Shaw: Area ties drew him to Gothenburg.

A change of scenery is what interested Dr. Garret Shaw to become a family care physician at Gothenburg's Medical Clinic.

Along with that change it was a bonus and somewhat of a draw to the area because of family, friends and nice people here and in Brady, Shaw said.

Located in Blair, Shaw worked at a satellite clinic before starting at GMC Jan. 1.

"I got tired of things there, which happens," Shaw said. "I grew weary of it over time."

He added that when he came out to visit Gothenburg he recognized how much the town has going for it, the kind residents and its overall feel.

"I was impressed," he said. "The people are friendly, of course, and it feels more like home."

So, after traveling over 250 miles, Shaw is in Gothenburg to serve the duties of a family physician.

He will help in the emergency room with procedures, deliver new-born babies and is responsible for colonoscopies and esophagogastroduodenoscopies, or EGDs.

Shaw said those responsibilities are what he enjoys about his job. It's give him the opportunity to work with a spectrum of people.

"I'm able to care for people over their entire life," Shaw said. "I can deliver a baby and then walk over and see some seniors. It puts life into perspective."

While being able to influence the lives of many people, Shaw said the biggest challenge of being a physician is the use of medicine.

"Most people believe medicine is a science, they'll take it and be fixed, but it's more of an art," Shaw said.

While medical duties take priority, he said it's possible he'll also do health talks at the senior center.

"They seem to enjoy those, and I do, too, of course," he said.

Shaw works Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Outside of his profession, Shaw is married to the former Rhonda Sites, a Gothenburg native, and they have three children—Trevor who is 19 years old; Kiah, 16; and Lauryn, 12.

Rhonda has ties to the American Lutheran Church in Gothenburg where her father Dave was the pastor 20 years ago.

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