

U.S. Supreme Court Affirms Key Obamacare Statute

ACA Is Upheld

Health Care Law Survives Second Supreme Court Fight

BY MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court sent a clear message Thursday that President Barack Obama's health care overhaul is here to stay, rejecting a major challenge that would have imperiled the landmark law and health insurance for millions of Americans.

Whether you call it the Affordable Care Act, Obamacare, or in the words of a dissenting justice, SCOTUScare, Obama's signature domestic achievement is, as the president himself put it, "reality.

The 6-3 ruling, which upheld financial aid to millions of low- and middle-income Americans to help pay for insurance premiums regardless of where they live, was the second major victory in three years for Obama in politically charged Supreme Court tests of the law. And it came on the same day the court gave him an unexpected victory on another subject, preserving a key tool the administration uses to fight

housing bias. Obama greeted news of the health care decision by declaring the law is no longer

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DENNIS BRACK/BLACK STAR/SIPA USA/TNS President Barack Obama with Vice President Biden by his side delivers a statement on the Supreme Court's Affordable Care Act ruling in the Rose Garden of the White House on Thursday in Washington.

Locals **React To** Court Ruling

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF, ALISSA WOOKMAN AND REILLY BIEL news@yankton.net

A sense of relief and business as usual.

Those feelings were expressed by area health care and community service officials Thursday after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld nationwide tax subsidies under the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare.

For Jennifer Grassrope with the Lake Andes-based Rural Office of Community Services (ROCS), the decision means continued health insurance for 17,000 South Dakotans.

Grassrope serves as an ACA navigator, assisting people seeking the federal subsidies. She serves residents in 20 counties of south central and southeastern South Dakota.

She sees Thursday's Supreme Court decision as a major relief in protecting a part of the ACA "We (at ROCS) are very pleased," she said. "We are very excited with the ruling because that means nothing has changed with impacting insurance coverage across the state and throughout the United States for those consumers who signed up for the Affordable Care Act. The high court's ruling holds particular importance for the individuals depending on the subsidies for their health care coverage. "It's a huge victory for consumers," she said. "What it's saying is that it affirms what we have known all along - that the Affordable Care Act is working to make coverage affordable for consumers in South Dakota and in the United States.' The advanced premium tax credit makes health insurance affordable for many individuals who may otherwise go without health care, she said. The Supreme Court decision also means ROCS officials will continue assisting the public with free sign-ups, whether online, by phone or in person, Grassrope said. "Nothing is going to change. We will continue with business as usual," she said. "We will assist people with the Affordable Care Act. It really doesn't change anything that I can see. It's just showing that the (ACA) is working." Thursday's decision was

County **Considers** Outreach **To Area**

BY ROB NIELSEN rob.nielsen@yankton.net

The Yankton County Commission may be taking its work on the road in order to



gain a better understanding of the needs of the county communities beyond the City of Yankton.

The commission is looking to begin regular town hall meetings in Utica, Lesterville, Gayville, Volin, Irene

B. Hunhoff and Mission Hill in the

coming months.

Commission chairman Todd Woods said the idea has been forming for a while.

"It actually came up from several of the commissioners over the past several months, and even during the campaign process, to keep the communities informed of what's going on," Woods said. "The paper does a great Annual job, the media does a great job of informing the public, but sometimes we need to go out to the people. We have an opportunity to do that."

Woods added it gives county residents an added convenience.

to be done on organizing that," he said. "I think it's a great way of talking to the people, whether it's in Gayville, Mission Hill, Irene, Lesterville and getting out to them and having them come to us

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Members of the Yankton Relay for Life organizing committee include, from left: Darla Gullikson, Jill Wermers, Lara Cunningham, Chris Schloss, Carla Hummel Rebecca Giddens and Kary Beltz. Not pictured are Kathy Larsen, Sara Jepsen, Shirley Mines, Brooke Schloss, Tina Wysuph, Ashli Maddox, Monica Dahl, Peg Wittmeier and Stan Hrouda

Relay Ready To Roll Tonight

Benefit To Help Fight **Cancer Kicks** We still have a lot of work Off Tonight At Riverside

Park

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA

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Area cancer survivors, family and community members will walk for hope during tonight's (Friday) annual Yankton Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society. For one organizer, the event does more

than raise money.

'Seeing people go through their first relay and knowing that other people are out there that are going through the cancer process (is why I'm on the committee)," Chris Schloss, one of many relay organizers, told the Press & Dakotan.

"That sense of community is uplifting for those who need it and reassuring to those that have been there.'

And Schloss is someone who has been there.

Schloss, of Avon, joined the Yankton Relay



for Life Committee and has participated in relays since 2012, one year after he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. His cancer spread and he developed a tumor, where four different types of cancer were found. Chemotherapy removed

three, and he had one surgically removed.

He was named the honorary chair of the event in 2013.

"The purpose (of the relay) is to honor those who have fallen, help support those who are diagnosed and to raise money to help eliminate cancer in the future," he said.

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