

# Masaba Set To Celebrate 10 Years In Vermillion

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

Shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

Vermillion's Masaba is opening their doors to the community as they celebrate their 10th anniversary in town.

The 210,000 square foot state-of-the-art engineering and manufacturing facility located at 1617 317th Street is having an open house from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, in an effort to educate the community on just what goes on in the location.

"We are a third generation owned company," said marketing director Steve Nelson. "Originally we were started in Akron, Iowa as a sand and gravel company. The owner Harold Higman, Sr. wanted to keep his employees busy during the off-season so he had them start building conveyors and equipment that could be used."

Nelson said that went on as a part of the gravel and sand company until 1962 when Harold Higman, Jr. officially formed Masaba officially building and selling equipment tough enough to withstand the everyday abuse of mining environments.

In 2005 Jerad Higman decided it was time to expand and when they looked around, decided Vermillion was the location for them.

"South Dakota just had a very welcoming business climate and the community of Vermillion was willing to work with us," Nelson said. "Another benefit was the fact that we were able to retain the workforce from Akron because of the close distance."

Nelson said in Vermillion the facility originally started with 100,000 square feet and has gone through two additions bringing the total to 210,000 square feet.

"We have 115 employees currently," he said. "We have engineers, sales staff, office personnel, IT people, painters, machinists, assembly workers, shipping personnel and more. We



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are a major international corporation located out of Vermillion."

Nelson said because the equipment they produce is so specialized many people in the community don't know what is produced, or recognize it when seen out and about.

"Our goal with the open house is to welcome people in so we can change that," he said. "We want them to come in and take a tour, look at what we are producing, and maybe, consider if working here might be the right fit for them. We are always looking to add quality people to expand our workforce."

Nelson said that Masaba has taken pride in being a part of the Vermillion community. Once such example is a scholarship recently given as part of the Build Dakota Scholarship program.

MASABA is partnering with Build Dakota and Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) to address its projected need for welders through participation in MTI's Double Edge program. The Double Edge is a hybrid of the Build Dakota and MTI's Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP). Under the program, a student's education is jointly funded by Build Dakota and the sponsoring company.

Lofton Covington will enroll in MTI's Welding & Manufacturing Technology program this fall. It is one of thirteen MTI courses of study that are designated as high-need workforce programs by the Build Dakota Scholarship board, and students entering those fields are eligible to apply for funding under the program. Covington is a 2015 graduate of Vermillion High School.

"The rigors of the industries we serve, and the varied and high-tech nature of our manufacturing processes require that we have a highly-skilled workforce to meet the demands of our customers," said Jerad Higman, president of MASABA. "In a tight labor market, quality people are hard to come by, so when the Double Edge opportunity presented itself, it was an easy decision to make this investment in Lofton and in our company".

In addition to participating in the Double Edge program, MASABA has contracted with MTI's Corporate Education Division to provide non-credit training for existing employees in the areas of advanced welding and manufacturing economics.

## 9-1-1

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Clay County and some other counties, for example on the interstate a call may bounce to us and we transfer them to the appropriate county. We monitor the jail, the courthouse, the parking lots just for security, and let the jailers in and out, making sure the incorrect people don't leave the jail."

Recently, CAESCC underwent their first ever compliance check with the state and passed with flying colors.

"Basically, the 911 director for the state is going around to all the PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) and checking that all of the PSAPs are compliant with the state's administrative rules," Anderson said. "She is checking to make sure we are all complying with the rules. We were found to be 100 percent compliant."

Rules that were checked included: Are you operational seven days a week? Do you do a hearing test, drug test and background search when hiring people? Do you have call answering protocols? Do you document everything? Are you in a secure building where the public can't easily access you?

Anderson said there are also many financial compliance questions.

"Every phone is charged \$1.25 which goes into a fund," he explained. "The state gives us part of that funding back to run the communications center. So, they want to make sure you are spending the money appropriately - that you are no buying police patrol cars with the money collected by the surcharge. So there are a bunch of financial standards we had to meet."

The South Dakota Administrative Rules regarding communication centers were passed a few years ago as the state is trying to improve its 9-1-1 operations.

While Anderson said he did not know how other center's checks have gone, he was proud that CAESCC was 100 percent compliant.

"It was a proud moment to find out we met all the standards and that we are on par with what they feel a communications center should be doing," he said. "We have all our policies and procedures in place. It means we are doing things correctly."

### The Department

The eight full time employees of the department have several tools for helping with 9-1-1 calls at their fingertips.

"We have 9-1-1 mapping when the calls come in," he said. "It is not 100 percent on cell phone calls, but it is very close to 100 percent on landline calls. For cell phone calls there is a two-phase process. When the call first comes in we get the cell phone tower location, and we can rebid and try to get the location. Basically the satellites are trying to triangulate where the call is coming from."

Anderson said it depends on the structure from where the call originated if they will be able to locate the cell phone.

"If you step outside, the system could go directly to the location. It is pretty good if you are outside or in your car: we can usually get your location. Houses are hit and miss. A building like the call center is so solid it is hard to get a location."

At each station the dispatchers have access to radio screens, software for keeping records, cameras, radar and more.

Just becoming a dispatcher takes more than two months of on the job training.

"Training is eight weeks in house, and then they go to Pierre for two and a half weeks of state training, then three days of emergency medical dispatch," Anderson said. "It is a lengthy training process."

Currently the communication center has seven full time dispatchers and Anderson, the director. Everyone except Anderson works four 10-hour shifts per week, while he works Monday-Friday, eight hours.

"We typically have two people on staff at any one time," Anderson said. "Most

hours there are two people on staff; it is not mandated or regulated, so sometimes there is only one dispatcher in here. We try to minimize that because one accident on Highway 50 can generate 6-7 calls. We have to make sure - we may think they are all related to the same accident - but we have to make sure and verify that they are all about the same accident at the same location."

He noted that during a snow storm there can be an accident at one location on the road and just a couple blocks down the road there will be another accident.

"You have to make sure you are talking about the same accident, because if you assume you are talking about the same accident, there may be another person sitting in the ditch waiting for assistance," he said.

Another consideration on the number of staff on duty is what is going on in the County.

"We look at things like the fair and Dakota Days," Anderson said. "Dakota Days there are usually four people in here all weekend. Three people at the consoles and then I am in here if someone needs a break. I will fill in because it is busy in here and we need to have all three consoles going. Bigger events in town - Ribs, Rods and Rock and Roll, a big football game, when SDSU is in town - we just try to have extra people in here because the number of calls go up and the number of law enforcement that are out increase, as well."

### What To Expect When Calling 9-1-1

"The biggest thing we need if you call us is a location," said Anderson. "I know we get calls where people are excited, it's an emergent situation, but if we can't get your location, we can't get you help. The most important information we need is the location, once we have that we can start going into what is go-

ing on and stuff like that."

He also stressed the importance of staying on the line if you call 9-1-1.

"If you call 911 and hang up, it is still going to register with us," Anderson said. "If you hang up on us then we have to find you. We have to call you. If you do call 9-1-1, or you pocket dial us, just stay on the phone."

He said dispatchers often get asked why they ask so many questions to people reporting a situation.

"We need the location and we want to know what we are dealing with - if there are drugs weapons, alcohol and the people involved," Anderson said. "We want to know what part of the house is involved if it is a dangerous situation and officers are responding. They want to know what is going on in the house and how many people."

"We ask a lot of questions and then we ask for your name and address and we document all of that in our system. That is our protocol. Some people get upset asking, 'Why do you need my information?' Well, if we deal with you today and we get your address and down the line there is an emergent situation and we get your number and you can't talk or something then we have your address and know where to respond. We don't ask the questions to be a pain. We can get it today and maybe tomorrow you are going to need us to respond and if we have it in the system it just makes everything go quicker."

As for when to call 9-1-1, Anderson said use common sense.

"If you consider it an emergency, call 9-1-1," he said. "Things like during a snowstorm calling to ask how much snow we are going to get or can they get a ride to Walmart are not emergencies. Just keep in mind if you call 9-1-1 you are tying up the resources. We are dealing with your call and someone else could need our help. Just think if someone you loved was sick

## Fly-In Pancake Breakfast Set

It's Main Street Senior Center Annual Fly-In Pancake Breakfast Sunday, Aug. 16, at Harold Davidson field, 8 a.m. to noon.

Proceed south on Dakota St. pass over the Vermillion River, continue south one mile.

Main Street Senior Center members will be there to assist and direct you to ample parking.

Lion Club members will be mixing, flipping, and serving their famous cakes. Sausage and beverage included. \$5.00 dollars. Hey, you might even see a plane or two or three, taxi in for a great breakfast!

We can't bid summer "Farewell" without the annual Main Street Senior Center ice-cream social, now scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 20, 5-6:30 p.m. Serving sandwich, chips, pie, cake, ice cream and beverage. Please call 624-8072 if you can work or bake a pie or cake.

A very special couple observed 72 years of marriage August 7. Each dining room table was gifted with a homemade jar of plum jelly! Thank you Agnes and John, and Congratulations.

Heel, toe, flex. Stand and reach! It's a new easy senior exercise program taught by two lovely, young ladies. 45 minutes, 3 mornings a week. We encourage and welcome you to participate. Call 624-8072 for information.

Main Street Senior Center and Dakota Senior Meals kitchen have been blessed with buckets and baskets of beautiful home grown vegetables. Thank you all donors. We appreciate.

When traveling on new resurfaced west Main Street watch for side walk billboard listing garden produce for sale. Glance at the beautiful, big, backyard garden where Dave and Elaine spend many hours. You'll discover a double garage where many tables are overflowing with vegetables. When time permits, Elaine can be seen joining the Friday a.m. knit and stitch group at Main Street Center. Dave will come over and join for lunch.

The Dakota Senior Meals program is gearing up for their fall fundraiser Rummage and great bake sale, Saturday, September 19. Watch for place and time.

## Support HHS Tails Rummage Sale

YANKTON - Heartland Humane Society (HHS) is having a rummage sale Friday, September 11th 12pm - 6pm and Saturday, September 12th 8am - 2pm. HHS is asking for your support by donating quality items for the sale! The sale will be at the shelter, 3400 East Highway 50 in Yankton.

"What a great way to help animals...Take a day to clean out your storage space and donate unwanted items to a good cause. Your contribution is also tax deductible. 100% of the proceeds will go towards the care of our fostered and sheltered pets," says Christa Kranig, shelter coordinator at Heartland Humane Society.

For more information on donating or details on the fundraising event, contact Heartland Humane Society at 605-664-4244 or email hhs3@midconetwork.com. You can also see additional details on items wanted for the sale by visiting [www.heartlandhumanesociety.net/events](http://www.heartlandhumanesociety.net/events).

or in an accident, would you want someone in line in front of you who is calling about a dog running around on Main Street or needing a ride to Walmart because there is too much snow?" He stressed, "Everyone has their own definition of what an emergency is, but if it is not a true emergency we ask that you call the routine line: 1-605-677-7070. A 9-1-1 puts everyone else on the back burner. If we are talking on the routine line they get put on hold, we don't answer the window; 9-1-1 is our priority one."

### Changes In The Future

"The next step in South Dakota is called Next Generation 9-1-1," Anderson said. "It is not here yet, but it is coming - we anticipate in 2016."

Currently the 9-1-1 system is built on landline phone lines and can carry very limited information: the phone number, a caller ID and your voice. The Next Generation 9-1-1 will be a digital network that can carry text messages, videos, and pictures.

"If someone is unable to talk at the scene of an incident if they can take a picture of it they can stream video of it to us," explained Anderson. "That will be a game changer in here. We deal with so much in here right now when there is an emergency - paging law enforcement, paging medical services, paging fire, talking to all the units on scene, talking with the 9-1-1 caller,

maybe there are more 9-1-1 calls - this will be a whole new component that lets us tell the responders what is going on and what they need to be aware of."

While it is not here yet, Anderson is already looking at the logistics of the program.

"They are starting the installation around the state," he said. "We are looking at 2016, but we don't know how soon we will get it. It is coming and it is scary for us. When one or two dispatchers are in here there is so much coming in so fast it can be an information overload. Seconds count and you don't want to make a mistake. It's exciting that this is going to be happening, but it is scary when you start to wonder about how it is going to affect staffing because it will all be new."

No matter what the new system brings one thing Anderson is sure will continue: cooperation with the community's service agencies.

"I have heard of some horror stories of counties where Police Departments don't get along with Sheriff's Departments or the Fire Departments," he said. "I think we are fortunate that here we all have one mission: Save lives, protect property, serve the public. We are not in it for ourselves, we are all working together to provide for the community."

Anderson said the compliance check paperwork is available for review at his office.

# 2015 HuntSafe Class

Clay County Public Safety Building Basement  
15 Washington St. Vermillion

**August 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30PM - 9PM

**August 29<sup>th</sup>**  
8:00AM - 10:30AM

**FREE OF CHARGE**  
Must attend all classes

\*Students must preregister online at <http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/hunter-education/ClassList.aspx> click on the Vermillion location

12 or older (must turn 12 before Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015)

\*Students need not bring anything

Sponsored by South Dakota Game Fish & Parks

**SANFORD** Currently has the following opportunity available.

Webster  
\* Registered Nurse - this is a full time position and includes rotating shifts, weekends and holidays.

**MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A \$10,000 RECRUITMENT BONUS**

To view a complete position description and apply online, visit [www.sanfordhealth.org](http://www.sanfordhealth.org) and refer to job number 231801.

Sanford Health EOE

**DRUNK DRIVING**

**The Vermillion Police Department**  
will be increasing enforcement activities for impaired driving

**August 19<sup>th</sup> - September 7<sup>th</sup>**

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER