



Business booming for local RV industry

RV industry is booming in Elkhart County

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ELKHART COUNTY, Ind. - 2014 is expected to be the year that the RV industry in Elkhart County gets back to where it was before the recession hit.

The President of the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association thinks it could be the best year ever for RV sales.

This boom is helping to create more jobs but a lot of companies are having trouble filling those positions.

The president of RVIA says people need to get trained and be willing to work.

Hundreds of people gathered for the RV Power Breakfast held at the RV Hall of Fame and Northern Indiana Event Center.

There was a panel discussion and a town hall meeting that both gave people an idea of how the RV industry did last year and what's expected to come this year.

Richard Coon says, "Number-wise we'll produce somewhere around 350,000 to 360,000 units this year up from 166,000 from 2009."

The President and CEO of Thor Industries says his company is aggressively expanding production.

He says there's potential for continued growth because there are still a lot of people who use tents to go camping so the industry is hoping to win over those people now that times aren't as tough.

Bob Martin says, "We've added two new production facilities in the last six months to capture the demand for motorized production so that we can take care of our customers."

There are several help wanted or now hiring signs throughout the county.

A lot of companies are having trouble filling positions and Bob Martin says companies are competing for the good workers, which doesn't make it any easier.

He points out that at his company experience isn't necessarily required because they do on the job training.

Martin says, "An RV is very manual and it's something that we can teach so we encourage anybody that has interest to come and apply."

Coon hopes people in Elkhart County take advantage of all the jobs available now that the RV industry is doing better.

Coon says, "Quit being fearful that the industry is going to crash in another year or so and you'll be out of work because that's not going to happen."