



TMCC GRADUATES

For a complete list of graduates, and the text of the speech by Regents Scholar Lisa Hoffman-Davis, who sent the Class of 2012 into the future with a rousing and inspirational message, see **pages 6-7C**

MASTER GARDENER

Plant project fights invasive weeds

By Susan Donaldson
University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

For more than a decade, the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group has been working to find and control invasive weeds in the basin. Success depends upon establishing thriving competitive vegetation that excludes the weeds. In large part, this means focusing on restoring native plant communities.

Native plants have a lot of benefits. Because they are well-adapted to the specific area, they require little maintenance and have fewer pest issues. They consume less water and require less fertilizer and pesticides. Native plant roots often do a better job of holding the soil in place, reducing the amount of erosion into the lake. Some native plants stay greener longer, helping to slow down the spread of wildfires. The plants provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, and their flowers attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Best of all, they provide the appearance and sense of place we associate with Tahoe.

But when we have a large natural disaster, such as a wildfire, or when we control infestations of invasive plants, where do we get supplies of native plants for use in revegetation efforts? This stumbling block is being reduced by a collaborative project between Rena Escobedo of the U.S. Forest Service and teacher Jamie Greenough of South Tahoe High School.

The high school has a greenhouse available for growing native plants. In 2011, Escobedo obtained a small amount of funding from USFS Region 5 to collect seeds and propagate the native plants for use in revegetation projects. The students began growing several native species, including woolly mule's ear, broadleaf lupine, yarrow and sulfur buckwheat, in the greenhouse. The plants were intended to be used at a site close to the school to get vegetation established after weed control efforts, and at a wildfire rehabilitation site.

The young plants were moved outdoors for the summer season before school ended in late June last year. Unfortunately, vandals destroyed the plants before they could be used in fall restoration projects, so the students have started more plants in the greenhouse. With the new supply of seed they've received, they're now able to grow as many as 53 plant species, from grasses to flowers to shrubs.

In the event that there

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FOCUS ON: HOME AND GARDEN

Mini pinwheels add a whimsical touch to your table.

Red, white and blue style

Let the palette reign for Memorial Day

By Laura Longero
llongero@rgj.com

Memorial Day weekend heralds the arrival of the season of entertaining. Northern Nevadans stop thinking about blustery spring storms and start thinking about summer barbecues and picnics. Memorial Day is the perfect time to hold a backyard cookout to honor the arrival, finally, of summer.

The menu need not be fancy. Let grill master of the house cook burgers and bratwurst and serve them alongside items that are easy to prepare in advance. Think fruit salad with mint, grandma's potato salad, chocolate chip cookies and grilled vegetable skewers. Ask guests to bring beer or appetizers —

fresh items like crudites with hummus, cocktail shrimp and deviled eggs — to create less work for yourself.

But above all, set a festive party atmosphere. Here are some fun and practical items for your Memorial Day cookout:

» **Be creative with place settings.** Try plastic plateware. Plastic plates are easy to throw away and are mess-free, but they have quite a carbon footprint. Instead, Target sells red plastic plates that look like glass without the heft for \$1.99. Also, go for reusable and compostable utensils, which are \$3.99 for a set (each set contains eight forks, eight spoons and eight knives) at Cost Plus

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A flatware caddy, like this one from Michaels, is handy for carrying and organizing flatware for a party. PHOTOS BY LIZ MARGERUM/RGJ



Lanterns provide light — and charm — for your party.



Flowers are the perfect centerpiece for any party, even a cookout.



This metal ice bucket is a cute way to keep drinks cold — just add ice!

Set the table with burlap-inspired place mats, red plastic plates and bandanas with country charm.

3 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

MAY ARBORETUM PLANT SALE

The annual May Arboretum Society plant sale will run from 8 a.m. to noon June 2 at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, 1595 N. Sierra St.

Arrive early; the plants typically sell out well before noon. The sale features a variety of native and ornamental plants, vegetables and trees that are adapted to the local climate. The proceeds are used to help fund projects in the arboretum. Admission to the sale is free.

Details: 775-785-4153 or www.mayarboretumsociety.org.

CITY OF RENO PLANT SALE

More than 5,000 plants will be available for sale at the city of Reno greenhouse on Saturday, including heirloom tomatoes, herbs, vegetables, flowers trailing petunias, perennials and hang-

ing baskets. All pots and six-packs are \$1. The sale will start at 7:30 a.m. today at 190 Telegraph St. The proceeds benefit Reno Municipal Rose Garden. Cost: Free admission.

Details: Dianne at 775-224-1680 or stortz-lintzd@reno.gov.

MASTER GARDENER PLANT FAIR

Looking for heirloom varieties of vegetables for your garden this year? Don't miss the annual Master Gardener Plant Faire from 7 to 11:30 a.m. today at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 4955 Energy Way.

Master Gardener volunteers begin growing a wide variety of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, grasses, shrubs, grapes and more in February in a greenhouse on the UNR campus. The volunteers research plants that are suitable for our soils and microclimates.

Because the plants are well-adapted, they're in great demand and often sell out quickly, with people waiting in line at 7 a.m. for the best selection.

Details: University of Nevada Cooperative Extension at mastergardeners@unce.unr.edu or 775-336-0265.



Kai Fenkell helps his grandmother, Gail Fenkell of Reno, pick out plants at a previous year's Master Gardener plant sale. RGJ FILE

Style

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World Market. For napkins, use blue and white bandanas held together with a basket weave napkin ring (\$2.99 at Cost Plus). A 12-pack of paisley-patterned bandanas is \$11.97 at Amazon.com (individual bandanas are \$1.79 at Michaels). For glassware, consider reusable Mason jars (which can be used later for making preserves) or plastic tumblers. Cost Plus has a variety of plastic drinkware — a pint glass for \$2.99 and a wineglass for \$3.99. They also can be used at the pool, beach or on a picnic.

» **Deploy a metal ice bucket for drinks.** Target has these ranging in size and price — a smaller white one is whimsical for \$14.99, but the larger metal ones are costlier. This is a cute way to display beers and chilled wine while keeping them cold — put it front-and-center on a patio table and no one will be asking you where the cooler is.

» **Provide plenty of children's games.** Keep your pint-sized guests entertained with an assortment of Frisbees, paddleball sets, pinwheels and sidewalk chalk — just keep the ball games away from the food and cocktails. For adults and older children, set up a game of croquet or horseshoes in the backyard. Prices vary.

» **For ambience, try assorted lanterns.** A few lanterns placed on your outdoor dining table will go a long way in providing atmosphere once the sun goes down. And lighting is key at outdoor dinner parties — if you forget the lights, people will be eating in the dark. Place a pillar candle (or safer LED candle if your guests will include rowdy children or adults) inside and voilà — instant atmosphere. For a soft, cozy glow, string decorative string lights housed in small white paper lanterns above your table. Each set comes with 10 lights and is \$16 at Pier 1 Imports. Red lanterns are \$10 and pillar candles are \$5 to \$6

PARTY-PLANNING TIPS

» Set the food and drinks on tables near the kitchen so they can be easily replenished.

» Provide guests with extra napkins or sheets of waxed paper to wrap their sandwiches or burgers, to guard against drips.

» Set the table in the morning.

» Get nonperishable shopping done a week before the event.

» Enlist a friend to help to answer the door and organize dishes.

» Buy more liquor or beer than you think you'll need.

» Keep a small, home-size fire extinguisher and know where it is.

Sources: Williams-Sonoma's "Easy Entertaining" and "The Art of the Cocktail Party" by Leslie Brenner.

at Pier 1 Imports.

» **Add a touch of whimsy with pinwheel picks.** For Memorial Day (and the Fourth of July), envision everything in festive red, white and blue. These fun mini pinwheels come in a set of 18 in red, blue and silver. What says summer better than a pinwheel? Use them to make cantaloupe wrapped in prosciutto or as decorations atop fluffy white cupcakes. \$2.95 at Pier 1 Imports.

» **Display fresh flowers.** Flowers displayed in a lovely vase are the easiest centerpiece for any occasion. Just make sure they fit in with your theme — a display of assorted white flowers or blue hydrangea would be lovely. They also need to be cut so they don't tower over the table and obstruct the view of your guests sitting across the table. Whole Foods always has a great selection of fresh flowers that last about a week. Cost varies.

» **Have fun with a patriotic garland.** Michaels crafts store has a Memorial Day setup, and though some of the items trend too crafty for my taste, the store does have a red, white and blue cloth garland. It's made

from red, white, blue and gingham-checked ribbons tied together. It would add a patriotic touch to any party — drape it over the doorway or snake it along your dining room table. \$12.99 at Michaels.

» **A flatware caddy does the work for you.** This is a handy way to haul out the flatware in one trip and keep the forks, knives and spoons separated for your guests. Plus, the fun red color is perfect for Memorial Day — and Fourth of July in a couple of months. \$12.99 at Michaels.

» **Don festive attire.** What would a party be without donning the ol' red, white and blue? Have fun, but don't go overboard or you risk looking like Old Glory. Red-and-white-checked Mia espadrilles are \$29.99 at Marshalls and are cute enough to wear all summer.

LOCAL MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY ON THE HISTORIC V&T RAILROAD:

Families may ride the historic Virginia & Truckee train steam locomotive No. 25. Train rides last about 30 minutes, departing from and returning to the Wabuska Depot. Tickets are valid for day of purchase only and include unlimited train rides, access to the Museum

Interpretive Center, annex exhibits and handcar rides. When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 26-28. Where: Nevada State Railroad Museum, 2180 S. Carson St., Carson City. Cost: \$11 adults, \$5 youth 12-17, \$3 children 3 and younger. Details: 775-687-6953 or www.NevadaCulture.org.

MEMORIAL DAY EVENT: Hosted by the Fleet Reserve

Association Branch and Unit 274; includes an honor guard, guest speaker and placing a wreath in the river to commemorate our sailors, Marines and Coast Guard. There will be a cookout after the ceremony. When: Noon to 4 p.m. May 27. Where: Rock Park, 1515 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks. Cost: Free. Details: Danny at 775-626-6869.

MEMORIAL DAY EVENT: The ceremony features the American Legion Post No. 1, the American Legion Riders Chapter 1, the Sons of the American Legion Squadron No. 1 and the Boy Scouts of America Troop No. 1. When: 9-10 a.m. May 28. Where: The Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery on Angel Street. Cost: Free. Details: Danny at 775-626-6869.

The Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company Presents

PAJAMA GAME





The battles between labor and management make for great entertainment, as the workers of a pajama factory fight for a 7 1/2 cent raise. From *Steam Heat to Hernando's Hiway*, this is a "bright, brassy and jubilantly sassy" show!

May 18, 19 - 7:30 p.m. May 19, 20 - 2 p.m.
Carson City Community Center

Tickets available online at www.wnmtc.com or call 775-445-4249

Celebrate your special occasion! (775) 348-7355

GRADUATION


We Celebrate Tyler Evan Ames, DMD

Tyler Ames became a Doctor of Dental Medicine on May 12, 2012. Tyler's accomplishments these past 4 years are defined by graduating in the top third of his class and receiving impressive faculty recommendations. He contributed to the Las Vegas community by volunteering in the Homeless Clinic and Managing the Children's Clinic.

He also spent a week in Ecuador assisting the less fortunate. We wish him well in his first career assignment at McGuire V.A. Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia.

Your Reno family and friends will miss you.

Pamela, Vincent, Diana and Michael Ames



Deidre,

We are so proud of you and your accomplishment with graduating from the College of Engineering at UNR.

Congratulations! Love, Mom, Dad & Travis



Provide diversions for your pint-sized guests — think patriotic pinwheels, paddleball sets, sidewalk chalk and Frisbees. LIZ MARGERUM/RGJ

Gardener

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are more plants than can be used in revegetation projects, the excess will be donated to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District for use in the Backyard Habitat Program.

The students also use the greenhouse to grow fresh vegetables. As an incentive, there's a reward for the best and biggest produce. As part of the contest and to provide science enrichment, the students learn about plant growth and what it takes to produce healthy food. Nothing goes to waste, as the students eat the produce.

Sounds like a winning project, doesn't it? Unfortunately, there's no more grant funding for

the project, and the biggest barrier to continuing the work is funds for supplies such as pots and soil, and a way to sustain the plants during the summer months when school is closed. A project to develop a Master Gardener program in South Lake Tahoe may provide a vehicle for summer maintenance, but supplies are still needed. If you have materials to donate, contact Rena Escobedo at 530-543-2733.

Have a question for a Master Gardener? Contact the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension at mastergardeners@unce.unr.edu or call 775-336-0265.

Susan Donaldson is the water quality education specialist for the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

GRADUATION



Congratulations

Jessica Ashley Lamb on your graduation from UNR with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health Sciences!

We are so proud of you! Happy 22nd Birthday today too!! Love, Mom, Dad and your entire family!



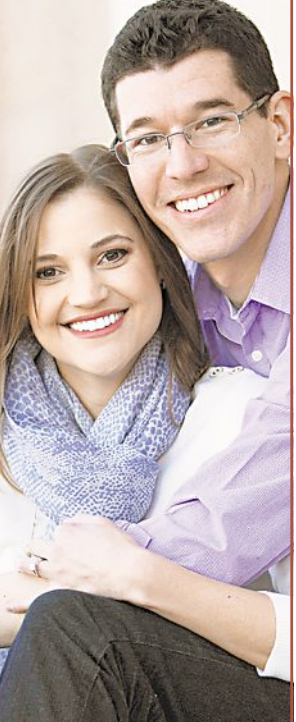
Congratulations!

With great pride we announce the graduation of our daughter, Ashley Slusher from the University of Nevada Reno.

Ashley has earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and a second Degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Plus, a Minor in Psychology. She begins her Masters classes this summer.

Ashley, you amaze and delight us with your talent and generous spirit. We LOVE you!!!

ENGAGEMENT




Abrass-Hauser

Dr. Gary & Elaine Abrass of Reno and Mr. Rick & Nella Hauser of Newbury Park, California are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children Leah and William. They met and graduated together at UCLA.

Leah, a first year resident in ENT at University of Colorado, Denver, received her Doctor of Medicine from Northwestern University of Chicago.

Will, a high school English teacher, received his Masters in Education from University of Illinois at Chicago.

They will live in Denver for at least four more years. A Reno wedding is set for this August. Congratulations!



Happy Birthday Lisa Lynn Miceli

May 18th, 1978

WE MISS YOU!

Love, Your Family & Friends