

Business


DOW JONES

 Down 15.62
to 11,007.88

NASDAQ

 Up 6.17
to 2,476.01

S&P 500

 Up 0.25
to 1,178.59

Vet ready to break ground on clinic

By Lisa Bolivar

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PALM CITY — Sometimes dreams do come true, and veterinarian Rex Sentell's dream of building a super-clinic is becoming reality after three years of addressing issues with the Palm City Community Redevelopment Authority.

Sentell, who has been a veterinarian in Palm City for decades, expects to break ground on a 13,725-square-foot veterinary center on Mapp Road by the end of December, with completion expected in a year.

The facility will feature an atrium for patients and their owners to relax in and boasts all sorts of bells and whistles to address a variety of client needs.

And that is the whole idea, Sentell said.

"It is a dream of mine I've

had for a long time," Sentell said. "I want to provide the best care I can for my clients and their patients, which to me is to offer a nice atmosphere that isn't too crowded and rushed, and the technology to do what we need to do for that animal."

Sentell plans to install CAT scan machines, hydrotherapy facilities and multi-table surgery suites. He will be able to perform ultrasounds and endoscopic surgery while also having a grooming facility and boarding for pets in \$50-a-night rooms that sport destination city names.

"We will also have luxury suites for dogs with TVs that you can call in on the computer and see your animal while you are away that are named 'Key West, Manhattan and San Francisco,'" he said. "So when people ask you where your pet is, you can say your pet

is in San Francisco."

The Palm City Animal Medical Center also will have its own laboratory and pharmacy, so that specially trained pharmacy technicians can dispense medications to clients and to the hospital as needed.

Despite all the expensive upgrades, Sentell claims his fees will remain competitive with other area veterinarians. He also will be hiring once the facility opens, he said.

Martin County Growth Management Director Nicki van Vonno said the

approval process for the clinic was lengthy because it was sized above the Community Redevelopment Association size limit for the area, but that now that requirements have been met there should be no obstacles blocking construction. She said the plans were finally approved in September.

"I've been looking for this for years, it has been my dream," Sentell said. "I've always liked animals, I originally wanted to be a marine biologist ... I love what I do."