

Distillery brings spirits to Sisters

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Craft distilling of liquor has become a nationwide culinary trend similar to the proliferation of craft breweries, with people sampling new and interesting examples of vodka, gin, and whiskey.

Now Sisters is on the distilling map with the arrival of Cascade Street Distillery.

Brother-and-sister team Nick and Katie Beasley have opened the Cascade Street Distillery tasting room at 261 W. Cascade Ave. in downtown Sisters. They are offering a taste (or a bottle) of North Sister Vodka and will soon offer South Sister Gin. Broken Top Bourbon will be on its way in October.

The Beaseleys are renting equipment through Bendistillery for now as they work on securing an industrial-park-area facility for their distilling.

Their small-batch, hand-made spirits offer exceptional ingredients and care.

“We use a GMO-free corn,” Nick explained. “We distill it six times, and filter it six times and we use water from here — which is some of the best in the world.”

In the case of the vodka, that means a vodka taste with an aftertaste that dissipates instantly.

Locals and visitors alike are enjoying the well-appointed tasting room, with all locally sourced fixtures (including a bar made by Earthwood Homes) and reasonably priced drinks. Labels on the bottles feature landscapes by Sisters artist Dan Rickards.



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Katie and Nick Beasley are ready to offer Sisters a taste of spirits at the new Cascade Street Distillery tasting room.

“You’ve gotta get all three bottles on your shelf,” Nick said. “Then you have the Cascades skyline.”

The proprietor said, “I always recommend (customers) get a flight so they get a sample of everything.”

Katie noted that “we also like to explain the craft of all the liquors that are here. It’s kind of like a learning experience as well.”

Nick jumped into the liquor business when he was recruited as a brand manager while in college at Oregon State University. Katie’s background is in media communications.

Nick said he was attracted to the business because it is creative and adventurous.

“It’s fun; it’s new,” he said. “Beer industry is fun; the wine industry is fun — but there’s only so much you can do because the base is always going to be hops or grapes. With liquor, the possibilities are endless.”

The family handles all their own production, which means they work a lot. And they love it. Their goal is to be a landmark for Sisters.

Nick said they chose this town because — with distilleries springing up everywhere — Sisters was still open territory. Sisters is a tourist town, which they believe will help spread the word about their products. And the natural beauty, good water, and recreational opportunities were all attractive.

The brother-sister team is young and ambitious, helping to pioneer a new and dynamic field. So far, the naysayers have been silent, which they take as a sign that they’re on to something.

“When you go into business, people say ‘Why are you doing that?’” Nick reflected. “We haven’t had one person say that.”

For more information visit <http://cascadestreetdistillery.com>.

Oregon House passes bill on new marijuana industry

By Sheila V Kumar
Associated Press

SALEM (AP) — After months of negotiations and right before recreational pot becomes legal, Oregon House legislators passed a bill Wednesday, June 24, setting up the state’s legal marijuana market.

The measure creates regulations for medical and recreational marijuana, and includes a compromise allowing local jurisdictions to opt out of legalization. Members of a joint committee tasked with implementing Measure 91 had previously deadlocked on the issue of local control, and the measure stalled for weeks while lawmakers worked out an agreement.

Counties or cities that voted against Measure 91 can choose to bar sales of marijuana if at least 55 percent of their residents opposed the ballot measure in last year’s election. Other counties would have to put the issue of banning pot sales to a vote.

“I did not support Measure 91. I am voting for this bill because it allows local jurisdictions to prohibit the sale of this drug,” Rep. Bill Post, R-Keizer, said in a statement.

The bill also creates a tracking system for marijuana so officials can trace pot from seedling to retail sale in order to keep it out of the black market. The Oregon Health Authority would be in charge of creating and maintaining

a database tracking pot’s path to market, and the bill requires grow sites to register and submit information on the amount of marijuana processed and transferred every month.

“We want to help local businesses be successful in this legal market. We want to reduce illegal activity and transactions that are not in accordance with these laws. We want to keep kids and communities safe,” said Rep. Ann Lininger, a Democrat from Lake Oswego who carried the bill.

Additionally, the measure reduces penalties for some drug-related offenses. Geoff Sugerman, a lobbyist for Oregon Cannabis PAC, said it will bring the criminal statutes in line with the fact that marijuana is now legal. The measure, HB 3400, also will expunge many marijuana-related convictions, which will benefit tens of thousands of Oregonians, he said.

“The so-called war on drugs has devastated communities across this country. With the experience of Prohibition behind us, we should know better, but instead we fill prisons and break up families over this drug,” said Rep. Lew Frederick, a Portland Democrat.

Consumption of recreational pot becomes legal in Oregon on July 1.

The House approved the measure 52-4. It now heads to the Senate.

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UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Coffee and Donuts with Bob and the Boys | Sharing is important for everyone dealing with a loss. This special morning grief support group is designed for men only.
Friday, June 26, 9:30–10:30am.

Blood Drive | Be someone’s hero! Give blood and save lives with the American Red Cross Blood Drive at Partners In Care Bend. Friday, July 17, 9:30am–3:30pm.

Community Education Series: Special Needs Planning for Your Loved One | Featuring Mark Mintz, Senior Financial Advisor. No cost. A light lunch is provided. Friday, July 24, Noon–1:00pm. RSVP to lisamh@partnersbend.org or call (541) 382-5882.

All events held at Partners In Care, 2075 NE Wyatt Court, Bend.

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