

Click Here! **Mad About U: Four Decades of Basketball at University Hall**
Limited copies remain of the book on UVA basketball [Buy from amazon.com](#)
"Some of the tales will be familiar, but Graham produces terrific new material..." - Amazon Review



Medical aid in dying: A hallmark of patient-centered care

Published Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, 6:49 pm

Front Page » Government/Politics » Medical aid in dying: A hallmark of patient-centered care

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS Join AFP's 112,000+ followers on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **YouTube**
Subscribe to sports and news podcasts on **iTunes**
News, press releases, letters to the editor: augustafreepress2@gmail.com
Advertising inquiries: crystalabbegraham@gmail.com
Phone: 540-949-6574

By **Barbara Coombs Lee** and **Kim Callinan**

One thing the national election did not change: as the nation's **75 million baby boomers** retire, an ever growing number grapple with the reality that people die in circumstances they would not choose. At a time when the country is divided, the election showed one issue unites us: personal choice in end-of-life care.

The most recent proof? **By a nearly 30-point margin, Colorado voters approved a citizen-led End-of-Life Options ballot initiative on Nov. 8.** The new law gives terminally ill adults the option to get a doctor's prescription for medication they may decide to take to end unbearable suffering, by dying peacefully in their sleep. Voters across a broad demographic range supported Prop. 106, according to **exit polling conducted for The Associated Press and television networks in Colorado.**

This Colorado victory stands in a line of advances for the end-of-life choice movement over the past two years. **1) California enacted a medical aid-in-dying law that took effect in June; 2) the District of Columbia Council passed medical aid-in-dying legislation and the mayor signed it Dec. 19 ; and 3) lawmakers in 19 states introduced medical aid-in-dying bills this year.**

The question before us is why is the issue of medical aid in dying gaining so much momentum? And how can we leverage this momentum to improve general end-of-life care?

During the past 20 years, our country has made little or no progress on key quality indicators: **non-beneficial treatment is still on the rise; advanced directives are still ignored; and admissions to intensive care units (ICUs) in the last 30 days of life continue to rise.** People want to die at home, but **two-thirds die in institutions.**

Respected policy makers publicly acknowledge that we won't change these key quality indicators until a populist movement rises to drive a transformation. Obviously, the consumer movement already exists. But to harness the power of this movement, the palliative care community and medical establishment must embrace patients' desire for self-determination, including shortening an intolerable dying process.

The American public has embraced medical aid in dying because it puts patients firmly in charge of their own decisions about end-of-life care. To patients, it is a prime litmus test of person-centered care. It exemplifies a medical system that respects patients by allowing them to assert their values and priorities as death approaches.

However, Medical Aid in Dying is only a start. To truly transform end-of-life care in this country, we need to stop the conveyor belt of over treatment and false promises. We need to ensure that healthcare providers give people complete information about all their end-of-life care options. It is the only way to ensure patients make fully-informed treatment decisions.



Search for:

New to Area!
Wells Painting
Add a Little Color to Your Life

- Commercial Painting
- Residential Painting
- Pressure Washing
- 35+ Years Experience
- Licensed and Insured

540-910-0746

WVPT — **VIEWPOINTS**
wvpt.net Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS
Download our App!

ANDROID APP ON **Google play** Available on the **App Store**

- 📺 Women's basketball: UVA falls 54-49 at No. 21 Syracuse
- 📺 Three UVA wrestlers place at Southern Scuffle
- 📺 Women's basketball: EMU gets to the line early, often in win over Frostburg State
- 📺 Video: Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski to have back surgery, miss four weeks
- 📺 Street Knowledge with Chris Graham: What is the optimal UVA starting 5?
- 📺 Fishburne alum Daniel Dixon named CAA basketball player of the week
- 📺 Three UVA wrestlers advance to semifinals at Southern Scuffle

Recent Politics

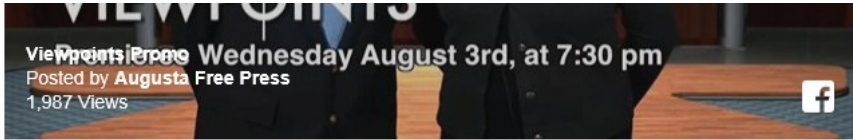
- 📺 Goodlatte effort to gut ethics watchdog backfires on GOP
- 📺 Medical aid in dying: A hallmark of patient-centered care
- 📺 McAuliffe proposes significant criminal justice reforms for 2017 GA session
- 📺 Del. Steve Landes announces town hall meetings
- 📺 Culpeper District transportation meeting set for Wednesday
- 📺 What will President Barack Obama's environmental legacy look like?
- 📺 Virginia Organizing holding healthcare rally in Harrisonburg on Tuesday
- 📺 New USDA initiative expands conservation tools for farmers
- 📺 Virginia farmers to help shape national Farm Bureau policies
- 📺 ACLU, CAIR use Khizr Khan to claim Iraq War was for Bill of Rights
- 📺 Robert Hurt: Best wishes for the New Year
- 📺 Critics: Atlantic Coast Pipeline DEIS hides the truth
- 📺 Groups blast FERC review of Atlantic Coast Pipeline
- 📺 Sen. Warner on Obama administration response to Russia interference
- 📺 Ken Plum: What do I do now?

Recent Business

- 📺 Top seven car stories for 2016
- 📺 Virginia companies exhibiting at Winter Fancy Food Show in San Francisco
- 📺 Staunton Downtown Development Association to share consumer survey data
- 📺 Hearing aids: Making sure they fit
- 📺 2017 and 'Killer Apps' for the transition
- 📺 Test shopping reveals flameless, tea candles that pose extreme danger for children
- 📺 Six steps to start a WordPress blog
- 📺 Budget cuts could have dramatic impact on state's largest industry
- 📺 Dominion comments on FERC statement on Atlantic Coast Pipeline
- 📺 SBA Hurricane Matthew Business Recovery Center in Virginia closing
- 📺 Five remote career categories to watch in 2017
- 📺 Hurt & Proffitt acquires Anderson & Associates
- 📺 Survey of Virginia cattle farms coming in January
- 📺 Is your hearing aid doing what it's supposed to do?
- 📺 USDA to measure financial well-being of farm families

Viewpoints





Hosts Chris Graham and Crystal Graham of Augusta Free Press highlight local news and newsmakers with an emphasis on the Shenandoah Valley on **Viewpoints** on WVPT.

Join the conversation on WVPT's Facebook page.

Chris Graham is the editor of Augusta Free Press, ESPN3 baseball broadcaster and the author of five books. Crystal Graham is the award-winning former host of WVPT's Virginia Tonight.



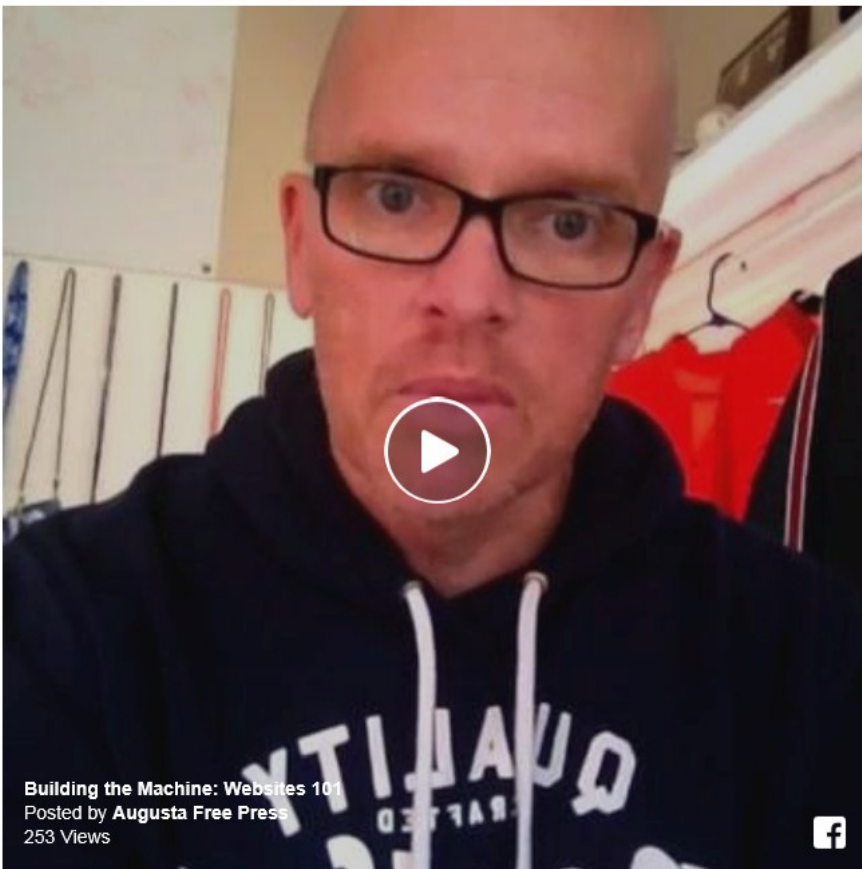
Show airs Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m.

Want to see what's coming up on Viewpoints? [Click here](#).

Missed a show? [Watch OnDemand](#) and on our [YouTube channel](#).

Past shows are also available via the PBS app wherever it is available (iOS, Xbox, Roku, Android, etc). Videos will be found more easily if you localize the app and select WVPT as your local PBS station.

AFP Business



Your One-Stop Media Shop

Full One-Stop Media Shop

Augusta Free Press LLC provides clients in the Shenandoah Valley and Central Virginia and beyond with marketing and PR solutions including web design, magazine/brochure, TV/radio, social media and overall marketing campaign design and implementation.

Advertise

Get information on readership and advertising online with us.

[More info >](#)

AFP Classes

Augusta Free Press offers a series of hour-long classes on website design, marketing strategy, social media, event planning and more.

[More info >](#)

Web Design

You want a new website, but don't have the first clue as to how to build one. That's our job. Get your business online for as little as \$1,299.

[More info >](#)

Graphic Design

Whether you need a fresh business card design, rack card, ad, flyer or full magazine design, we can help with all your graphic-design needs.

[More info >](#)

Marketing/PR

Augusta Free Press manages advertising campaigns for small- and medium-sized businesses across Virginia. You don't need to hire a full-time marketing coordinator. Bring the experience of the Augusta Free Press team to work for you – for a fraction of the cost.

[More info >](#)

Search Engine Optimization

The prettiest website in the world is like a tree falling in the forest with no one there to hear it. If your website hasn't been search engine optimized, no one is going to see it or hear it – and it's not going to work for you.

[More info >](#)

Video/Audio

Web videos, TV and radio commercials, DVDs – Augusta Free Press LLC has you covered when it comes to video and audio production.

[More info >](#)

AFPBusiness.com Marketing Solutions Ahead.
 Website Design | Marketing/PR | Video/Audio | Classes

Tweets by @AugFreePress

Subscribe to AFP

Enter your email address to subscribe and receive notifications of new stories by email.

Join 3,877 other subscribers

Email Address

Subscribe



AugustaFreePress.com

Today Visit: 54953
 Week Visit: 1168142
 Month Visit: 4677391
 Year Visit: 53664415

Advertise online.

Contact Us | Connect with Editorial Advertising

Contact Us | Connect with Editor | Advertise

AugustaFreePress.com covers Waynesboro, Staunton, Augusta County and surrounding areas in Virginia.

© 2002-2016 Augusta Free Press LLC