

Salado Village Voice

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Plans unveiled for renovation of Stagecoach Inn

By TIM FLEISCHER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Stagecoach Inn has closed its operations for an extensive top-to-bottom renovation that may take more than two years to finish.

The renovation, which will ultimately add 38 rooms to the hotel operation, will begin with the historic restaurant building, according to Clark Lyda.

Lyda is the principal investor and developer leading the Stagecoach 1943, LP group that was slated to purchase the Stagecoach Inn from Terry Potts on July 15.

Work will begin soon on the 1861 building that opened as the Shady Villa Hotel. The second story balcony of the old hotel is storied to have been the location of an anti-secession speech by Sam Houston. According to the Texana book "Texas Siftings," Houston reportedly had an exchange with a fiery secessionist from the crowd who shouted at him, "General Sam, we can whip them Yankees with cornstalks!"

"That may be true, but they have not agreed to fight with cornstalks," Houston retorted.

This is just one of the many stories that has kept travelers from around the state enrapt about the Stagecoach Inn.

That historic charm is part of what led Lyda to purchase the property and will continue to be a focus in the branding of the Stagecoach Inn as a destination for travelers.

Dion and Ruth Van Bibber opened the restaurant in 1943 and it quickly became a renowned highway restaurant featured in Life magazine, Ford Times and on the prestigious Duncan Hines list. It was named by Texas Highways Readers as a Readers Favorite restaurant in Texas.

The distinctive menu, recited from memory by waitresses who had worked decades at the restaurant, included the

famous hush puppies, tomato aspic, banana fritter and, of course, the Strawberry Kiss.

When the restaurant reopens in about nine months, you can expect many of those favorites to stay the same.

But there will be some exciting changes to the restaurant, which will be under the operation of La Corsha Hospitality.

The team, according to Lyda, has "a clear understanding of the Stagecoach's history, the strength of the brand and people's affection for it, and the potential of the place to once again draw locals and visitors from across Texas."

Jeff Trigger and David Bull are the principals of La Corsha. They "have a lifetime of remarkable experience in the hospitality industry from operating the iconic Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas to the restoration of the Driskill Hotel in Austin.

Bull graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in 1994. He joined The Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas, Texas and became the youngest-ever sous chef employed by the hotel. Moving to Austin, he served as the executive chef of the Driskill Grill, earning the Austin American-Statesman's Number One Restaurant Award for three consecutive years. The Driskill Grill was recognized by USA Today as one of the country's Top 50 Hotel Restaurants. Food and Wine Magazine honored Chef Bull as one of "The Best New Chefs 2003." Bull has been nominated three times for the prestigious James Beard award for "Best New Chef Southwest."

La Corsha operates Congress Austin, a tri-leveled dining and drinking establishment that includes the popular Second Bar + Kitchen, Bar Congress and Restaurant Congress.

The group is scheduled to open Boiler 9 Grill at the Seaholm development in Southwest Austin this summer.



A rendering of the plans for the renovation and expansion of the Stagecoach Inn, which a group led by Clark Lyda of Austin was slated to close the purchase on July 15. Work will begin quickly on renovating the historic restaurant building, followed by a complete renovation and expansion of the hotel property.

Trigger began his career in the hotel industry at Amfac Resorts in California and Hawaii. He was the managing director of The Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas and was recruited in 1999 to restore and reposition The Driskill Hotel in Austin.

With that success, Trigger launched La Corsha Hospitality Group.

Texas Monthly named Congress as the best new restaurant in 2010, while Esquire Magazine named it to its Top 10 list of new restaurants in the country. Bon Appetite magazine named Second Bar +

Kitchen as a Top 10 choice nationwide as well.

Trigger was listed as a General Manager of the Year by Business Traveler Magazine and was named by Leaders Magazine as one of the Best Hotel Managers in the World.

Other developments for La Corsha include opening a Second Bar + Kitchen in the Domain, the development and construction of an East Austin boutique hotel, the Hotel Saint George in Marfa, and the Baker Hotel in Mineral Wells.

The first phase for the redevelopment program is

the complete renovation of the existing restaurant. This will include demolishing and re-building the kitchen and service area. Current retail space on the west side of Main Street will be redeveloped to its earlier use as a conference center. Old-timers in Salado will well-remember when the Longhorn Room was on Main Street and hosted gatherings large and small.

According to Lyda, the 5,000 square feet on Main Street will be refocused as a conference center in close proximity to the kitchen facility of the res-

taurant.

"An emphasis on meetings and special events in the adjacent Longhorn Room will enhance sales and begin to rebuild demand for lodging," Lyda stated. "Over the course of a year we intend to re-establish the brand and build a solid book of business for the restaurant and meeting facilities."

The second phase is to completely renovate, expand and re-open the hotel. Plans call for adding 38 rooms and an additional 5,000 sq. ft. in meeting

SEE STAGECOACH, PAGE 3A

Salado sewer system costs now topping \$10.8 million

By Tim Fleischer
Editor-in-Chief

Cost estimates for the construction of wastewater treatment plant and sewer delivery system for Main Street, Royal Street and the west side of I-35 are \$10.38 million.

Add in three optional low pressure delivery systems and the price climbs to \$10.8 million.

Aldermen met with Kasberg Patrick & Associ-

ates (KPA) engineer Rick Kasberg for more than two hours during a special workshop session July 14 to review figures in order to prepare for selling and financing bonds that were approved by voters in November 2014.

Final design costs for the system itself total \$874,880 while preliminary engineering costs, studies, financing and land total \$785,000 according to the Summary of Task

Items, Estimated Cost and Schedule

According to the schedule, final design would begin in December and continue through June with construction of the plant and delivery system slated for September 2016 through August 2017.

The schedule estimates the cost of construction for projects that will be designed by KPA (Main Street to the lift station at Stagecoach Inn) will

total \$2.75 million and is contracted by the Village of Salado. The construction costs for the projects to be designed by Pape-Dawson (delivery system from Stagecoach Inn to the wastewater plant at The Sanctuary and the 300,000 gallon per day treatment plant) totals \$4.93 million. The letter of intent between the Village of Salado and Sanctuary stipulates that the Sanctuary would design the treat-

ment plant and delivery system from south of the Salado Creek.

The optional low pressure systems include these:

- A line along Salado Plaza Drive to Brookshire Brothers at a cost of \$50,000.
- A line above North Main Street connecting to a system at Vanessa Street at a cost of \$81,470.
- A low pressure system along Vanessa Street to north of Mary Lane for a

cost of \$314,105.65.

At their regular board meeting on July 16, aldermen will consider a resolution "authorizing various actions to prepare for the issuance of the Village of Salado, Texas Permanent Improvement Bonds, Series 2015; and containing other matters relating thereto."

For additional reporting and the site map for the sewer system, visit saladovillagevoice.com.

Salado College Hill Park lands Trails grant

Salado College Foundation, Inc., has received a Texas Parks & Wildlife Trails grant in the amount of \$14,159 to improve the Salado College Park trail. In addition to the grant, the Foundation itself will need to contribute \$3,540 to this project as part of

its commitment. Total amount of funds obligated to the project is \$17,699. The earliest construction can begin is December 2015.

With this grant funding, Salado College Park will have a newly constructed trail from the

statue of Col. E.S.C. Robertson and around Salado College ruins. The decomposed granite path will have a limestone curb to limit erosion. The trail will provide visitors to this historic site with a comfortable path to walk while learning about the

early founding of Salado and Salado College. The new path will replace the one constructed by Salado Masonic Lodge.

"With projects recently completed in the past nine months by the Foundation such as seeding the area with wildflowers which

came up in April and hanging 22 birdhouses," Foundation president Bill Kinnison said, "the park is becoming a unique site for visitors to Salado."

"The Foundation would not be at this point of development if it were not for the volunteers who cre-

ated the planted beds and donated funds for maintenance of the site as well as preservation of the ruins itself," he added.

Send donations to Salado College Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 143, Salado, TX 76571.

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Salado Chaos are shown above with trophies from a warm-up tournament earlier this summer. They are (top row, from left) Coaches Calvin Dockray, David Preston, Denver Cole and Justin Miller; (middle row, from left) Brodie Landon, Phoenix Flores, Brody Cole, Korbin Konarik; (front row, from left) Kalan Miller, Caleb Dockray, Jacob Preston and Jackson Turk. Not shown are Cole Mikalas, Tristan Walker and Brendan Wilson.

Chaos heads to Pony World Series

Salado Chaos 8U Pony Elite team will compete in the Pony World Series in Youngsville, Louisiana July 22-25 in a tournament with teams from Texas, Louisiana and Mexico. The Chaos have a record of 25 wins and four losses.

They will face a team from Mexico at 4 p.m. July 22 in the first round of the tournament.

The Chaos placed third in the Regional Tournament in Dripping Springs July 11-12.

They were the tournament champions in the warm-up tournament on June 6-7 in Manchaca.

To raise money for the trip to Louisiana, coaches and parents are holding two raffles with tickets of \$10 each, six for \$50 or

15 for \$100. The drawings will be held on July 20 and winners contacted.

From the white tickets sold, the winner will receive an Igloo Yukon 120 quart cooler/ice chest that has been donated by McGuire Tire, LLC.

Blue tickets will be in a drawing for a Glock Model 19-9mm, a box of black Talon 9mm, FOBUS

paddle holster and a 5.11 carrying bag, donated by Kevin Finch. Winner of the firearm will have to fill out a registration form.

Contact Coach Calvin Dockray for tickets via cell at 254-721-4993 or email dockray2@embarqmail.com.

Youth Football and Cheer sign-up July 18

Salado Youth Football and Cheer will sign up players for the 2015 season 8 a.m.-noon July 18 at Salado Sonic.

The cost to participate in the Central Texas Youth Football League is \$90 for football players (\$70 for other siblings in the family) and \$80 for cheerleaders (\$60 for other siblings

in the family.

The registration fees can be paid by Bell County check, money order or cashier's check.

CTYFL has two divisions, Pee Wee and Junior. Pee Wee football is open to 7-9 year olds with a maximum weight of 135 lbs. and 100 lbs. for back-

fielders (based upon birthday as of Aug. 31). Junior Football is open to 10-12 year olds, (175 lbs. maximum weight, 135 lbs. for backfielders).

For information about the CTYFL, contact Larnce Barker at 254-718-1327 or email bark-erfam5@embarqmail.com.

For information about CTYFL cheerleading, contact Heather Piatt at 254-718-7741 or email heather.piatt@saladoisd.org.

CTYFL includes teams from Salado, Florence, Granger, Academy and Austin.

Tips to keep children safe from heat stroke/death

DPS offers tips for preventing vehicular heat-stroke deaths and injuries:

Check the back seats of your vehicle before walking away.

Establish reminders that help ensure you remove children from the vehicle. Example: leave your bag, lunch or cell phone in the back seat with the child's car seat.

Call 9-1-1 if you see a child alone in a car, and emergency personnel will instruct you what to do next.

If a child goes missing, open the doors and trunks to every vehicle in the area. One-third of all of the deaths occur when a child accesses a parked car.

Teach children not to play in vehicles and place the keys out of reach when not being used.

For more information, visit www.safercar.gov/parents/index.htm.



THE YOGA ROOM

CLASS SCHEDULE

- Monday** 10 Yoga for Women's Health
6 - 7 p.m. Yoga Basics & Beyond
- Tuesday** 9 - 10 a.m. YogaStrong
12 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- Wednesday** 8:30 - 9:45 a.m. Yoga for Core
6:10 - 7:10 p.m. Power Flow Yoga
- Thursday** 9 a.m. Yoga for Healing
12 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
3 - 4 p.m. Flow and Go (Yoga for Travelers)
6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Hatha Flow Levels 1 & 2
- Friday** No Classes
- Saturday** 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Hatha Flow levels 1 & 2
- Sunday** 3 - 4 p.m. Hatha Therapy

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New Student Enrollment
PK3 - 12th Grade
August 4

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Salado Intermediate School
at 550 Thomas Arnold Road

These documents required at the time of enrollment:

- Birth certificate | Social security card | Current Immunizations
- Proof of residency (deed/lease agreement or a current utility bill)
- Driver's license of person enrolling student
- Report card and STAAR results from previous school
- Transcript from previous school required for High School students

Students enrolling in Kindergarten must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2015
Students enrolling in PK3 or PK4 program must be that age on or before September 1, 2015
Must meet PK qualifications to enroll

information at saladoisd.org or (254) 947-6942

CTC to host info session July 21 on weekend and evening college programs

Central Texas College (CTC) will host an information session for anyone interested in the school's new Weekend and Evening College programs. Scheduled to start this fall, both programs will allow students to earn an associate degree or certificate of completion by taking classes during the evenings or on weekends.

The information session will be held July 21 from 5:30 – 8 p.m. in the Mayborn Science Theater (Bldg. 152). The free session is open to the public as well as any current or new CTC students.

People with full-time jobs or family obligations during the day can now take advantage of the flexible scheduling to complete a degree or certificate program. "Students can take all of their classes on the weekend or weekday evenings or mix day, evening and weekend classes and

be a part-time or full-time student," said Amy Randolph Chernis, associate dean – CTC Evening and Weekend College. "We offer 11 certificate programs and 27 associate degree plans which can be completed while accommodating the student's busy weekday schedule."

The Evening College will be conducted from 5:30 – 10 p.m. this fall and the Weekend College will hold classes Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. During both programs, students will have access to the campus library and the Academic Studio which offers free tutoring, study space and other student success services," said Randolph-Chernis. "Both programs will offer 16-week, eight-week courses as well as self-paced, online and blended (online and classroom) options."

In addition to the initial

information session, subsequent sessions will be held on Aug. 8 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Tuesday, Aug. 18 from 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Bruce A. Bolick, CPA
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Stagecoach — FROM PAGE 1A

space. The property will have two swimming pools and a mineral spa.

The primary hotel entrance and reception will be moved to Main Street. The I-35 frontage of the property will be heavily landscaped, according to Lyda with a buffer against the highway noise.

The central portion of the site will be landscaped courtyard and include an outdoor event and activity spaces, new family areas around the main pool.

"We will also visually open the Stagecoach's connection to Salado Creek and connect to the village's trail system," Lyda stated.

"Our goal is to re-establish the Stagecoach Inn as a destination venue in Texas for small conferences, special events and weekend tourism travel," Lyda said, adding that the group will capitalize on "the strong brand of the Stagecoach Inn as an authentic place offering gracious hospitality."

The renovation and expansion of the hotel is expected to take two years, Lyda said.

The group has applied to the Village of Salado for an economic development package that will include sales tax rebates, property tax abatements and sharing of hotel occupancy taxes for marketing of the property's meeting space. The board of aldermen will consider the package during its July 16 meeting.

Lyda is a lifelong central Texan. He fondly recalls weekend visits from Austin to the Stagecoach Inn with his family. A commercial developer, he was labeled by the Austin Chronicle as the "anti-developer developer" because of his inclinations toward preserving the his-

torical and cultural integrity of the developments in which he has invested.

During a career that has spanned more than two decades, he has chosen unique projects, including most recently the Perry Mansion in Austin for renovation and redevelopment.

Lyda is the co-owner of Monument Cafe and El Monumento in Georgetown.

"It's not going to be Monument or Mexican," he told the Salado Chamber of Commerce. "It will be definitively Stagecoach Inn. We are hoping to make Salado proud."



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