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COURTESY PHOTO

Scotland native Kelley Sternhagen competed in Monday's Boston Marathon, at a safe location when two bombs exploded near the finish line. Here, she is shown at the California International Marathon (CIM) in December 2011, where she qualified for Monday's race.

## Sternhagens Avoid Boston Marathon Explosions

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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SCOTLAND — Kelley Sternhagen was filled with anticipation, excited to run her first Boston Marathon. The event became even more special as her parents, Steve and Nancy Sternhagen of Scotland, stood along the route to support her.

As Sternhagen crossed the finish line Monday, she had achieved a lifetime goal. But about 40 minutes later, after she had left the site, she became part of a tragedy.

Two explosions ripped through the finish line area, killing three people and injuring more than 170, a number of them

critically. Authorities are conducting an intensive investigation, and President Obama plans to attend an interfaith service today (Thursday) in Boston.

Sternhagen, who lives in San Francisco, spoke Wednesday about her experiences in a phone interview

with the *Press & Dakotan*. The thrill of qualifying for the storied marathon reached a new level when she encountered both the world-class runners and the spectators all along the route, she said.

"I have never been at an event with that much energy. There was so much support from the (Boston) community and all the surrounding towns," she said. "They have a special marathon jacket that they sell every year, and you see people along the streets of Boston with those jackets."

The spectators — some supporters of runners, others just enjoying the activity

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## IN HONOR OF BOSTON



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Flags across the nation were flying at half-staff Wednesday in honors of the victims of Monday's terrorist bombings at the Boston Marathon. At the Lewis and Clark Specialty Hospital in Yankton, the lowered flags flew behind the sculpture "Spirit of Discovery," which honors the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition that explored the Louisiana Purchase and first came through the area in 1804.

## 82,000 In S.D. To Get Health Care Tax Credits

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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More than 82,000 South Dakotans will be eligible for health insurance premium tax credits in 2014 that will help them pay for coverage, according to a report released Wednesday by the national health consumer organization Families USA.

The report analyzed the tax credits that will take effect in January 2014 under the terms of the Affordable Care Act.

"The Affordable Care Act provides unusual opportunities for people to gain health care coverage that will eliminate the huge numbers of people who are uninsured today," said Ron Pollack, Families USA executive director, during

a conference call discussing the findings Wednesday afternoon.

The tax credits generally will be available to individuals and families who are not eligible for Medicaid but still have incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level, which for 2013 is \$45,960 for an individual and \$94,200 for a family of four. Workers who would have to pay more than 9.5 percent of their wages for their employer's plan or who have plans where the employer pays less than 60 percent of the cost could also be eligible.

Of the estimated 82,000 South Dakotans likely to be eligible for the subsidies, about 45,000 (or 55 percent) fall between 200 and 400 percent of the poverty level, the report stated. About 91 percent of those eligible for the tax

credits will also be from working families, which are defined as families with at least one employed worker.

Pollack added that the study assumed that each state would take advantage of Medicaid expansion, which would increase the line of Medicaid eligibility from those below 100 percent of poverty to those below 138 percent of poverty. Therefore, states that have chosen not to participate in the expansion, such as South Dakota, would likely have more individuals eligible for the tax credits than were listed in the report, since people who fall between 100 percent and 138 percent of poverty in those states would not be eligible for Medicaid.

For those who are eligible to receive

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## Senate Nixes Background Gun Checks

Obama Says The Effort Isn't Over

BY DAVID ESPO AND ALAN FRAM  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans backed by a small band of rural-state Democrats scuttled the most far-reaching gun control legislation in two decades Wednesday, rejecting tighter background checks for buyers and a ban on assault weapons as they spurned pleas from families of victims of last winter's school massacre in Newtown, Conn.

"This effort isn't over," President Barack Obama vowed at the White House moments after the defeat on one of his top domestic priorities. Surrounded by Newtown relatives, he said opponents of the legislation in both parties "caved to the pressure" of special interests.

A ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines also fell in a series of showdown votes four months after a gunman killed 20 elementary school children and six staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary.

A bid to loosen restrictions on concealed weapons carried across state lines was rejected, as well.

That last vote marked a rare defeat for the National Rifle Association on a day it generally triumphed over Obama, gun control advocates and many of the individuals whose lives have been affected by mass shootings in Connecticut and elsewhere.

Some of them watched from the spectator galleries above the Senate floor.

"Shame on you," shouted one, Patricia Maisch, who was present two years ago when a gunman in Tucson, Ariz., killed six and wounded 13 others, including former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Vice President Joe Biden gavelled the Senate back into order after the breach of decorum.

### How They Voted

Tim Johnson (D-S.D.)	.....Yes
John Thune (R-S.D.)	.....No
Mike Johanns (R-Neb.)	.....No
Deb Fischer (R-Neb.)	.....No

Gun control advocates, including Obama, had voiced high hopes for significant action after the Newtown shootings. But the lineup of possible legislation gradually dwindled to a focus on background checks, and in the end even that could not win Senate passage. Chances in the Republican-controlled House had seemed even slimmer.

By agreement of Senate leaders, a 60-vote majority was required for approval of any of the provisions brought to a vote.

The vote on the background check was 54-46, well short of the 60 votes needed to advance. Forty-one Republicans and five Democrats voted to reject the plan.

The proposed ban on assault weapons commanded 40 votes; the bid to block sales of high capacity ammunition clips drew 46.

The NRA-backed proposal on concealed carry permits got 57.

In the hours before the key vote on background checks, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., bluntly accused the National Rifle Association of making false claims about the expansion of background checks that he and Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., were backing.

"Where I come from in West Virginia, I

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## 'Celebrate Women' Postponed To April 30

From P&D Staff Reports

Due to the expected inclement weather, the *Press & Dakotan's* annual "Celebrate Women" event, set for Thursday and featuring former Survivor contestant Holly Hoffman (pictured), has been postponed until April 30.

The event will take place at the Riverfront Event Center, with Hoffman speaking at the Dakota Theatre.

For more information, contact the *Press & Dakotan* at (605) 665-7811.



COURTESY PHOTO

Attendees of last year's Yankton Catholic Community Development Office Annual Gala display the type of entertainment that is offered during the event, which raises funds for Catholic education in the community. This year's gala will take place Saturday at Minerva's.

## Triple Crown Gala Ready To Race For Yankton's Catholic Education

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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A yearly fundraising effort by the local Catholic community will again be off to the races this weekend.

The Yankton Catholic Community Development Office will hold its 14th annual Gala Saturday at Minerva's with doors opening from 5-5:30 p.m. The event will include dinner, live and silent auctions, activities and games.

"It is a community-building event,

which is primarily in support of Catholic education in Yankton," said Tim McCaffrey, the development office's director. "But it also brings together a lot of non Catholics and Catholics alike for an evening of a lot of fun."

This year's event is titled the "Triple Crown Gala" and will feature a horse racing theme, McCaffrey said.

"The idea was taken from the three races that make up the Triple Crown," he said. "Each crown is specific to the

two Catholic parishes and the school. It's a symbol for our striving for excellence in all that we do — in terms of our education, but also in how the Catholic community serves the larger community of Yankton."

For the Triple Crown theme, attendees are asked to wear their best derby attire, McCaffrey said.

"That's whatever that means to

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Celebrate Women 2013, originally scheduled for Thursday, April 18 has been postponed due to approaching weather. The Celebrate Women event is now scheduled for Tuesday, April 30. All times and locations remain the same. If you have questions please contact the Press & Dakotan, 665-7811.