Investing in the future could have been the theme at a groundbreaking ceremony Saturday for a new $3.2 million medical clinic attached to Gothenburg Memorial Hospital.

A number of speakers keyed on that aspect of the project which will be built where the now-closed Long Term unit of the hospital was located.

Dr. Jay Matzke, chief of medical staff at the hospital, described himself as the 54-year-old baby of the four family practice doctors in Gothenburg.

"This is about the future. We have to find a way of recruiting medical people to this community," he said. "We can't hope that we can have every baby that's born here that goes to medical school come back to town."

Matzke noted the existing medical clinic at the hospital has eight exam rooms for five practitioners.

"You who have been in that clinic have waited, not because we're slow, it's just that we don't have a room to put you in," he said.

The community needs a couple of 30-something doctors pretty quick so it isn't crippled concerning medical services, he said.

The facility is being financed by a $2.5 million direct loan from USDA Rural Development and also a USDA guarantee on a $500,000 loan made by Gothenburg State Bank. The loans are leveraged with $230,000 from Gothenburg Memorial Hospital, Inc.

Maxine Moul, state director for USDA Rural Development, and staff attended ceremony.

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