

Clinic ceremony tops agenda for GMH health fair

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Breaking ground for a \$2.9 million doctor's clinic is the main fare at Gothenburg Memorial Hospital's health fair this Saturday.

"It's a big step forward for the hospital," said fair coordinator Lisa Geiken.

The ceremony will occur at 10 a.m. on the southeast corner of GMH's campus with hospital, bank and United States Department of Agriculture officials present.

Maxine Moul, state USDA director, will speak.

USDA officials are loaning the hospital \$2.5 million to build the facility. Gothenburg State Bank will provide a \$500,000 loan.

The public is invited to the ground breaking and to other health fair activities from 8 a.m.-noon at the Wellness Center.

New to the fair this year will be a "Medicine Take Back" event where the community can take unused or expired medications to the Wellness Center where they will be disposed of properly.

Geiken said a new helicopter service, based out of North Platte, will land if there are no emergency calls and the weather cooperates. Midwest MedAir and an ambulance from Midwest Medical will be on display from 8 a.m. to noon.

Also at 8 a.m., Dr. Charlie Gates of North Platte will speak about knee replacement surgery in the conference room. At 9 a.m., new surgeon Dr. John Harrington will be on hand to meet the

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public.

Free brunch will be offered from 8-11 a.m.

Geiken said health professionals and about 20 exhibits relating to health care will be on display in the exercise area of the center.

Participants in GMH's blood draw are also encouraged to pick up their results at the fair.

ebarrett@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636