

Area veterans, community leaders and volunteers work side-by-side, share meal

Wolf Pack Veterans lead community clean-up, host barbecue at Mayors Park Saturday, Sept. 26

RENO, Nev. – The University of Nevada, Reno’s Wolf Pack Veterans community clean up takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mayors Park near Stead on Saturday, Sept. 26. A barbecue for volunteers will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The clean-up effort is being led by Ryan Gerchman, a University communications major minoring in addiction services, who also served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

“We are veterans who want to continue being of service to our community,” Gerchman said. “Together with Job Corps and University students, I feel we can create a more empathetic community, encourage Job Corps residents to continue to make positive life decisions, clean up our neighborhood and sit down together for a meal.”

Gerchman, a member of the Wolf Pack Veterans, said the project is intended to build a bridge between Stead community residents, students residing at the Sierra Nevada Job Corps Campus and area veterans who share in the use of Mayors Park.

“This is becoming even bigger than I had first hoped,” Gerchman said. “I always think big, and when I began planning this I knew I would need big help. I’m humbled by the level of support this project has received so far.”

WHAT: Media are invited to join with and interview community leaders, members of the Washoe County Sheriff’s department, veterans and volunteers from the local area for the Veteran-Led Stead Clean-Up and Barbecue at Mayors Park, organized by the University’s Wolf Pack Veterans.

WHO: Media are invited to meet and greet, interview, video and photograph area veterans, Washoe County Sheriff Chuck Allen, District 5 Commissioner Jean Hermon, Ryan Gerchman of the Wolf Pack Veterans, and other community veterans’ group leadership, community volunteers.

WHEN: Clean-up activities run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., with the volunteer barbecue provided between 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015.

WHERE: Mayors Park, 14198 Stead Blvd., Reno

MEDIA PARKING: Clearly marked news vehicles or those with media passes may park at the Dorothy McAlinden Park pavilion, directly off Stead Blvd.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In partnership with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Veteran Community Initiative and Concerned Veterans for America, a number of community organizations are offering their support for the initiative including Nevada’s Veterans Services Office, the Engage Veteran Professionals Network, the University’s Center for Student Engagement, Truckee Meadows Community College Student Government, Washoe County Sheriff Chuck Allen, District 5 Commissioner Jean Hermon, Sierra Nevada Job Corps, Education Alliance of Washoe County and the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership.

“The support that we have received from Commissioner Herman, Sheriff Allen, Concerned Veterans of America, KTMB, and The Center of Student Engagement at the University is tremendous,” Gerchman said. “We as veterans continue to serve, and I really envision the University helping lead the way to a better tomorrow.”

Information can be found at <https://veterancommunityinitiative.wordpress.com/>. Volunteers are encouraged to bring water, work gloves and sunscreen to the clean-up.

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Nevada's land-grant university founded in 1874, the University of Nevada, Reno ranks in the top tier of best national universities by U.S. News and World Report and is steadily growing in enrollment, excellence and reputation. The University serves nearly 21,000 students. Part of the Nevada System of Higher Education, the University is home to the University of Nevada School of Medicine, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Wolf Pack Athletics. Through a commitment to world-improving research, student success and outreach benefiting the communities and businesses of Nevada, the University has impact across the state and around the world. For more information, visit www.unr.edu.

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