

Mosey on over to Maggie for a job

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MAGGIE VALLEY - Unemployed cowboys and cancan girls are finding their unique skills suddenly in demand as Ghost Town gears up for a May reopening.

The Western theme park needs to fill 285 full- and part-time positions and is accepting applications now.

New general manager Bob Cordier emphasized that aspiring cowboys need to be able to talk the cowboy talk and walk the cowboy walk, and cancan girls, by definition, must be able to dance.

The theme park also has a variety of other positions, including human resources, sales and food and retail. Workers with amusement park experience are particularly desirable.

Pay rates haven't been established but will be competitive, Cordier said.

Ghost Town fell on hard times and closed in 2002 after 40 years of attracting up to 300,000 visitors a year. An investment partnership announced plans last summer to reopen the theme park.

"I'm sure it's going to bring a boom of visitors to Maggie Valley," said Shannon Canady, who works the front desk at the 31-room Smoky Falls Lodge about three miles from Ghost Town. "I'm excited."

Cordier said the park's staff wants to put together an experience that will match people's high expectations.

"The staff we hire and the training we put them through will reflect that desire," he said.

Applications are available at Ghost Town's welcome center at 890 Soco Road in Maggie Valley.