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Casino starts taking applications Jan. 22

JUSTIN A. HINKLEY • THE ENQUIRER • JANUARY 15, 2009

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MARSHALL — FireKeepers Casino will start accepting online job applications on Jan. 22.

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At a media event Wednesday, casino officials announced they've partnered with Michigan Works and Kellogg Community College to field what they expect to be 20,000 applications for 1,500 positions.

Job-seekers can go online to [www.firekeeperscasino.com](#) or go to any Michigan Works office or the KCC computer lab to apply beginning Jan. 22. FireKeepers General Manager Bruce McKee said the casino is looking for experienced people — for everything from card dealing to [accounts payable](#) — but they're prepared to train everyone.

Dealers will begin unpaid training by April, with other employees hired by May, said Peggy Houston, the casino's human resources director. Most employees will begin training a couple weeks before FireKeepers' planned summer opening, McKee said.

Wednesday's announcement follows a job fair last week for members of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, the Fulton tribe which owns FireKeepers. There, 84 applications were received and 52 job offers were made, said Laura Spurr, tribal council chairwoman. The tribe hopes to hire at least 100 of its members, Spurr said.

The partnership with Michigan Works was a move toward the tribe's goal to hire local people as often as possible, Houston said.

Officials on Wednesday also said FireKeepers should make its projected \$100 million in annual revenue, despite the recent economic fallout.

"I think we'll be the type of entertainment center to attract people who are right now taking buses to other casinos," Spurr said.

"With our location, the newness of our facility and what we'll offer, I think we can maintain our expected level of success," McKee said. "Our market is underserved, so people will come."

Justin A. Hinkley can be reached at 966-0698 or jhinkley@battlecr.gannett.com.

HOW TO APPLY

Beginning Jan. 22, those seeking a job at FireKeepers Casino can:

- Visit [www.firekeeperscasino.com](#). Job descriptions and requirements are listed on this site, which will pre-screen applications. This is the preferred method to apply.

- Visit a Michigan Works office: Go to 35 Hamblin Ave. in Battle Creek, 101 N. Albion St. in Albion or 210 Vista Drive in Coldwater from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- Go to Kellogg Community College's computer lab: Computers will be available to apply online from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; labs will stay open until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays beginning Jan. 27.

- Requirements: Applicants must be 18 years old and pass a thorough background check and a drug screen.

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