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choral union. Anna Kollasch, a sophomore pre-professional and biology double major, participates in mixed choir, chamber choir and the a capella group known as Smooth Benediction.

"The choral union gives the Mount Marty students, employees and members of the Yankton community the chance to get together to make music," she said.

Kollasch looks forward to working with a wide variety of

performers. "I think students will benefit from getting to sing with people from the Yankton community,' she said. "It's a unique opportunity to sing with musicians other than our fellow students at MMC."

Johanna Scheich currently performs with the MMC mixed choir, chamber choir and Smooth Benediction. She sees the choral union as an important addition to the campus and community.

"Overall, I would just say how exciting it is to be moving forward with the choral program,' she said. "Professor Tice works so hard to give the students the best possible experience, and now that experience is being offered to the community and the alumni through the new MMC choral union.

Yarbrough said his cantata, "Everlasting Is His Love," has been a work in progress.

"Composing a large, multimovement work was no small task," he said. "I began by selecting a series of texts and choosing which of my performing resources I would use for each movement. Composition began after approval of the texts by Mount Marty's anniversary committee."

Three movements were written during summer 2009, Yarbrough said. The anniversary committee approved the works and urged him to finish the piece according to his outline.

The work was finished in fall 2011. The score, parts, and performance practice compact discs were presented to MMC President Joseph Benoit in January 2012. Performance of the work was moved to this May because of a change in MMC choral conductors.

I found the texts I had chosen to be awe-inspiring and sometimes even intimidating for myself as a composer," Yarbrough said. "In the end, they provided more than ample inspiration for their musical settings.

Yarbrough likes what he has seen of Tice's work.

"I first saw Kenneth Tice conduct at Mount Marty's 2012 Vespers concert," he said. "I knew from watching him conduct and hearing his choirs sing that my work was going to be in the hands of an exceptional musician who really knew what he was doing."

Tice said he has enjoyed working with Yarbrough and hopes the composer will attend rehearsals and visit with the singers.

"We can look at his insights as to whether (the work) would go the direction he thought it would go," Tice said. "We can't do that with all pieces. With Mozart or Bach, we have their letters and biographies, but we can't talk directly with them. With Stephen, we have that opportunity.

Tice has worked with community groups and has assisted with choruses. However, the Mount Marty Choral Union marks his first time starting a group.

"There isn't a community chorus in place here," he said. "I was very surprised to hear it, given all the arts organizations in Yankton and the surrounding area, but I'm also pleased in a way. One of my goals is to start a group that will do professional music."

Tice views the new Yankton group as a unique opportunity. "We want people to be part of

(the choral union) and not just sit back and see if it goes anywhere," he said. "We need to get a solid floor and then grow the group for success."

Tice can accommodate any number of singers. He has received strong showings of interest.

"I sent letters and emails to churches and high school chorus directors within a 50-mile radius," he said. "A couple of directors are really excited. They hope to send singers this way."

Tice remains optimistic about the choral union's future.

"We have big hopes and dreams," he said. "I believe the arts community will embrace it."

For more information about the Mount Marty Choral Union, contact Tice at kenneth.tice@mtmc.edu or at (605) 668-1539.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

## **Permit**

sulfur gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and liquid petroleum gas. If constructed, the 3,300acre tract of farmland north of Elk Point would become the first new U.S. site for an oil refinery since 1976.

The board originally issued an air quality permit in August 2009, and it was challenged by the Sierra Club and local groups Save Union County and Citizens Opposed to Oil Pollution.

Ed Cable, of Save Union County, said Thursday that he was disappointed but not surprised by the ruling. He said the company still faces many hurdles as it let its land-purchase options slip.

"All this is probably a moot issue since they no longer control any ground whatsoever, not even one acre" Cable said.

Hyperion had thousands of acres of options in Union County secured for the refinery, but the company failed to extend them on Sept. 30. Company officials said in October that they were still talking to landowners, and the statement released Thursday did not address the land options.

The high court also ruled that the state did not err by extending a construction deadline for the plant.

The original permit called for construction to begin by Feb. 20, 2011, but company officials said the project was delayed because the recession caused problems in securing financing. The board issued a revised permit in September that reflected updated national air quality standards and new pollutioncontrol technology and gives Hyperion until March to start construction.

The Hyperion Energy Center would include a power plant that produces electricity for the refinery. It would convert a byproduct of the refinery process — solid petroleum coke — into gas that would be burned to produce electricity.

Hyperion contends that the refinery would be a clean, modern plant that would use the most advanced, commercially feasible emissions control technology.

Company officials have said that efforts to secure financing are progressing, but they have not provided details.

Cable said the groups haven't decided whether to appeal the state Supreme Court's ruling.

"We are reviewing all of our options at the moment, and there are several actions which we could take," he said.

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But Rounds said Russell's proposal was flawed because it would hamper law enforcement's ability to protect people.

"The unintended consequences of the bill would not allow law enforcement officers to do their jobs," Rounds said.

Maj. Randy Hartley, assistant superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol, urged the committee to reject the bill because it would make it difficult for troopers to determine if someone met the requirements of federal law and could legally carry a concealed handgun.

"There would be absolutely no way to know if, under federal law, that person was permitted to carry a concealed weapon," Hartley said.

The measure also could have prevented law officers from detaining someone carrying a hidden gun until that person committed a crime with the weapon, Hartley said. In addition, it could have encouraged members of motorcycle gangs to carry guns during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in the Black Hills, he said.

But Russell said Alaska, Arizona and Wyoming have passed similar measures with-

out encountering rising crime rates or hindering law enforcement.

Russell said South Dakota's current law sometimes leads to legal trouble for people who inadvertently carry a gun in a vehicle.

"I think the present system to some degree is a relic," Russell said. However, representatives of South Dakota police chiefs and sheriffs opposed the bill.

Staci Eggert, executive director of the South Dakota Sheriffs' Association, said sheriffs support the constitutional right to bear arms but also believe they need to screen those who apply for concealed weapons permits to prevent convicted felons and those with mental health problems from getting

Rep. Stace Nelson, R-Fulton, said the current permitting system infringes on people's rights to bear arms by limiting who can carry concealed handguns and charging a fee for permits.

"Disarming law-abiding people is not the answer," Nelson said. "They deserve the right to protect themselves and their families."

However, Rep. Anne Hajek, R-Sioux Falls, said the current permitting system is working because sheriffs frequently deny permits to people with criminal records or mental health problems.

"There is no reason to change something that is not broken," Hajek said.



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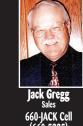
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