

# Alaska biz brings 60 new jobs

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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Vermillion's manufacturing landscape is set to expand further by the end of the month.

That's because Builders Choice, Inc., of Anchorage, AK, is opening a commercial products division at 1212 Norbeck St.

The new plant will build modular units to serve a variety of commercial applications, from worksite housing, hotels and apartments, to office and administration facilities.

Modular construction helps expedite the construction process and control costs on commercial buildings for a wide range of businesses.

Steve Howe, executive director of the Vermillion Economic Development Company, said he's "very excited" about the news.

"When we launched the Vermillion NOW campaign, manufacturing was one of our target industries," he said. "We needed to grow our presence in manufacturing, needed to diversify the industry mix in the community and we needed to create more variety of jobs in the community, and this fits those goals to a T."

"We are excited to bring our operations to Vermillion because of the access to a large regional labor pool, its central location to our market and its high-quality transportation routes," Mark Larson, president of Builders Choice, said in a press release.

Builders Choice will be a welcome addition to Vermillion's manufacturing community, he said.

"(Builders Choice and Masaba) will be able to compliment one another – not compete with one another," Howe said. "While they're both manufacturing, they're diverse in their product offerings."

Representatives from Builders Choice are currently preparing the Vermillion facility and property for production.

"Some site work needs to be done in the rear of it, and they're putting in the equipment they need. They have a lot of overhead cranes and special equipment," Howe said.

The company plans to be fully operational by late October. Builders Choice will initially bring 30 new positions to Vermillion, and plans to add 20-30 additional jobs in the next year.

"Builders Choice is a quality addition to the Vermillion community," Gov.

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## Vermillion

# PLAIN TALK

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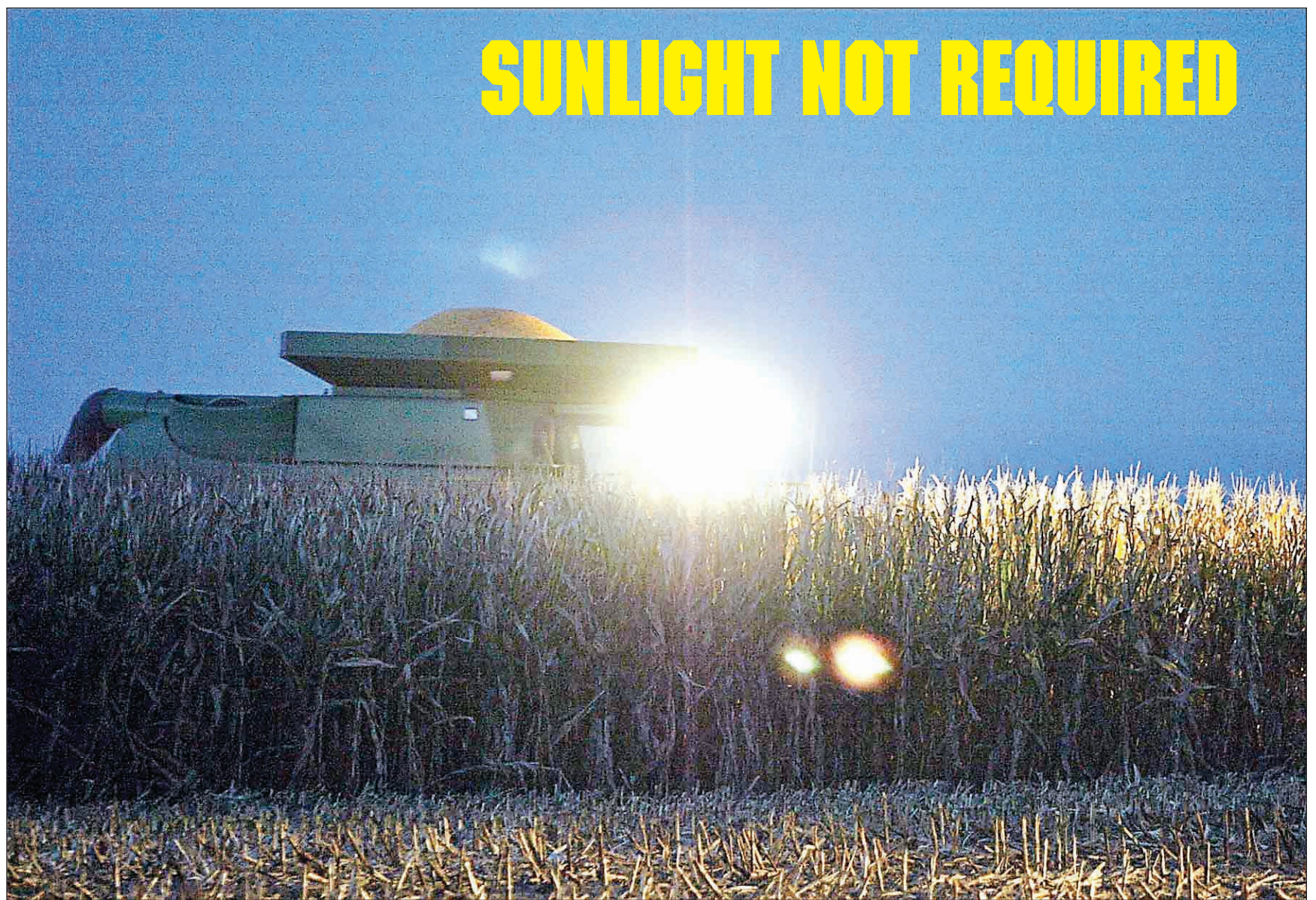
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Harvest is in full swing in Clay County, and farmers have been taking advantage of unusually warm and dry conditions this week to try to get in as much of their corn crop as possible. "It's pretty unusual to get a suntan while out in the field in October," said Grant Sorensen. Grant, with his young son, Clayton, riding shotgun, drove the Sorensen family farm's semi to and from the corn field while Grant's dad, Nels Sorensen, cut swathes through the family's cornfield southwest of Vermillion. The combine's bright lights make it possible for the work to continue well after sundown.

(Photo by David Lias)

### The Tomorrow Project:

## The Main Street Center commences fundraising push to expand building

By David Lias  
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Some changes are easy to make. Those associated with the Senior Center in Vermillion have decided a change in its name is in order. The facility, located at 320 W. Main Street, is now known as the Main Street Center.

Other changes planned for the facility won't come as easily, but thanks to the dedication of the center's members and the assistance of community organizations, there is optimism that significant improvements to the center's facilities can be made.

The board of directors of the Main Street Center have launched The Tomorrow Project aimed at making significant improvements with an estimated total cost of \$200,000 to the center's building in phases through 2014.

The project has received a significant monetary incentive from the Dakota Hospital Foundation which has pledged to provide up to \$90,000 over the next three years as long as Main Street Center reaches fundraising goals over that time



Taking part in the presentation of \$10,000 from the Dakota Hospital Foundation to the Main Street Center are Nila Fostvedt, Center board member, Susan Tuve, president, Dakota Hospital Foundation, Jennifer Steele, treasurer, Dakota Hospital Foundation, Allen Johnson, president of Center board, Kay Powell, member of center board, Crystal McGuire, director of Center, Donna Reedy, Center board member, Maxine Johnson, Center board member, and Tom Heinz, Dakota Hospital Foundation Board member.

(Photo by David Lias)

period that will be matched dollar for dollar by the foundation.

"The Dakota Hospital Foundation is really excited about The Tomorrow Project because everyone is seeing a lot of

hard work coming together for all of the members of the Main Street Center. This process started over 18 months ago with a

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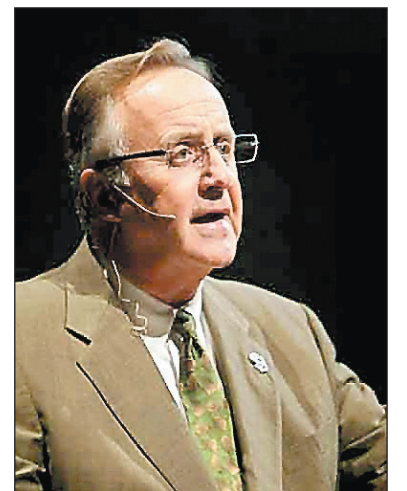
## Abbott: School must refine roles as it enters a new era

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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The president of the University of South Dakota said the school's mission and goals need to be refined as the school moves into an era with more emphasis on speed, and a potentially smaller budget.

President James W. Abbott made his remarks during the annual State of the School address, which took place Thursday, Sept. 29, in the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre.

"I want to see us do what we can do the best we can," Abbott said, "and you don't do that unless you sit down and take stock and think about what it is that we want to be. What's our mission? What are our goals?"



James W. Abbott, president of the University of South Dakota, discusses the importance of continuing to refine the school's mission and goals during the annual State of the University Address, which took place Thursday, Sept. 29.

(Photo by David Lias)

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### FIRST LADY VISITS STUDENTS



Linda Daugaard, wife of Gov. Dennis Daugaard, reads to the St. Agnes School third-graders Tuesday morning. The First Lady visited the fourth- and fifth-grade students, as well. The visit was part of an ongoing effort to meet with all the third- through-fifth-graders in the state to promote literacy, and to continue a multi-school gently-used book exchange. "(You) need to keep reading, because you'll be smarter, you'll be able to speak better and you will get a better job," she told the students. She has visited approximately 70 classes across the state so far.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

## Peru donates instruments to museum

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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The National Music Museum added to its growing list of instruments on Friday, Sept. 30, when it received two percussion instruments from a representative of the Peruvian government.

Guido F. Loayza, consul general of Peru, presented the museum with a cajita and a cajón, on behalf of his country.

The new instruments were manufactured by the Peruvian company, A Tiempo de Percusion Eirl.

"This is a great opportunity for a representative of a friendly country to be here and to do something very small for this wonderful museum," Loayza said

at the presentation.

Dr. Larry Schou, dean of the College of Fine Arts, accepted the instruments on behalf of the museum, promising, "We will display them very well."

Ted Muenster of the museum's development office said the donation came about after Ricardo Malca, deputy consul of Peru from Washington, D.C., visited the museum last year.

"They felt we needed some additional representation from Peru, and that's how all this came about," he said.

Both instruments were given impromptu demonstrations by Dr. Darin Wadley, director of percussion studies at USD, despite the fact that he had never played them before.

The cajón is a large wooden box that is played by a person who sits on top of it and slaps its front and side.

The cajita is a small hand-held box with a lid that the player opens and closes, and a stick he or she uses to tap the sides.

Loayza said both instruments –



Guido F. Loayza, the consul general of Peru, demonstrates the cajita – a traditional percussion instrument – at the National Music Museum Friday, Sept. 30. The Peruvian government donated the cajita and another instrument called the cajón to the museum.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

which feature prominently in Afro-Peruvian jazz – reflect the

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