

Emmaus manufacturer plays big role in Kalahari Resorts construction

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An example of the work completed by American Millwork and Cabinetry Inc. of Emmaus. The company manufactured the wood for a lot of the restaurants for the first part of the Kalahari Resorts project in the Pocono Mountains, which opened in July 2015. - (Photo / Contributed)

With hundreds of new hotel rooms, thousands of square feet in new entertainment space and an expansion of an already massive indoor waterpark, Kalahari Resorts and Conventions phase two is an impressive investment.

When you add in two new restaurants and a new retail market and fitness center, all part of the \$165 million second phase of the Tobyhanna Township project, you have a sprawling fully enclosed, year-round African-themed attraction that raises the bar on tourism destinations for the Pocono Mountains and is unique to the region.

But what many may not know is that a Greater Lehigh Valley company is playing a significant role in the construction.

While Kalahari Resorts is using Wisconsin-based Kraemer Brothers Construction as the general contractor, it's also using American Millwork and Cabinetry Inc. of Emmaus to create the vast array of interior woodwork.

Kalahari Resorts used American Millwork for its first phase of the project, which opened in July 2015, and is using it again. American Millwork manufacturers all of its products in its Emmaus plant.

It's a massive undertaking, but with a scheduled Kalahari phase two opening in March, American Millwork is winding down on its shipments of products for the project. The company ships two to four trucks filled with products each week from the Emmaus plant to the Pocono resort, said the company's president, George Reitz.

The work includes making all cabinetry, wardrobes, closets and island counters for the resort.

"We did a lot of restaurants in the first phase and a lot of work on the main floor," Reitz said. "This time we are being contracted to do all the work in the rooms, all in the hotel, and we doing the high-end suites as well."

While he said it's a bit of a challenge to keep up with the amount of carpenters Kraemer Brothers brings in, Reitz said it was a great challenge and one that he was grateful to be a part of.

It's a nice feat for a small, but growing company to be part of such a large resort project that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Reitz said he just hired the company's 65th employee, having started the company more than a decade ago with just three employees.

In fact, he signed the business plan in 2001 and named the company American Millwork in honor of the fallen from the 9-11 attacks. He officially formed the company in 2002 in Quakertown, moving it to Emmaus in 2006.

"I feel very proud and blessed that we are in the Lehigh Valley," Reitz said.

The company also is looking to expand its facility but stay in Emmaus.

All good things from an American company that's proud to make things here, right in the Greater Lehigh Valley.