

# Hotel Online

News for the Hospitality Executive

## D&D Lodging to Open 92-room Holiday Inn Express in Port Arthur, Texas

By Sherry Koonce, The Port Arthur News, TexasMcClatchy-Tribune Regional News

Dec. 22, 2009--Earth tone hues and spacious high-ceilinged rooms will greet guests at Port Arthur's newest hotel, The Holiday Inn Express.

Scheduled to open Jan. 8, the hotel is adjacent to Target at 3115 Central Mall Drive in Port Arthur.

Hotel officials on Monday hosted a Hard Hat Tour inviting the community to visit the city's latest offering in hotel accommodations.

It's great being here. We are looking forward to serving the people's needs and look forward to opening day," Jody Clausen, general manager, said.

Among the amenities, the 92-room facility features high-ceilinged rooms on the first floor including spacious suites, a breakfast area complete with hot food, a fitness center, outdoor pool, meeting space and a suite shop.

Average room prices will be between \$129 and \$169. Discounted room prices from \$89 to \$129 will be offered during the grand opening period, Clausen said.

Owned by Texarkana-based D&D Lodging, the company has similar hotels in the Texarkana, Dallas area, but decided to build in Southeast Texas to accommodate the influx of people visiting and/or working in the area.

The company has been looking at the area for six or seven years, and felt now was the time to branch out, Clausen said.

"We are ready and we feel we are going to do very well in this market in this area," Clausen said. "We have a beautiful product and can't wait to open and show it off."

The new Holiday Inn Express is the latest of several hotels building or opening in the area since industrial expansions started, Tammy Kotzur, executive director of the Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau, said.

Joining the Holiday Inn Express in opening during the early part of 2010 is the Best Western on U.S. 69. The Scottish Inns, near the city's new fire station at Texas 73 and Ninth Avenue hopes to open in January or February.

During the last year other hotels have opened including Microtel Inn & Suites, Econo Lodge, La Quinta Inns & Suites, and Comfort Inn. The former Imperial Inn doubled its size and changed his name to Days Inn, Kotzur said.

"Most of these were built in anticipation of industrial expansions," she said.

Though occupancy rates are following typical declines during the holidays, Kotzur said if industrial work ramps up as expected during the early part of 2010, occupancies will pick up dramatically.

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