

The Union

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Rotary Club of Grass Valley and Western Sierra Medical Clinic host Healthy Community Day Aug. 8

The Rotary Club of Grass Valley and Western Sierra Medical Clinic will hold a Healthy Community Day that focuses on immunizations and dental checkups at no charge for children.

The goal of the health event is to encourage community members, especially school-age children, to receive no charge health screenings and immunizations against potential life-threatening diseases such as measles and meningitis.

Healthy Community Day runs 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 8 at Western Sierra Medical Clinic, 844 Old Tunnel Road in Grass Valley. The half-day event is held just days before public school starts in the region.

Immunizations, dental checkups, and health fair booths, including car-seat safety information from the California Highway Patrol are part of the four-hour event. A free barbecue and carnival-type games will also be available.

The family-oriented event includes a free raffle for those who complete their immunizations and dental checkup. Numerous raffle gifts are available, including two mountain bikes, helmets and movie tickets.

Vaccinations will be available at no charge to residents of Nevada, Sierra and Yuba counties who have no insurance coverage or high co-pays or deductibles. No fees will be collected for co-pays and participants will be asked to complete paperwork so insurance companies can be billed or state-provided vaccine administered. Parents need to be present and/or send written permission for children to be vaccinated. They also need to bring their insurance card and child's immunization record.

Nevada County has one of the lowest immunization rates in California, with only 73 percent of residents current on their vaccines — much lower than the statewide average of 90 percent. Roughly 30,000 residents, including many school-age children, are running the risk of getting and spreading numerous diseases, including measles, meningitis, mumps, rubella and whooping cough.

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools is a partner of Healthy Community Day and Nevada County Public Health and other organizations will have educational booths.

For more information, visit Western Sierra Medical Clinic at <http://www.wsmcmed.org>.