Local News

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St. Francis to Institute New Living Wage

JUNE 14TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

St. Francis to Institute New Living Wage

New system-wide minimum wage to be set at \$11.70

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - Next month, Saint Francis Healthcare System will raise its minimum hourly pay to ensure all employees have the opportunity to earn a livable wage.

Effective July 8, the Healthcare System's new minimum hourly rate will be increased to \$11.70, which means raises for more than 200 employees – nearly eight percent of the total Saint Francis workforce.

President and CEO, Dr. Maryann Reese, said the wage increase is not based on the external market, rather the decision is rooted in the mission and values of Saint Francis Healthcare System and affirms the human dignity of all our employees.

"This decision goes to the core of our principles as a Catholic Healthcare System," she said. "As we continue our efforts to lower costs and make the Healthcare System more efficient and functional for patients, we cannot risk overlooking our own colleagues in the process. Doing the right thing includes making sure we care for all members of the Saint Francis Family."

The new hourly rate is double what an individual would need to stay above the federal poverty rate, according to this year's figures.

"From surgeons to support staff, each one of our colleagues provides the necessary services that allow Saint Francis Healthcare System to continue serving our

communities," Reese said. "They all deserve a wage that can sustain them, and we are proud to be able to provide that."

Bishop Edward Rice, head of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, praised the decision saying that, in raising minimum wages, Saint Francis Healthcare System has strengthened its Catholic identity.

"The changes recently announced at Saint Francis show respect for the dignity of our workers," Bishop Rice said. "It affirms their value and will promote the well-being of families."

Saint Francis Healthcare System is guided by the mission to provide a ministry of healing, wellness, quality and love inspired by faith in Jesus Christ. Founded by Franciscan Sisters in 1875, the priority remains the same: serve all who enter with dignity, compassion and joy. Serving nearly 713,000 people across Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas, the focus is on patients' outcomes, experience and value.

Anchored by Saint Francis Medical Center, a 308-bed tertiary hospital, and supported by nearly 2,800 employees and more than 250 providers in 11 communities, the Healthcare System is a driving economic force in the region. Major services include Cancer Institute, Emergency and Level III Trauma Center, Family Birth Place and the region's Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Heart Hospital, Neurosciences and Orthopedics.

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St. Francis Adds Vascular Surgeon

JUNE 04TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

St. Francis Adds Vascular Surgeon

Saint Francis Healthcare System welcomes vascular surgeon Scott Gard, MD, FACS, as a new Saint Francis Medical Partner. He joins fellow surgeons Joseph F. Mayo Jr., MD, FACS; Colleen J. Moore, MD, FACS, RPVI; Chad N. Stasik, MD, FACS; and Alexandra Powell, PA-BC, at Cape Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery.

Gard earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri. He completed his general surgery residency at Truman Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, and his vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. He is passionate about all aspects of vascular and endovascular surgery.

Outside of work, Dr. Gard enjoys spending time outdoors hunting and fishing or on his farm.

To learn more about Dr. Gard or Cape Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery, call 573-3155 or visit **www.sfmc.net**.

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Advanced Orthopedic Specialists Joins St. Francis Family Thompson Named St. Francis System Registration Manager

St. Francis Welcomes Darline Brown as Patient Care Manager

MARCH 29TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

St. Francis Welcomes Darline Brown as Patient Care Manager

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - Saint Francis is happy to welcome L. Darline Brown, MBA, BSN, RN as Patient Care Manager. In her new role, she will be responsible for delivering care, developing policies and procedures, and maintaining standards of care.

Brown previously served as nurse manager of the medical floor and the emergency department at Missouri Delta Medical Center in Sikeston, Missouri and nurse manager of orthopedics and medical telemetry at SoutheastHealth. She first joined Saint Francis in 2005 as a clinical resource nurse, later serving as patient care manager of neuroscience units, served as Director of Critical Care at Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center and most recently as administrator of Sikeston Convalescent Center in Sikeston, Mo.

She earned both an Associate's and Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Southeast Missouri State University before earning her Master's in Business Administration in Health Care at William Woods University.

Saint Francis Medical Center is a 308-bed facility serving more than 713,000 people throughout Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas. Guided by its mission to provide a ministry of healing and wellness inspired by its Christian philosophy and values, the Medical Center has become a progressive, innovative regional tertiary care referral center. Saint Francis' major service lines, which have received national recognition, include the Neurosciences Institute; Orthopedic Institute; Family BirthPlace, featuring the region's first Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; Heart Hospital; Emergency and Level III Trauma Center; Cancer Institute; and Fitness Plus.

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Saint Francis Adds to Emergency Department

MARCH 27TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Saint Francis Adds to Emergency Department

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - Saint Francis Medical Center welcomes emergency medicine specialists Charles Dodson, DO, FACEP, and Martin Blake, MD, as new providers in the Emergency Department. They join 11 other emergency providers in Saint Francis' Emergency and Trauma center, the region's only state-designated Level III Trauma Center.

Dr. Dodson comes to Saint Francis from Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana. He earned his medical degree from Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his emergency medicine residency at Brooke Amery Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Blake, who previously worked as an attending physician in the emergency department at Greenville Health System in Greenville, South Carolina, earned his medical degree

from Ross University School of Medicine in Portsmouth, Dominica, and completed his emergency residency at Louisiana State University Health in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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Advanced Orthopedic Specialists Joins St. Francis Family

SEPTEMBER 30TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Advanced Orthopedic Specialists Joins St. Francis Family

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - Saint Francis Healthcare System is pleased to welcome a new specialty practice to Saint Francis Medical Partners: Advanced Orthopedic Specialists.

"We are fortunate to be partnering with this established orthopedic practice and its highly experienced specialists," says Steven C. Bjelich, FACHE-D, President and Chief Executive Officer at Saint Francis Healthcare System. "By bringing an orthopedic specialty group to join Saint Francis Medical Partners, we are able to expand our clinical integrated network to patients in the five-state region we serve."

Located in Cape Girardeau, Advanced Orthopedic Specialists provides patients with expert diagnosis and a full spectrum of treatments and surgical interventions for complicated orthopedic injuries and conditions for the hand, foot, hip, knee, shoulder and more. The practice includes orthopedic surgeons James M. Edwards, MD; Patrick R. Knight, MD; Rickey L. Lents, MD; Ryan C. Morris, DO; R. August Ritter III, MD; Brian C. Schafer, MD; Andrew C. Trueblood, MD and Khalid Waliullah, MD and physiatrists Jimmy D. Bowen, MD; and Bernard C. Burns, DO. These physicians have extensive training and years of combined experience — performing thousands of procedures, from sports medicine to hand to joint replacement and revision. Advanced Orthopedic Specialists was founded in 1934 and is the region's premier orthopedic practice. AOS has Centers of Excellence in Joint Replacement and Sports Medicine. AOS is the official team physician for Southeast Missouri State University and countless regional high school teams.

"We are excited to partner with Saint Francis Medical Partners," says Rickey Lents, MD, AOS President. "We believe this will allow Advanced Orthopedic Specialists to advance and expand care to better serve our region. Our other partnerships with Saint Francis have been very successful and we feel that together we can implement a seamless

continuum of orthopedic services."

The partnership will be effective January 1, 2018, and additional information will be forthcoming. There are no immediate plans to relocate AOS and the physicians will retain their privileges at other area hospitals.

To learn more about Advanced Orthopedic Specialists, call 573-331-3996 or visit **www.sfmc.net.**

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