Providence St. Joseph Medical Center’s centennial marks past, present and future PAGE 4

PLUS Midwife clinic offers more childbirth options PAGE 6
PROVIDENCE UNVEILS NEW MISSOULA CLINIC FOR WALK-IN CARE

Providence Medical Group has opened a new clinic with full X-ray capabilities and lab testing. The Grant Creek Walk-In Clinic helps address the most urgent health care needs when a primary care physician is not available, including:

- Common illnesses such as colds, the flu, earaches, sore throats, migraines, fever and rashes
- Minor injuries such as sprains, cuts and burns, or eye injuries

Location: 3075 N. Reserve St., Suite Q, Missoula
Hours: Monday–Friday, noon–8 p.m.
Phone: 406-327-1750

LIVER, PANCREAS SURGEON LEADS OUTREACH CLINIC IN MISSOULA

The Montana Cancer Center at Providence St. Patrick Hospital is pleased to announce that Juan Mejia, MD, has begun a monthly outreach clinic in Missoula.

Dr. Mejia is a board-certified liver and pancreas surgeon. He is an expert in both benign and malignant diseases of the liver, pancreas and biliary system. He will see new and established patients in Montana for consultation and follow-up. Patients will still travel to Spokane for surgery when needed, but Dr. Mejia will work with our Montana team of providers to be sure that patients can get as much of their care as close to home as possible.

Dr. Mejia also collaborates with other expert physicians across the Providence and Swedish system to ensure that he brings the most current, evidence-based medicine available to his Montana patients.

He completed both his internship and residency in general surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Mejia completed his fellowships in transplant surgery and hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh.

We are very excited to have Dr. Mejia start this important service here in Missoula. Your local provider can refer you to Dr. Mejia’s care. Questions about the clinic? Please call the Montana Cancer Center at 406-728-2539.
Providence Welcomes New Physicians

GENERAL SURGEON JOINS PROVIDENCE ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER
Robin Hape, MD, joined Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Polson as the only full-time general surgeon in Lake County and the Mission Valley. Dr. Hape will see patients at the Polson location four days a week and will soon see patients at St. Joseph’s clinic in Ronan.

Dr. Hape has more than 14 years of experience. He will be joining the surgical team in Polson that includes orthopedic surgeon Michael Righetti, MD, and OB-GYN surgeons Jamie Straub, DO, and Kelly Bagnell, MD.

FULL-TIME PEDIATRICIAN IS HOSPITAL’S FIRST IN 5 YEARS
Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Polson announces the arrival of pediatrician Emily Hall, DO, who joined the family medicine staff at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center earlier this year. Dr. Hall’s arrival marks the first permanent pediatrician on staff at the hospital in five years, and she becomes the only full-time pediatrician serving patients from Arlee to the shores of Flathead Lake.

SCHEDULE A CHECKUP
Dr. Hall is accepting new patients at both Providence St. Joseph Medical Clinic locations. To schedule an appointment, call the clinic in Polson at 406-883-8250, or call the clinic in Ronan at 406-676-5680.

NEW SERVICE IN POLSON
Naturopathic physician Elizabeth Stegmaier, ND, from Providence Medical Group—Women’s Care and Family Wellness in Missoula, began a monthly outreach to Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Polson. Stegmaier will be at the medical center the third Tuesday of every month. Call Women’s Care and Family Wellness at 406-327-3057 for information.

CONNECT WITH US
“Like” our page to learn about the latest events and happenings: facebook.com/providencehealthmontana
Follow us for real-time health information and updates from our experts: @saintpats

Catch up on HealthBreak videos and other fascinating health topics: youtube.com/stpatrickhospital
Settlers and homesteaders were still streaming into the American West as the foundations were laid for Providence St. Joseph Medical Center.

In the fall of 1913, Bishop John P. Carroll created the diocesan parish of Polson. The first resident pastor, Father William O’Maley, took possession of this parish on Oct. 5, 1913. Father O’Maley managed the new parish only a short time before seeing the need for a hospital in the rapidly growing community. He asked the Sisters of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, based in Ontario, Canada, to come to Polson and establish a hospital. They agreed.

Lilian Byrnes, a registered nurse from Omaha, also saw the need, and bought the Carl Wright house on B Street in 1915. She called it Polson General Hospital. On Oct. 10, 1916, the three Sisters of Religious Hospitallers—Mother St. Joseph, Sister Mary and Sister Gertrude—leased Polson General Hospital and purchased the equipment. They converted the East Side Hotel into a hospital with a capacity for six patients, and called it Hotel Dieu. Their first patient, admitted on Nov. 6, 1916, was a Native American man from the Flathead Reservation.

The Sisters then purchased the A.M. Davidson home, near the present hospital site, in 1921. A wing was added to the house, and the hospital boasted a 17-bed capacity.

In 1930, work began outside of Polson on the Kerr Dam (now known as the Sélíš Ksanka Qlíspé Dam) on the Flathead River for hydroelectric power. The population of the town increased rapidly and a larger hospital became imperative. Within two years, the hospital broke ground on a 30-bed brick structure. The new hospital opened on Oct. 14, 1933.

By the 1950s, the community had again outgrown its medical facility and needed a larger hospital. With community contributions, federal funds, a Ford Foundation Grant and a loan obtained by the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, a new 40-bed facility was built and opened in late 1959. The name of the hospital was changed to St. Joseph Hospital, dedicated on March 19, 1960.
Within a few years, the picture changed again. The Religious Hospitaller, faced with an aging membership and few younger recruits, had to turn over administration of the hospital to lay administrators. Meanwhile, they tried to locate sponsors who would maintain the philosophy of St. Joseph Hospital. On March 13, 1984, after 67 years serving the Polson community so lovingly, the Hospitaller Sisters transferred sponsorship of the local hospital to the Presentation Health System.

St. Joseph Hospital was in dire economic circumstances in 1990. The Sisters of Providence assumed responsibility for the hospital on March 1, allowing St. Joseph Hospital to continue providing health care services to the community. The Sisters of Providence were not new in this area. Their first mission was to establish a boarding school at St. Ignatius in 1864 at the request of Jesuit missionaries. From there, the Sisters founded Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula in 1873.

Faced with an old building in need of extensive upgrades, the St. Joseph Hospital Board of Directors reviewed options and concluded that new construction was the best solution. The sponsors recognized that people need health care that meets ever-changing lifestyles and technology. Physicians and patients need modern diagnostic imaging equipment, outpatient surgery, physical therapy, cardiovascular rehabilitation, home health services and wellness and fitness programs.

The resulting vision was one where the hospital and doctors worked together to provide primary health care services in a state-of-the-art facility, designed to meet the health care needs of the growing, diverse and aging community.

The new 22-bed Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, opened in 2000, provides “one-stop-shopping” for medical services, physician offices for patient office visits, a complete retail pharmacy and close proximity to laboratories so patients do not have to leave the building.

The Family Maternity Center was expanded to foster a sacred experience with more family interaction. The new hospital takes full advantage of the beautiful views of Flathead Lake and is filled with natural light. A state-of-the-art surgical suite, an enhanced emergency department and a modern imaging suite help improve the hospital experience.

With its rich history and established tradition of excellence, Providence St. Joseph Medical Center looks forward to serving you as a provider and community partner for many more years to come. We celebrate a century of caring in Western Montana, and honor all of the people who have walked through our doors over the last 100 years. 

Stop by the Center!

Come see us at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center

Location: 6 13th Ave E
Polson, Montana

For more information or driving directions, call St. Joe’s at 406-329-5640.
A new midwifery practice in Western Montana is offering women’s health care, including care for expectant mothers and their families. Two nationally certified nurse-midwives have been granted privileges to facilitate births at the hospital.

Brenda DeGrazio, CNM, has over 35 years of experience as a nurse-midwife. She graduated from the USAF Nurse-Midwifery Program through the Georgetown University School of Nurse-Midwifery in 1981. Brenda was the first midwife to have hospital privileges in Missoula 21 years ago.

Wendy Flansburg, CNM, received her Master of Science in Nursing from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, with a certificate in Nurse Midwifery from the Frontier School of Nursing and Midwifery. She has been a CNM for 14 years, after starting her nursing career in 1987. She practiced in North Dakota and, most recently, Whitefish, Montana.

The CNMs provide personalized care for women from adolescence through menopause and after. The services they provide are care during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period; gynecological care, family planning and preconception care.

Brenda and Wendy are located at the Garden City Medical Arts Building at 601 W. Spruce St. (across the street from St. Patrick Hospital and next to the Western Montana OB-GYN Clinic). To make an appointment, please call 406-329-7300.
Why a local couple made their gift to Providence Montana Health Foundation

For Mary and Don Shaughnessy, making a gift to Providence Montana Health Foundation was not a difficult decision. They view Providence St. Patrick Hospital as a vital community institution that upholds a level of excellence unparalleled by others. But it is the genuine compassion offered by hospital caregivers that the Shaughnessys value above all else.

When a friend’s life was recently turned upside down due to illness and immediate medical treatment was crucial, Mary and Don witnessed the Foundation come to his support—from funding travel to and from treatment, to helping with medical expenses. Providence Montana Health Foundation provided this essential support during the most difficult time of his life. Don and Mary were overwhelmed by the hospital’s unyielding commitment to their friend, and were inspired to give back.

They say the decision to support Providence was a priority. “Our Catholic background and inbred desire to be compassionate to those in need helped us identify the Foundation as a place that we wanted to financially support and be a part of.”

Together, the Shaughnessys have created a Patient Compassion Endowment, a sustainable gift that will support those in need for years to come. “Because the organization is aware of people truly in need of assistance, we trust that our funds will be used wisely.”

Before moving to Missoula, Don had served for a number of years as a board member of a hospital nearby—gaining insight into the inner workings of a medical facility. This experience helped motivate their investment in Providence. “We wanted St. Pat’s to maintain its stature as the foremost health care organization in the community and felt our modest investment would be appropriately placed in the Foundation.”

For Mary and Don, their commitment to Providence continues to be a personal priority. “We have just celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary, and because we have been so richly blessed, we want to share our blessings with others.”

MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE
Your charitable donation helps improve health care in Western Montana. To make a gift to Providence Montana Health Foundation, visit supportPMHF.org.
Over the past 100 years, we’ve built something extraordinary together.

Celebrating a century of caring at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center

Caring for your health – that’s been our calling for 100 years. Providence St. Joseph Medical Center has deep roots in this community and we’ve grown as you’ve grown, to serve your needs. As we mark our centennial, St. Joe’s will continue to provide excellent and compassionate care into the future.

Throughout 2016, join us as we celebrate a century of caring in western Montana and honor all of the people who have walked through our doors for 100 years. Follow our centennial celebration at Montana.Providence.org/SJMC100.

#SJMC100