Bently Ranch gift to help Wolf Pack Meats expansion

Bently Ranch has made a $150,000 gift to help Wolf Pack Meats expand its services to small ranches in Nevada and California.

Wolf Pack Meats, a leading research, education and extension facility of the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station, USDA-endorsed Wolf Pack Meats serves local ranches and enables students to receive first-hand experience in all aspects of meat processing, from production to retail distribution.

The gift from Bently Ranch, which utilizes Wolf Pack Meats monthly to process and dry age its beef, will provide additional cooler space at the Reno facility and help upgrade holding pens and livestock chutes to allow a more efficient flow of animals into the facility. The expansion will also increase the facility’s capacity to train students in the meat industry and conduct research in meat science.

“We would like to see the Wolf Pack Meats facility grow and expand in its ability to serve and perform as a learning platform,” says Bently Ranch owner Christopher Bently. “The busy facility not only provides a top-notch service to the Nevada agricultural community, but is a vital resource for local businesses.”

Wells Fargo supports first generation students

The Wells Fargo First Generation Scholarship Luncheon Nov. 5 honored 21 scholarship recipients who represent the first generation of their families to attend college. The students receive an annual award of $3,500 each of their four years of college. Since 1988, Wells Fargo Bank has provided more than $1 million in support of Nevada students.

Wolf Pack Meats is currently at maximum storage and cooler capacity. The facility’s harvest calendar typically takes three months to fill, but the calendar for 2014 filled in three days.

“Adding capacity to meet the needs of the ranching community is vital to our mandate as part of a land grant university, our ability to serve the needs of the meat industry and to regional economic development,” says Mike Holcomb, general manager of Wolf Pack Meats.

Karl Baker, owner of Baker Ranch 38 miles north of Reno, says Wolf Pack Meats is “absolutely critical” to the small rancher. “It’s the only USDA facility in the area where we can both harvest and process our steers for marketing to the Nevada consumer,” Baker says.

To learn more about supporting Wolf Pack Meats and the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, please contact Ralph Phillips, director of development, (775) 784-4390 or rphillips@unr.edu.
Local dentist gives back to hometown, alma mater

Longtime Reno dentist Peter Di Grazia ’64 (pre-dental) and his wife, Sue, have established two scholarship endowments at the University of Nevada, Reno in appreciation for Di Grazia’s Nevada hometown, alma mater and medical profession.

The Di Grazia Family University Scholarship Endowment will give preference to undergraduate students who graduated from Battle Mountain High School in Battle Mountain, Nev., where Di Grazia was born. The Di Grazia Family Scholarship Endowment for Health Sciences, to be funded through a future planned gift, will benefit students pursuing an undergraduate degree in community health sciences and interested in a professional degree in dentistry or medicine.

“We are very grateful for all of the mentors and close classmates I had at the University and at Lander County High School,” Di Grazia says.

Di Grazia, a second-generation Nevadan, was born in Battle Mountain, Nev., in 1939. At the University, Pete joined the ATO fraternity, the track team and the freshman basketball team coached by Jake Lawlor. After completing his pre-dental studies at Nevada, he attended the University of Oregon Dental School, where he met Sue. The couple married in Battle Mountain in 1965. Upon graduation, Pete joined the Army Dental Corps as a captain and the Di Grazias moved to Fort Lewis, Wash., for two years during the Vietnam War.

The couple returned to Reno in 1968 and Di Grazia opened his dental practice. Nevada Gov. Mike O’Callaghan asked him to serve on the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners. Di Grazia was the youngest person to ever have served on the board and ultimately became its president. He was also the youngest president of the American Association of Dental Examiners.

To learn more about planned giving opportunities at Nevada, please contact Lisa M. Riley, Esq., director of the Office of Planned Giving, (775) 682-6017 or lriley@unr.edu.

IGT backs the Pack in 2014

International Game Technology (IGT) has championed students at University of Nevada, Reno for more than 20 years. The company continued its generosity in 2014 with gifts to the IGT scholarships in business and computer science, the IGT Peter Dickinson Memorial Fellowship in Engineering, as well as projects and programs across the campus.

“IGT is committed to the local communities where it does business,” says Chrissy Menicucci ’86 (criminal justice), IGT’s manager of corporate social responsibility. “IGT also encourages employees to be active volunteers and participate in community service projects.”