

The Bandera PROPHEET

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Best Western celebrates its official opening

By Jessica Nohealapa'ahi Goode
The Bandera Prophet

The Best Western Bandera Suites & Saloon is open and booking now. Already sold out for the Mardi Gras event set for the first weekend of February, General Manager Cori Reid said most of the 46 rooms are booked for the Thunder in the Hill Country biker rally set for March 25-28.

Kelli Gray, the hotel's inaugural walk-in reservation, booked two rooms last weekend - a double queen and a king suite.

"It was very nice, very comfy beds. Breakfast was outstanding," Gray said.

The old western themed lobby pays homage to the history that paved Bandera's culture, and amenities are top notch - which include complimentary high-speed internet and full hot breakfast, refrigerators and microwaves in every room, onsite guest laundry, a fitness room and business center.

Covid precautions are in place. Masks and temperature checks are required for all 13 staff members and guests upon entering the hotel.

Sanitizing stations are installed throughout public areas.

All of the pet-friendly rooms are sterilized based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition to standard housekeeping procedure - stripping bedding and towels, and deep cleaning sofas, surfaces and floors - touch points are cleaned after every stay, such as faucets, door handles and light switches, and sanitized with electrostatic fogging. Once disinfected, the doors are sealed with a sticker, broken only by the next guest at check-in.

For now, daily in-room service during stays is suspended. Used towels and trash may be picked up by request.

“We want to make sure everyone is safe and staff is also safe,” Reid said.

A full, hot breakfast may be ordered ahead and picked up the next morning, in lieu of the traditional breakfast buffet. Though launched as a Covid precautionary measure, Reid said the process has enabled a fun interaction with guests.

“We were able to design a Covid-friendly kitchen, so we’re able to spoil our guests in a special way,” Reid said, adding the convenience of ordering ahead eliminates having to wait in line.

Guests may take the grab and go bags back to their rooms, eat on the balcony, or dine in the lobby dining area.

The storefront has been leased by the Shotgun Saloon and the Boots and Saddles Dancehall. Soundproofing and construction is taking place now.

The conference room is available for lease, and as a public service, will be donated to the City of Bandera for City Council meetings.

The hotel is at 711 Main Street. Reservations may be made at www.bestwestern.com.