

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

MOHEGAN TRIBE KNOWS THE CASINO BUSINESS

Saturday, July 26

Kenosha has heard a lot about the Mohegan Tribe over the past four years. The Mohegan, experts in developing and running a successful resort, will partner with Wisconsin's Menominee Tribe to develop the Kenosha entertainment center and casino and manage its operations for the first seven years.

I've met some of the Mohegan leaders on their visits to town and have been impressed by their dedication to the Menominee, their support for Kenosha and their business philosophy. But when I and other local business leaders visited the Mohegan Sun resort in Connecticut, I was blown away.

The Sun, including its \$1 billion expansion opening in 2010, is an example of the many positives the Menominee project will bring to Kenosha. The Sun's 9,000-plus employees earn above-average pay and excellent benefits, just as the Menominee project will create 3,000 top-paying jobs here.

The Mohegan have strong relationships with local municipalities — even providing reciprocal police, fire and paramedics services to neighboring communities. The Menominee have developed solid relationships in Kenosha and will forge even stronger connections as this project develops.

And just as the Menominee have pledged to work with local vendors in Kenosha, a "buy local" commitment is evident at the Mohegan Sun. The resort spends millions with local companies every year, and the expansion site is full of Connecticut contractors and laborers proud to work on the high-profile project.

I also learned more about Mohegan's commitment to renewable energy and recycling; its partnerships with schools and charities; the list goes on. The Mohegan Tribe is clearly doing something very right and is a great model for the Menominee project.

Dave Gallo