

THE UNION



IMPORTANCE OF MAMMOGRAMS

#1 way to detect breast cancer
HEALTHY TUESDAY | C1



WATER POLO

NU, Bear River clash in SFL matchup
SPORTS | B1

Obamacare enrollment begins

By Matthew Renda
Staff Writer

Like it or not, Obamacare is coming to Nevada County.

Implementation of a substantial portion of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare, begins today. As federal legislators

continue to strut, fret and posture in Washington D.C., with Obamacare at the center of seemingly ceaseless political wrangling, officials with Nevada County's Health and Human Services Agency are preparing to install the largest and most important piece of the 2010 federal law.

"The public has the

opportunity to enroll in health care coverage for themselves and their families, and that's really the important piece to us," said Nevada County Director of Social Services Nicole Pollack.

One of the major prongs of the Affordable Care Act establishes a state marketplace where individuals, families and small

businesses can shop for health insurance.

Individuals making about \$16,000 per year or less, or a family of four making about \$32,500 or less combined, will be able to access medical insurance without having to pay.

Individuals making less than \$42,000 or families of four making under

HOW TO ENROLL

Under the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, states were mandated to set up Health Insurance Marketplaces.

The state established Covered California, which will begin enrolling eligible Californians on Tuesday with an eye toward providing coverage in January 2014.

There are three ways to enroll in the health insurance program: online, by phone or in person.

Nicole Pollack, Nevada County Social Services director, said www.coveredca.com is the most effective way to enroll, as it allows a person to tailor coverage to their specific needs or preferences, including frequency of doctor visits, type of provider, medications and geographic location.

Technophobes can enroll by phone at 1-888-975-1142. Those who would like in-person help with the

OBAMACARE, A10

ENROLL, A10

A ministry of art



Alex and Allison Grey pose with one of their paintings. They will be visiting the Center for the Arts in Grass Valley on Wednesday.

Couple shares artistic talent, sacred visions as they travel the world

By Christopher Rosacker
Staff Writer

After an initial Grass Valley visit in April, prominent visionary artists Alex and Allison Grey are back for an expanded appearance Wednesday at the Center For The Arts.

"We look forward to seeing our friends in Grass Valley," said the couple in an email interview with The Union.

When the Greys visited the now-closed Art Discovered gallery in April, scores of fans stretched halfway down Mill Street's sidewalks, awaiting a chance to meet the couple.

"Though friends who sponsor the Greys' "trans-denominational" sanctuary — the Chapel of Sacred Mirrors (or CoSM for short) — are largely responsible for the artists' speedy return to Grass Valley, the couple also said that when they visited in April,

they spent so much time signing books, posters and other arts that they didn't get much chance to share their thoughts with fans.

"We were stunned at the number of folks in Grass Valley who came out for the 'Net of Being' book signing. It went on for almost five hours," the Greys said.

"But we really didn't get to share our presentation about Sacraments and planetary civilization. This time, we'll be able to dialogue a bit with friends in the audience."

Wednesday's event will include a talk, entitled "Entheogenation: The History of Visionary Culture," that will trace generations of god-seekers, including visual illustrations, the Greys' art and other exponents of visionary culture.

Alex Grey's artwork has been featured in the New

KNOW & GO
WHAT: An Evening with Alex & Allison Grey
WHEN: 5 p.m. book signing; 7:30 p.m. lecture; 9 p.m. live painting; 11:15 p.m. meet and greet, on Oct. 2
WHERE: The Center for the Arts, located 314 West Main St., Grass Valley
COST: \$22 members, \$28 non-members, \$18 students (with ID). Tickets online at theCenterforthearts.org

York Times, Newsweek, Revolver and Watkins Review, which listed him among the top 20 most spiritual people along with the Dalai Lama, Eckhardt Tolle and Oprah Winfrey.

Described as sacred, visionary or even post modern, Grey's paintings often depict energetic anatomical human bodies portrayed through various X-ray layers of the human body's inner workings,

along with spiritual elements.

Some of Alex Grey's most well-known art is a series of 21 life-sized paintings known as the "Sacred Mirrors."

Begun in 1979, the series took a decade to complete and presents the context of spiritual, biological and technological evolution of humans.

Many of Grey's fans know his work because it is on the cover and interior of art of the renowned alternative metal band Tool's most recent album, "10,000 Days," a triple-platinum release that garnered a Grammy in 2006 for best recording package. Artists such as Nirvana and the Beastie Boys have also employed Grey's work, among many others.

A prolific artist, as well, much of Allison Grey's work depicts a not-

her efforts toward ensuring Grueneberg and "other select board members are not re-elected in November 2014 should they decide to run ..."

The effort was hampered by the fact that organizers had to discount about 500 signatures due to participants living outside of Consolidated Fire's jurisdiction, LaBarbera's release stated.

Grueneberg said he believed recall proponents fell short by an even greater amount than they claimed, and the effort was carried out by "small-minded, short-sighted people."

"I threatened them by asking too many pointed questions," he said.

Grueneberg has long maintained he was the subject of LaBarbera's ire because he began questioning whether she and other members of the administration were managing the fire district effectively, soon after he assumed a chair on

Effort to recall Consolidated director fails

By Matthew Renda
Staff Writer

The effort to recall Nevada County Consolidated Fire District Director Keith Grueneberg has fallen short, according to a press release issued by former Consolidated Fire Human Resources Manager Lisa LaBarbera on Monday.

LaBarbera said the effort to collect the 4,388 signatures needed to force a special election fell short by 718 signatures.

Recall proponents would have had to collect all the signatures by 5 p.m., Oct. 1, according to the Nevada County Elections Office.

"While Grueneberg might feel that we failed, we see our efforts as a win," LaBarbera stated in the release. "Along with the 2013 Grand Jury Report, we have proudly brought to light (many of the known truths) regarding Grueneberg and his good old boys."

In the release, LaBarbera said she will redirect

her efforts toward ensuring Grueneberg and "other select board members are not re-elected in November 2014 should they decide to run ..."

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GRUENEBERG, A10

Girl, 5, reports abduction attempt

By Liz Keller
Staff Writer

Yet another attempted abduction by a man in a red pickup truck was reported Sunday, but it does not seem the incident is related to two other reports made Sept. 14 and Sept. 22.

"We have had mixed descriptions of red trucks and of suspects," Nevada County Sheriff Keith Royal said Monday. "But we want to caution parents about the reports, which have been in different areas of the

ABDUCTION, A8

WEATHER

H: 73°
L: 47°
See full forecast, Page A9
Sunny

OBITUARIES

Margaret Grady
Page A5

VOLUME 148 ISSUE 288



3 sightless athletes swim from Alcatraz to SF

SAN FRANCISCO — Max Ashton had one goal before heading off to college: swim from Alcatraz Island to Aquatic Park in San Francisco. The blind, 17-year-old high school senior in Phoenix, Ariz., completed the trek on Sunday along with two other sightless swimmers.

Ashton tells the San Francisco Chronicle that he likes to show people that being sightless does not mean you must lose sight of your dreams.

He has already climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, crossed the Grand Canyon and thrown out the first pitch at a major league ball game.

Ashton was accompanied on the one-and-a-quarter mile swim by 24-year-old Tanner Robinson, who works in state government in Arizona, and 19-year-old Katie Cuppy, who is studying special education.

The three were accompanied by sighted swimmers as guides.

— Associated Press

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GREY
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translatable, invented text, reminiscent of symbols of religious art of a forgotten language.

"Secret writing is a nameless alphabet, not translatable in the typical sense but representing the essence of creativity as it manifests in the material world," said Allison Grey in a previous interview with The Union.

"I often ask viewers what they think my work means, and I find that their answers are usually correct."

The couple have traveled the world together, sharing their spirituality and artistic talents with

audiences. Wednesday's event in Grass Valley will also include a meet-and-greet and could feature the couple painting live together in a collaboration, they said.

"It is a mid-week, warm and friendly, come and get to know us after work in the early evening" kind of vibe at the Center for the Arts," the Greys said.

The pair are no strangers to painting before audiences or in groups. On one occasion, they painted live in Sao Paulo, Brazil, before 25,000 participants at a 20-hour party.

"Painting is our ministry. Doing it in front of people is a demonstration of flow, skill and will. The energy



ONLINE EXTRA
Scan this code with a smartphone or visit www.TheUnion.com for a video about the Greys.

of the audience becomes part of the creative energy field," said the Greys. "It also shows how easy and fun painting is, so it might encourage more people to pick up a brush or pencil."

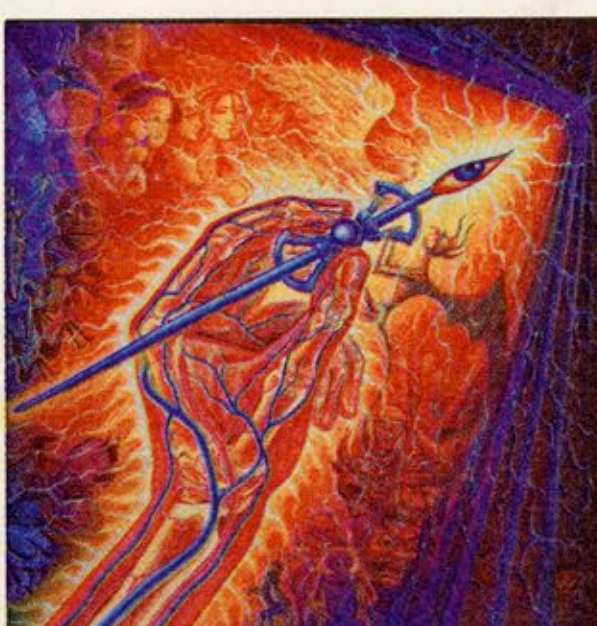
In addition to promoting and signing their most recent book, the couple are working toward the

construction of an art sanctuary at CoSM in New York's Hudson Valley called the Entheon, funded in part by a \$210,000 online, crowd-sourced Kickstarter campaign, according to the Greys.

"We will explain some of the symbolic elements of the building project and how we will meet the physical challenges of creating this structure to house visionary culture," the Greys said.

For more information about Wednesday's event, visit theCenterforthearts.org or call 530-274-8384.

To contact Staff Writer Christopher Rosacker, email rosacker@theunion.com or call 530-477-4236.



Alex Grey's "The Artist's Hand," painted in 1997, oil on wood, 16 x 16 in.

OBAMACARE

From page A1

\$94,000 are eligible to receive tax subsidies to help defray the cost of health insurance plans.

A misconception persists that the fiercely controversial piece of federal legislation is crafted solely to provide coverage to low-income households, Pollack said.

In actuality, people of any income can use the collective purchasing power of California's health marketplace to compare and shop for more affordable health insurance plans.

"It's expanded health care access," Pollack said.

"No matter what income, there is a cost-sharing ratio that benefits everybody."

However, a large piece of the program is providing health care coverage to residents without coverage.

Jeffrey Brown, director of Nevada County Health and Human Services Agency, said a study conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles found that about 12,000 residents (12 percent of the total population) are uninsured.

Of the 12,000, about 4,000 would qualify for Medi-Cal, the state

program that serves low-income families.

Another 4,000 would qualify for tax subsidies, with the remainder possessing relatively high annual incomes.

"The most important thing is to get uninsured people educated about their options," Brown said.

The enrollment period begins on Oct. 1 and runs through the end of

December.

People who sign up will have health insurance take effect on Jan. 1, 2014.

There is an extension on the enrollment period that runs through March of next year. If people are not enrolled by the expiration of that period, they will be forced to wait until the following year.

Brown said it is important for people to begin

to collect the necessary documents to enroll, which include a form of photo identification, a proof of residency, some tax documents to verify income and information regarding other members of the family, including Social Security numbers, birth dates, etc.

In 2014, people who remain uninsured will be assessed with a tax penalty, Brown said.

People will be charged 1 percent of their annual income in the first year of the law and 2 percent in following years, Brown said.

The health marketplace and extending health care access to low-income segments of the population represents one prong of a comprehensive law that also extends health insurance to people 26 and younger whose parents maintain coverage, removing lifetime limits on the value of coverage plans, prohibiting health insurance companies from refusing coverage based on pre-existing conditions and from rescinding coverage unless there is a case of fraud.

— Nicole Pollack
Nevada County director of social services

To contact Staff Writer Matthew Renda, email mrenda@theunion.com or call 530-477-4239.

ENROLL

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enrollment process are encouraged to visit Nevada County Social Services at 950 Maidu Ave.

Other websites that can address general concerns or questions about the programs include www.21necadcounty.com and www.c4yourself.com.

Dialing 211 will connect residents to an informational hotline related to implementation of the Health Insurance Marketplace.

People can also call Nevada County Social Services at 530-265-1340.

In a few weeks, Miners Family Health Center and the Partners Family Resource centers in Grass Valley, Ready Springs and North San Juan will be certified to handle questions and concerns and assist with the enrollment process.

To contact Staff Writer Matthew Renda, email mrenda@theunion.com or call 530-477-4239.

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Join Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital and The Center for the Arts as they present author and inspirational speaker, Renee Rongen, as part of its *Laughter is the Best Medicine* series. Come hear what Renee has to say about the universal substance of women—a master storyteller rich in wit, wisdom and honesty!
Event tickets include a boxed lunch for a minimum donation of \$30/per ticket. Additional donations will benefit SNMH's **Women's Imaging Center** cancer programs. To purchase tickets, call CFTA at (530) 274-8384 or order online, at: www.theCenterforthearts.org.
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