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For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit www.michigangaming.com

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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DROPS ITS APPEAL IN KEWADIN SHORES CASINO LAWSUIT

On Wednesday, January 14, 2009, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit entered an Order dismissing the case of *Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians v U.S., et al*, the two-year long legal dispute regarding the land upon which the \$41 million Kewadin Shores Casino was built in St. Ignace, Michigan. This Order was entered as the result of a Motion for Voluntary Dismissal filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The lawsuit originated in November, 2006 and centered on a parcel of land in St. Ignace which was put into trust by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) in the year 2000. This parcel of land was immediately contiguous to land that had previously been taken into trust by the federal government in 1983, and upon which the Sault Tribe conducted casino gaming. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Sault Tribe) thereafter decided to rebuild their Kewadin Shores Casino partially on the disputed parcel of land and partially on land that had been previously taken into trust.

In August, 2007, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan entered a preliminary injunction that allowed the Sault Tribe to operate its new Kewadin Shores Casino while the case was litigated. Thereafter, in August, 2008, the District Court granted summary judgment in favor of the Sault Tribe. The federal government then appealed this decision to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals last October, but now has voluntarily dismissed the action. The dismissal of this lawsuit will lift any uncertainty relating to the new casino, allowing for its successful ongoing operation.

FIREKEEPERS CASINO LOOKING TO HIRE 1,500 EMPLOYEES

On Wednesday, FireKeepers Casino officials announced the commencement of a 1,500 full and part time job recruitment effort for its casino facilities currently being built near Battle Creek, Michigan. FireKeepers Casino, located in Calhoun County's Emmett Charter Township and is owned by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians.

Available jobs include: dealers, maintenance workers, slot machine attendants, security personnel, housekeeping workers, cashiers, information technology personnel, accounting staffers, kitchen staff, marketing staffers, bartenders, player representatives, cocktail servers, valet attendants and waiters/waitresses.

The casino will also work alongside "Michigan Works!" to assist applicants with the online application process.

Construction of the 230,000-square-foot gaming facility is set to be completed summer of this year. The facility will feature 2,500 slot machines, 110 table games, five food and beverage outlets and a 2,000-space parking garage.

For more information regarding job applications or FireKeepers Casino please visit www.firekeeperscasino.com. Acceptance of job applications will begin January 22.

NEW OHIO CASINO PROPOSALS

Proposals concerning casino gaming in Ohio have again begun to be floated. *The Columbus Dispatch* reported on Saturday that Penn National Gaming, Inc. has briefed Ohio Governor Ted Strickland's staff about a proposal to allow casinos at seven Ohio racetracks and four stand alone casino sites in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus.

According to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Gov. Strickland is willing to keep an open mind and listen to whatever argument that may be brought to me regarding gambling." Yet, on Monday, a

Gov. Strickland spokesperson stated that the governor is not entertaining any legislative proposals to allow for gaming in Ohio and has not changed his position regarding the topic.

Previous attempts to amend Ohio's constitution and add a casino to the state of Ohio have failed in 1990, 1996, 2006 and most recently in 2008 which if passed would have allowed for a single \$600 million casino facility with an estimated 200,000 square feet of gaming space.

With the creation of a new two-year budget for Ohio, a state with a nearly \$7 billion budget deficit and high unemployment, it is unclear whether casino gaming will become more attractive to Ohioans and elected officers within the state.

Currently, Ohio's gaming industry includes a state lottery and horse wagering. The state does not have any Native American owned casinos or state authorized electronic gaming.