#### **LUSD** From Page 1

How do we achieve them?"

These goals will most likely need to be achieved with less support from the state government, he said.

"Our university gets about 24 percent of its total budget dollars from the state. We used to get about 40, and it was down to 30 just a few years ago," he said. "Tuition obviously has to be increased every time the budget is cut. So, not only is our state budget declining ... but we're also the only state, I think, in the union that does not have a needbased financial aid scholarship. That's very unfortunate."

This is one of the factors that have led to a rise on student default rates, he said.

"They used to be a percent and a half in South Dakota, and I think they're up to something about in the four-ish range, and they're expected to go higher, and of course that will raise immediate red flags in some folks' minds."

Statistics like this lead some members of the public to believe that public higher education is inefficient, Abbott said.

"The fact is, public education is complicated," he said. "We have many bosses. Students have many needs. We do things pretty well, but the public does not believe that?

This point was driven home for Abbott when he recently signed a petition calling for a 1percent sales tax increase to bring funds to Medicaid/Medicare and K-12 education. Public higher education was not included.

"Public higher ed and K-12 should not be competing against each other for funds," he said. We should be in concert. We should be in lock-step."

Abbott said that when he asked why public higher education was not included, he was told that research indicated approximately 50 percent of people in the state would support the tax with just

"When you include public higher education, the percentage of people who indicate that they would vote for it declined to 30 (percent)," he said. "To me, that is a very scary situation."

South Dakota has never been "a state that 'likes' taxes,"

Abbott said. "We do not expend what I think are reasonable funds in making the appropriate investments in research and development in things that we know we can do better if we just had the opportunity," he said. "That's where I think we have trouble as a state. From 1889 forward, we have not made the appropriate investments. We just don't do it. 'It's good enough the way it is.' Well, it isn't. It's not going to be, and it shouldn't be."

Conversations about the very nature of higher education are changing now, as well, with an emphasis on speed both in the classroom and the transition into the workforce.

Abbott recalled an exchange he had at a public meeting held by the state Board of Regents.

"I can't remember ever being asked a question like, 'Why do you offer psychology? What is the point in that? Counseling I get, clinical psychology I get. ... How does it lead directly to a job?' I was astounded to find the person who asked the question was a high school guidance counselor," he said.

The discussion regarding education has moved from content to the number of credit hours being generated and the number of students being taught, Abbott said.

For a liberal arts institution, that's a scary public attitude. I think the real question is this: Is fundamental change really necessary? Are we going in the right way? Do we need to just tweak around the edges, or do we have to make significant change?" he said. "I think that's going to be the question the next four, five, 10 years, and I think it's going to have to be answered.

stay here in Vermillion. ...

'I'm sure we will remember

## Medicare open enrollment changes

The open enrollment period for Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans are fast approaching and this year's enrollment period will be from Oct. 15-

"One of the things we want people to know is that if they have a Medicare Advantage plan, the only time they can make changes to their plans is Oct. 15-Dec. 7, 2011," said Kim Malsam-Rysdon, secretary for the Department of Social Services. "All Medicare recipients should take this time to review their current plans with their spouse or other family members and consider whether a change in coverage is necessary for them."

The open enrollment period for Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans runs from Oct. 15-Dec. 7, 2011. Part D offers prescription drug coverage for all people with Medicare, and allows recipients to choose between at least two prescription drug plans. Coverage includes both brand name and generic

Beginning Oct. 15, trained volunteers from the South Dakota Senior Health Information and Insurance Education Program (SHIINE) will offer free assistance to seniors seeking additional Medicare information.

SHIINE volunteers can help seniors compare plans, evaluate their current coverage and fill out paperwork. Seniors taking advantage of the free one-on-one counseling should bring their Medicare

card and a current list of Medications. The volunteers will use this information to walk through an online evaluation that compares coverage options. This evaluation can also be accessed from

home at www.medicare.gov. For more information on SHIINE or to meet with a volunteer in your community, call 1-800-536-8197 or

contact your Regional Coordinator: • Eastern South Dakota: Tom Hoy at 605-333-3314 or SHIINE@cfag.org

 Central South Dakota: Kathleen Nagle at 605-224-3212 or SHIINE@centralsd.org Western South Dakota: Debbie Stangle at 605-342-8635 or SHIINE@westriversd.org

### SDSU Extension presents Taste the Sensation Oct. 13

SDSU Extension presents Taste the Sensation on Oct. 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Elk Point United Parish, 603 S. Pearl St., Elk Point.

Taste the Sensation is a program designed to help

Dennis Daugaard said in a press

and will certainly help diversify

the regional and state economy."

of Builders Choice had been

looking to expand for some

time, and were encouraged to

try South Dakota by business

They looked at Rapid City

contacts in Rapid City.

and Sioux Falls and just

weren't able to find the

combination of things that

came across Vermillion. ...

looked all across South

and they decided to call

they needed to call this place home," he said. "Then they

"It just worked out really

well for them. Vermillion was

the right place for them. They

Dakota, and Vermillion was

the place that met their needs

For more information on the

National Music Museum, visit

http://orgs.usd.edu/nmm/.

Howe said representatives

release. "The new jobs are a

boon for the Vermillion area

From Page 1

consumers discover the new value cuts of beef, such as the flat iron, boneless country style ribs, and the petite tender, all new cuts from the chuck. You'll get to taste each cut as well as learn about

The company now is

construction-related skills,

including framers, roofers,

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positions with Builders

or call 1-866-522-3214.

site or picked up at the

The company has a

temporary office at the

Applications can be

downloaded from the Web

Department of Labor Office

in Vermillion, 1024 W. Cherry

"Just working with them

on a day-to-day basis, I think

Choice can visit

seeking workers with

plumbers.

Street.

Chamber.

some of the other new value cuts. Also, you'll learn how to produce the Umami Effect while you cook beef and

This presentation is made possible by a South Dakota

they are going to be great members of the community not just a business providing jobs," Howe said. "I really get the sense that they're going to be very community-oriented. I know they've already engaged a

lot of local contractors, too, for

their upgrades to the building.

They seem very, very committed to Vermillion and very appreciative of the assistance that they've received.

Beef Industry Council

by Oct. 12.

educational grant. Spots are

limited, so call (605) 356-

2321 and reserve your spot

"I think they're going to be a very, very good corporate citizen," he said.

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### Submit Your School Memories

The Vermillion Plain Talk will celebrate the heritage of education in Clay County with a special publication later this month.

The Plain Talk believes this is an opportune time to reflect upon the past.

We are inviting our readers to share their favorite memories of their school days in Clay County. What do you remember most about attending class in a one-room country school? What was it like to mingle among USD students while going to University High? Share your memories of walking into a

brand new Jolley Elementary, Austin Elementary, St. Agnes School, Vermillion Middle School and Vermillion High School for the very first time.

Historic photos are also welcome.

Take a serious or whimsical tone, whatever you think is appropriate. We want you to pay tribute to your school experience in your own special way.

Keep your response limited to 400 words, and we'll publish as many of your entries as we can fit into a forthcoming special Heritage edition. Responses should be mailed to the The Plain Talk. c/o School Reflections, 201 W. Cherry Street, Vermillion, SD 57069. Or, preferably, e-mail them to david.lias@plaintalk.net with the subject "School Reflections." Please include your name, address and a phone number with all entries.

The deadline for submission is Oct. 14.

### 1969696969696W

### **PERU**

From Page 1

diverse cultural make-up of

"Through colonization, we have a diffusion of races and different groups that contribute to the (culture) of our country. So, we have some percussion instruments that now are used all over the world in modern music," he said.

Muenster agreed, adding, "The Peruvian instruments are not old instruments. They are new, but they are representative of certain elements in the folk tradition of Peru, and they'll be very fine additions to the collections."

Loayza extended his thanks to the community for its hospitality.

"I felt like I was in my country," he said. "I would like to thank all the authorities here at the university and all the friends who have made my wife and myself have a very good

you for the rest of our lives," he

home," he said.

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