes.com, February 24 (West Virginia) <https://is.gd/PxvOhu>

STATISTICS & STUDIES

29. "Give Care Providers the Tools They Need." As an occupational therapist who has specialized in dementia care and worked in nursing homes and assisted living facilities for almost 30 years, I am currently the president of Dementia Care Specialists, an organization training and preparing health professionals to work with individuals with dementia. --- usnews.com, February 23 <https://is.gd/sTHfqK>
30. "Needless Antipsychotic Prescribing Runs Rampant in Nursing Homes." American nursing homes are overprescribing antipsychotic drugs, according to a new study. In an average week, more than 179,000 older people, many with dementia, are given antipsychotic medications without a diagnosis for which the drugs have been approved and often without their or legal proxies' informed consent, according to the study by Human Rights Watch. --- managedhealthcareexecutive.modernmedicine.com, February 23 <https://is.gd/Jb8geO>
31. "Blood test for head injuries, developed in Blacksburg, gains FDA approval." A new test, developed in Blacksburg at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) and Virginia Tech, can determine if someone

suffered a concussion or head injury. --- wdbj7.com, February 24 (Virginia)
<https://is.gd/uCEwST>

32. “Bugs and allergies in pregnancy linked to child developmental disorders, like autism and ADHD.” A new study suggests activation of a mother’s immune system during pregnancy, such as during an allergic response, may affect fetal brain development. --- theconversation.com, February 26
<https://is.gd/ib9CHB>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

33. “How can we prepare our kids with special needs for a school crisis?” The shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., started after the fire alarm went off for the second time that day. It’s this detail that I keep thinking about because my son with autism, at his school in Chicago, hates unexpected noises and changes in his routine. --- washingtonpost.com, February 27 <https://is.gd/IsEThi>
34. “Alumna, Ms. Wheelchair America 2018 talks disabilities at UCLA event.” Sheri Melander-Smith decided to give up her modeling career and focus on her studies at UCLA after being diagnosed with a medical condition that could render her unable to walk. --- dailybruin.com, February 23 (California)
<https://is.gd/4ccSGA>
35. “Vigils to Honor People with Disabilities Killed by Caregivers.” In 2012, George Hodgins — a California adult with autism — was the victim of a murder-suicide carried out by his mother. --- disabilityscoop.com, February 27 (California) <https://is.gd/ws2BIG>
36. “Local yoga instructor helps wheelchair bound seniors stay healthy.” “Wheelchair Yoga” ... it almost sounds like an oxymoron, but that’s exactly what Rancho Santa Fe Yoga Instructor, Kelly Wislar is doing in extending the

lives of senior citizens and others who are confined to wheelchairs. ---
kusi.com, February 25 (California) <https://is.gd/ffxsfe>

37. “Reforms promised but group homes still suffering from problems.” Despite Illinois’ promise to reform troubled group homes for disabled adults, allegations of abuse and neglect have risen, staffing levels have fallen and state oversight has been sluggish, the Tribune has found. ---
chicagotribune.com, February 23 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/PmWMj2>
38. “Schools in Cedar Rapids will continue to use seclusion rooms.” Cedar Rapids schools will continue putting students in seclusion rooms. ---
kcrg.com, February 26 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/NzJjqD>
39. “Business works toward independence, happiness for those with autism.” Autism is one of the most prevalent neuro-developmental disorders among American children. Its cause is unknown. Its impact on those who have it or those who care for them can be very difficult and challenging. ---
kentucky.com, February 23 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/Y53vOw>
40. “DHHS head said he’d ‘move quickly,’ but Maine still has no fix for disabled people in crisis.” When a Houlton group home resident became a danger to himself, his housemate and the staff members assigned to care for him late last fall, he ended up in the emergency room of Houlton Regional Hospital. --- bangordailynews.com, February 23 (Maine) <https://is.gd/7qubtt>
41. “Potomac School Stages Sensory-Friendly Play for Autistic Community.” The overhead lights at the Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac will flood its stage in the reds, golds and blues of Joseph’s technicolor coat this weekend. --- bethesdamagazine.com, February 23 (Maryland)
<https://is.gd/iA7Z9F>
42. “Greenfield to update handicapped access plan.” The city has received a promise of \$40,000 in grant money to update its plan for handicap access. -
-- recorder.com, February 23 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/EKca40>

43. "Schools physically restrained students 9,000 times last year." Public school officials in Massachusetts say they had to physically restrain students more than 9,000 times last school year, sparking outcry from some advocates who say the practice is dangerous and overused. --- gloucestertimes.com, February 23 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/zvzClz>
44. "New App Helps Interactions Between Police, People with Special Needs." A smartphone app designed to help law enforcement interact with people with mental and physical disabilities is about to roll out in one of the state's largest counties. --- minnesota.cbslocal.com, February 23 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/W59m73>
45. "Montana mother speaks out on state budget cuts for developmental disability care." Vicki LaFond-Smith lives in the Helena Valley with her twin adult sons, Matthew and Christopher. --- ktvh.com, February 23 (Montana) <https://is.gd/USxD0u>
46. "Budget Cuts Will Dismantle Montana's Community Services, Disability Advocates Say." A group of disability rights advocates are calling on Governor Steve Bullock to immediately backfill some of the more than \$49 million in cuts to the state health department made during the special legislative session last year. --- mtp.org, February 26 (Montana) <https://is.gd/xl2FJa>
47. "Circle Theatre works with schools on playwriting project for special education students." The executive artistic director of the Circle Theatre has a heart for special education students. --- omaha.com, February 23 (Nebraska) <https://is.gd/BvRsSa>
48. "Buses for OPS special ed students delayed because of driver absences." Slippery roads this week have led to some minor fender benders and delays for Omaha Public Schools buses. --- omaha.com, February 23 (Nebraska) <https://is.gd/2QqaYU>

49. "Special education students grow by integrating into regular program." Jake Brethauer is thriving in the North Platte Public Schools' new special education integration initiative. --- nptelegraph.com, February 25 (Nebraska) <https://is.gd/7GXghi>
50. "Behind the Lens: Cheerleader not held back by Down Syndrome." Alaina Lardaro has Down Syndrome, but it doesn't stop her from being as active as any other teen. Along with many other talents, she is a member of the Freehold High School cheerleading squad. --- app.com, February 22 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/2JJQsq>
51. "CASSETTE House offers life skills for special needs students." Funded by the Columbus Public Schools system, the CASSETTE Program is a transition program built to equip special education students with life skills such as banking, buying a house and holding a job. --- columbustelegram.com, February 23 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/fmhpRm>
52. "Students' Active Shooter Plan for Teacher in Wheelchair Will Bring You to Tears." Following the devastating Parkland shooting, teachers are left to remedy the fear and uncertainty of students everywhere. Marissa Schimmoeller, a ninth and tenth grade teacher, who happens to be wheelchair bound, shared a message that many of us need to hear as we continue to mourn the loss of 17 innocent people. --- goodhousekeeping.com, February 23 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/YEsGyC>
53. "Autistic boy reported missing north of Logan County is found deceased." An extensive search began following the report just after 3 p.m. Friday that a 13-year-old autistic boy was missing from his home on Township Road 55 near Ada, Ohio, according to the Hardin County Sheriff's Office. --- springfieldnewssun.com, February 24 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/WsgGzK>
54. "Mass Celebrates Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Awareness." People gathered at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton Sunday for a special Mass. The Diocese of Scranton celebrated developmental and intellectual disabilities awareness by delivering a liturgy recognizing and celebrating the

many gifts those with disabilities provide to the church and to the community. --- wneq.com, February 25 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/ffkoHE>

55. “For patients with disabilities, dental treatment presents extra challenges.” What if the simple choice of going to see a dentist wasn't available to you? That's the plight of many people with disabilities, despite slowly changing public perceptions and laws that protect them from discrimination. --- timesfreepress.com, February 26 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/RzPB6w>
56. “State acts to ensure disabled Texans are able to vote.” The state will "effective immediately" begin making it easier for disabled Texans who receive job training to register to vote. The action comes after a disability rights group threatened to sue last week if changes weren't made. --- Imtonline.com, February 23 (Texas) <https://is.gd/PDjVsf>
57. “Feds are investigating 23 potential civil rights violations at Utah elementary and high schools, according to new searchable list.” There at least 23 open investigations into alleged civil rights violations — most on the basis of disability, sex or race — across seven elementary and high school districts in Utah that receive federal funding. --- sltrib.com, February 25 (Utah) <https://is.gd/OYLDwr>
58. “Loudoun County Public Schools opens dialogue on restraint, seclusion; parents remain concerned.” Loudoun County Public Schools on Thursday hosted a forum on its restraint and seclusion tactics for students with special needs in an attempt to educate parents and assuage concerns. Despite the two informational sessions, parents still expressed anger, confusion and concern. --- loudountimes.com, February 26 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/uvddAW>

INTERNATIONAL

59. “Coding program caters for autistic kids.” The proponents of a coding program designed for autistic children are hoping to boost enrollments

ahead of its launch in Kalgoorlie-Boulder next week. --- thewest.com.au.
February 23 (Australia) <https://is.gd/2lpltv>

60. "Social Media Campaign Looks to End Use of the Word 'Retard'." A new campaign has been launched in Western Australia urging people to stop using the word "retard", with the word appearing on social media approximately every five seconds according to WA's disabilities minister. --- probonoaustralia.com.au, February 26 (Australia) <https://is.gd/Krk4Hv>
61. "Pair get life in prison for 'thrill kill' of autistic teen." A deranged pair of women who killed an autistic teen for the thrill of it in their quest to become serial killers will spend the rest of their lives in prison, a judge said Wednesday. --- nypost.com, February 28 (Australia) <https://is.gd/31VaK7>
62. "Appeal court restores finding that P.E.I. discriminates against mentally ill." An appeal court has restored a human rights panel's finding that the P.E.I. government discriminates against the mentally ill by denying them disability benefits. --- atlantic.ctvnews.ca, February 22 (Canada) <https://is.gd/zgBduF>
63. "PSWs who victimize those in their care, and who are at risk themselves." Frances Economou never expected her father's life to end the way it did. George, a hard-working Greek immigrant to Canada, was diagnosed with a brain hemorrhage at age 67, that left him mentally impaired and unable to care for himself. --- ctvnews.ca, February 24 (Canada) <https://is.gd/WbhTrn>
64. "Deep look on people challenged with disabilities in Egypt." Through the initiative of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to declare 2018 as the year of those challenged with a disability, numerous efforts and decisions have been taken to assure them proper living conditions, but indeed more efforts need to be exerted. --- egypttoday.com, February 24 (Egypt) <https://is.gd/22XP9J>
65. "The intellectually challenged have a ray of hope now." City institute offers specialised training to ready them for the future. For parents of children

with intellectual disabilities, the very thought of their wards' future is a nightmare. --- thehindu.com, February 26 (India) <https://is.gd/ztosgC>

66. "At What Stage Does a Consenting Adult Become 'Vulnerable'?" The hearing in the Hadiya case on February 22 raised two important points. Firstly, the question of whether the doctrine of *parens patriae* can be extended by the High Court in relation to Hadiya. Secondly, whether the definition of 'human trafficking' under the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons can be applied in this regard. --- newsclick.in, February 24 (India) <https://is.gd/Gb2dGm>
67. "In Violation of Court Orders and the Disability Act, No Braille Booklets Issued for UGC-NET 2018." Petition filed by disability rights activist against UGC and CBSE states that "on paper, the government promises to empower persons with disabilities, but in reality, it has time and again failed to act on these lofty ideals". --- thewire.in, February 26 (India) <https://is.gd/UlodgB>
68. "Behind the Scenes / Abuse seen to thrive at insular facilities." Abuse by staff at welfare facilities for the intellectually disabled continues to be a problem. In a case involving the abuse of a resident at Be Bright (see below), a support facility for the intellectually disabled in Utsunomiya, the director and other staff of Zuihokai, the social welfare corporation that operates the facility, were charged with violating the law on general support for persons with disabilities. --- the-japan-news.com, February 25 (Japan) <https://is.gd/C7I29N>
69. "Inclusive health services: Caring for women with disabilities." According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank, approximately 15 per cent of people worldwide are persons with disabilities, and women and girls with disabilities account for 19.2 per cent of the total population of women around the world. -- thehimalayantimes.com, February 28 (Nepal) <https://is.gd/TfXI93>

70. “ERA throws out claim training employee with Asperger's a safety concern.” A man's bid to recoup income after resigning because his employers assigned him to train a new employee with Asperger's Syndrome has been denied in employment court. --- stuff.co.nz, February 24 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/swRbyQ> (spelling error in original article)
71. “Mum shocked to receive letter asking autistic son to be quiet” A Brisbane mother is shocked after a stranger left an anonymous and disturbing letter complaining about her autistic son. --- newshub.co.nz, February 27 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/BLi7Dj>
72. “Romanian PM who called rivals 'autistic' cleared of bias.” A government council cleared Romania's prime minister Monday of wrongdoing for using the word "autistic" to describe political rivals. --- abcnews.go.com, February 26 (Romania) <https://is.gd/ytPuf0>
73. “Finding mental health care where traditional healers still thrive.” Before the sun rises, psychiatric nurse Immaculate Owembabazi makes her way to a small district hospital in the rural village of Kisoro, Uganda. --- kticradio.com, February 24 (Uganda) <https://is.gd/G7XvVC>
74. “Autistic boy who struggles to speak uses singing to help him communicate.” An autistic six-year-old who struggles to speak and interact with people has started using singing to help him communicate and carry out daily tasks. --- walesonline.co.uk, February 25 (UK) <https://is.gd/4w0HXX>
75. “Academia needs to talk about ‘invisible’ disabilities.” A few months ago, we advertised a conference that we intended to hold on the difficulties faced by those with chronic illness, disabilities and neurodiversity working in academia. --- timeshighereducation.com, February 25 (UK) <https://is.gd/4exL4y>
76. “Alternative Care Services Makes LGBTQI+ History.” THE UK’s first LGBTQI+ domiciliary care service has been launched, with the aim of providing

excellent support to ageing members of the LGBTQI+ community. --- voice-online.co.uk, February 26 (UK) <https://is.gd/NkkIBV>

77. “It's disgusting – it's discrimination': Mother's fury as her autistic son, six, is made to wear a fluorescent bib at playtimes so teachers can keep an eye on him.” A mother was horrified to discover her six-year-old autistic son was being forced to wear a fluorescent yellow bib at school. --- dailymail.co.uk, March 1 (UK) <https://is.gd/EUvx4R>

MISCELLANEOUS

78. “Jon Caldara’s compromise offer on political correctness.” As a writer and editor, I would think a person who identifies as “a Denver Post columnist” would have a better understanding of the importance of words than Jon Caldara exhibited in his insincere compromise offer: “We boorish ignorant anti-PC bigots will accept whatever terms you hyper-sensitive social engineering snowflakes want to describe whatever victim group or situation you want. ... [But the] new term must be shorter than the one you want us to stop using.” --- denverpost.com, February 22 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/W4omCL>
79. “People with mental illness can make psychiatric advance directives. We need to encourage them to do so.” In medicine, we talk a lot about advance directives, mainly in the context of end-of-life treatment. But, recently, while treating a patient with schizophrenia, I realized how powerful and important that same document could be in caring for someone living with mental illness. --- statnews.com, February 23 <https://is.gd/EtmcCN>