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Cape Coral VA clinic construction expected to be completed by November

BY MAE YOUSIF-BASHI • mbashi@news-press.com • January 5, 2011

3:38 P.M. — Construction on Cape Coral's new Veterans Affairs Clinic is 62 percent complete and on target for completion in November.

"We're getting excited because it's really taking shape," said Faith Belcher, a spokeswoman for the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System.

Concrete walls, floors and roofs have been poured. Natural gas lines have been run and workers have installed underground portable water tanks and natural gas lines.

And the clinic's sewer force main pipeline is tied in with the city's system.

Workers are now installing elevators, pouring sidewalks and filling surrounding areas with top soil. They'll also be completing work on interior wall construction and installing windows.

Ground broke on Jan. 14 for the \$131 clinic, which is expected to open to patients in the spring of 2012. The 220,000 square-foot facility will be located at Corbett Road and Diplomat Parkway. It will serve 202,000 veterans in Southwest Florida, and is three times larger than current VA Clinic in Fort Myers.

The clinic will have a staff of more than 400 doctors, nurses, technicians and other medical personnel, and will offer additional services not offered in the Fort Myers clinic such as minor surgeries and women's services.

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Mom Dilemma #36:
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

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