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Leaders tour new Holiday Inn

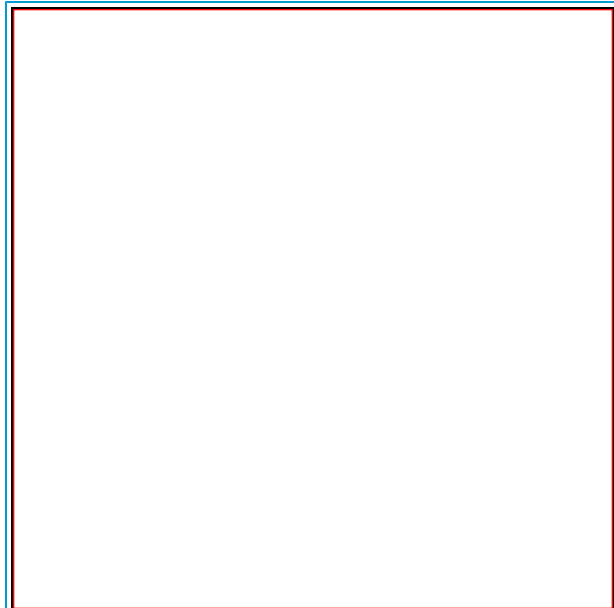
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DURANT — Construction workers are putting the finishing touches on a four-story hotel scheduled to open later this summer.

Premier Hospitality Management, Inc., a Durant based multi-brand hotel company, held "hard hat" tours this week at the new 98 suite Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites at University Place.

A group of community and business leaders toured the hotel Wednesday, that is scheduled to open in August. Jan Howell, CHA, manager of new hotel openings for Intercontinental Hotels Group, gave a presentation and led the tour.

She said the Durant Holiday Inn Express will carry the company's new logo and design, before Holiday Inns in Oklahoma City and other big cities do.



Many area leaders and representatives from local businesses toured the new Holiday Inn Express hotel on Wednesday.

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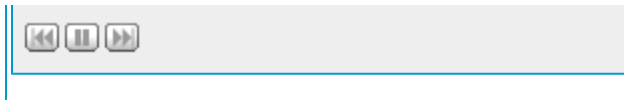
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NYSE	8404.26	
▼ -77.28	(-0.91%)	
S&P 500	1253.10	
▼ -16.13	(-1.27%)	
AMEX	2143.21	
▼ -17.92	(-0.83%)	
RUS 2K	662.94	
▼ -10.65	(-1.58%)	
Crude Oil	141.78	
▼ -3.51	(-2.42%)	
30YR Yield	4.52	
- +0.00	(+0.00%)	

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She explained the changes Holiday Inn is making, ranging from new 37-inch televisions to Simply Smart bedding.



"We're here to be a success with you and to help the community grow stronger and better," Howell said.

Company officials say the upscale mid-priced hotel will feature free wireless and wired high-speed Internet, the Simply Smart bedding collection, microwave and refrigerator, Smart Start shower experience, wet bar, hair dryer, sleeper sofa in the living area and an iron and ironing board.

Rooms will also have a coffee maker, oversized executive desk with ergonomic chair, and a 37-inch high-definition flat screen television. Other hotel amenities include complimentary Smart Start breakfast bar featuring Holiday Inn's signature cinnamon rolls, guest business center complete with computer, printer, fax and copy machine, heated outdoor pool and spa overlooking fireplace and a state of the art fitness center. Plus, there is an 850 square-foot meeting space, Priority Club Reward Program, free local calling, 24-hour Sweet Shop and Express check out services.

Premier Hospitality Management, Inc. has been working with Tommy Kramer, executive director of the Durant Industrial Authority, for more than three years in developing a plan to construct the four-story hotel.

Kramer was among those who toured the hotel.

"This will be a great addition to our community," Kramer said, while admiring one of the suites.

The mission statement of the Durant Industrial Authority and Team Durant is to create good jobs with benefits that improve the quality of life for the community's citizens.

The Office of Economic Development is celebrating its 10th anniversary. John Cathey, chairman of the Durant Industrial Authority and the seven-member board have developed the pro-business concept of Team Durant, made up of a group of people, businesses and organizations that join together to promote economic development.

"I created the image of Team Durant," Kramer said. "It is a different group of local business leaders that I bring in to support each one of our new projects and our existing business expansions. Whatever the project scope is, I bring in Team Durant business leaders to support that project. It has been a pleasure working with Mr. Raj Patel and Premier Hospitality Management, Inc."

Premier Hospitality Management, Inc., formed in May 1992, by Raj Patel, president and CEO, is an Oklahoma and North Texas based privately held Hospitality Corporation. Its Durant corporate office is centrally located in reference to its holdings. Raj Patel and his family moved to Durant in 1979 to own and operate the Boulder Motel. He is a 1981 graduate of Durant High School and an alumnus of the University of Oklahoma.

Premier Hospitality Management, Inc. currently owns and operates 14 hotels, has two hotels under construction and six hotels in the development pipeline, with pursuant franchise agreements from Marriott International (Fairfield Inn & Suites and Courtyard by Marriott), Hilton Hotels Corporation (Hilton Garden Inn and Hampton Inn), InterContinental Hotels Group (Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites), Choice Hotels International (Comfort Inn and Comfort Suites), and Best Western International.



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"We are proud that Durant is home to Premier's 15th hotel," Patel said. "Our future locations identified throughout Oklahoma include the Norman, Tulsa, Stillwater, Ardmore, McAlester and Muskogee communities."

Outstanding associates are the key to the company's success, according to Patel.

Premier will have 600 employees with the opening of the Durant hotel. The company is committed to attracting, motivating, empowering, and retaining a team of exceptionally dedicated and talented associates, who have a strong work ethic and results-orientation, who believe in and support our core values and who reflect the diverse business environments in which the company operates, according to Patel.

Premier Hospitality offers its associates challenges, opportunities, advancement, competitive compensation and benefits, and personal training and development.

It is Premier's mission to provide its guests and employees with the highest form of quality in lodging management and training, according to company officials. They strive to meet the needs of all who rely on them by providing the best service and products possible.

For more information on Premier Hospitality Management, Inc. or to make reservations, visit the company's Web site at www.premierhotels.us or call (580) 920-6911.

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