

Michels

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ceptions about manufacturing. "I do think we're in an era of judging people without knowing what they do," he stated. "We have to fully comprehend that God has given us different gifts, and we have to rely on each other to make things better. The way we do that is, the people in those technical trades need to talk to us about what they do. For some reason, they're much more modest than everybody else. We should ask, and they should talk."

The state has various efforts under way to attract workers and train them, if necessary, according to Michels.

"I think we've got to be able to tell people the demand is here (for workers)," he said. "And for those folks who have left South Dakota — you can come home and do well."

The luncheon included a panel discussion with representatives of Applied Engineering/Expedition Archery, Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc., and Vishay Dale Electronics.

They agreed that more has to be done to expose people to the manufacturing industry, whether it's through the events of Manufacturing Week, school visits, job fairs, internships or other methods.

"Exposure is huge," said

Jeff May of Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc.

The panel members stressed that their firms have offered good opportunities to them and can do the same for their employees.

Moderator Fred Binder pointed out that in 2012, there were approximately 3,000 manufacturing jobs in the Yankton area with an average wage of \$42,544.

Mike Husman of Vishay said a homegrown workforce offers some benefits.

"If somebody grew up within 150 miles of here and went off to engineering school at Dakota State, the School of Mines or somewhere close and wants to come back (to this area), they are definitely going to get an interview," he said. "The roots are really important to us. I'm not opposed to bringing in individuals from around the country, or even the world. But the roots are critical and make the longevity of our staff better."

As the panel members look toward the future, a shortage of qualified workers, inadequate housing and regulation were some of the challenges they expect to face in Yankton.

May said when he moved to Yankton 17 years ago, it was the quality of life Yankton offered that convinced him to do so.

"I don't think that we would have probably come here if it hadn't been for the fact that a new high school had just been built," he stated.

"Those are the types of things that I think ultimately attract people to a community. ... We really have to go out and find those things that we can do to improve the community. I think we've done that and continue to do it. I think Yankton has tremendous opportunities, we just need to keep working at it."

Tom Bohnet of Applied Engineering said he would like to see a "Welcome Wagon" to make new residents in the community feel comfortable and wanted.

"A lot of times we'll get people here, but they leave," he said. "Maybe each of the businesses could make some financial commitment, like a discount on a service, and create something we could use as a marketing tool to bring people and entice them to take a look at Yankton. The second piece is something to get them involved and feeling welcome, whether it's a monthly meeting or someone who becomes a sponsor for them and takes them around to see the school, churches and services. How do we get them to fall in love with Yankton and stay in love with Yankton so that they stay here?"

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Storms

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ers to carry survival kits and to stay in their vehicles if they get stranded.

"I've lived in Wyoming my whole life and I've never seen it like this this early," Patricia Whitman, shift manager at the Flying J truck stop in Gillette, said in a telephone interview. She said her truck stop's parking lot was full of travelers waiting out the storm.

"I know several of the businesses nearby are completely closed because they can't even get workers into work — it's pretty nasty," she said.

The snow also snapped tree limbs that knocked out power lines in parts of the state, causing thousands of people to lose power.

It was a similar scene at the typically bustling Pilot Travel Center in western South Dakota near Rapid City, about 40 miles southwest of Deadwood. It was like a ghost town Friday morning, which store general manager John Barton attributed to drivers likely heeding forecasters' warnings to stay off the roads.

"Yesterday we were really busy," Barton said. "I think a lot of people got ahead of it."

By Friday afternoon, South Dakota officials had closed I-90 from the Wyoming border to Wall — a 110-mile stretch. No travel was advised in Rapid City,

where first responders were overwhelmed with calls for stuck vehicles and downed trees and power lines making some roads impassable. Police spokeswoman Tarah Heupel said snow and ice was accumulating on traffic signals, making the lights difficult to see.

Although early October snowfalls aren't unusual for the region, a storm of such magnitude happens only once every decade or two on the Plains, National Weather Service meteorologist Steve Trimarchi said.

"I couldn't say when the last time we've had one like this. It's been quite a while," Trimarchi said.

The cold front is moving slowly east and expanding south and will meet up with the remnants of Tropical Storm Karen on Saturday or Sunday, after that storm makes landfall along the Gulf Coast.

Though much of the Midwest and Southeast may get soaked, it won't be as devastating as past combination storms, such as Superstorm Sandy, said William Bunting, operations

chief at the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla. Sandy resulted from the merging of cold fronts and a tropical storm.

The Midwest, especially Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, are at most risk for large thunderstorms, tornadoes and hail, "perhaps baseball-sized hail," Bunting said.

Large hail and powerful winds were forecast for north-west Oklahoma later Friday, while heavy rain settled in parts of Iowa and was expected to swoop northeast across the region into Wisconsin.

In Nebraska, a tornado that touched down Thursday night damaged homes and businesses in several communities, knocked out power and toppled trees. But no injuries have been reported.

Snow also was still falling across northern Colorado on Friday, though no major problems were being reported.

Much colder conditions are expected in the Yankton area today (Saturday), but there is no snow in the forecast.

HSC

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and demolition and of the smokestack for the old boiler plant will be done for another \$100,000.

Work is still being done on the overall site plan for the campus once the buildings are removed, Honeywell stated.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Matt Michels told the *Press & Dakotan* Friday that Gov. Dennis Daugaard and the staff in his office are continuing to evaluate a proposal from the Fouch Brothers, a developer that is interested in rehabilitating the Ordway, Mellette and Herreid buildings, possibly for residential use.

"The governor, through (Daugaard senior advisor) Deb Bowman, has asked a number of questions, because their proposal gave a

couple assumptions," Michels said. "The first was that the state would contribute funds. We don't have funds to contribute. They asked for a tax-increment financing district. That is not within (our authority). They also asked for a tax credit system we haven't used much in South Dakota. There are a whole lot of questions that we're asking. The governor is exploring it, so it isn't being thrown to the curb."

Michels said he believes it is time that action be taken on the campus to demolish the buildings for which no uses have been found and to preserve the remaining ones.

"Shame on us if we don't do something about them," he stated. "To just let those buildings sit and deteriorate is not good stewardship."

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Cox

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learning to fly a plane, moving heavy furniture and drive a car without the benefit of arms. She also gave students demonstrations of how she's learned to open soda cans, brush her hair, put on clothes and perform other general tasks using her feet. At one point she even had a student volunteer step up and try their hand at opening a can with their feet.

Cox said she found the audience responded well to the presentation.

"The response was just better than I could even expect," she said. "The students, this early in the morning, they're tired and it's early and just to see them react in the way they did — they were engaged and responsive — that's more than you could ask for as a speaker."

For more information on Cox's story and speaking engagements, visit rightfooted.com.

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

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