

Donation helps outdoor degree program

A gift from Hydro Flask, a Bend-based company that designs and manufactures insulated stainless steel beverage and food flasks, will allow Oregon State University – Cascades to pursue the development of a bachelor's degree program focused on outdoor products.

The \$250,000 gift will support the hiring of an industry-experienced and senior faculty member to lead the development of the degree proposal. The individual will work with regional outdoor product companies to understand the skill-sets desired in future employees, develop the proposed curriculum, and guide the proposal through the university and state approval process.

When launched, the program would be one of the few in the country focused on outdoor products. University officials anticipate the program will launch following the two-year development period and the appropriate approvals.

"We are grateful to Hydro Flask for the innovation and local industry perspective they have brought to OSU-Cascades' academic planning," said Becky Johnson, vice president of the Bend campus. "Their generous commitment will help us align even better with Central

Oregon's dynamic economic landscape, and particularly the growing outdoor product industry."

Nearly 100 companies in the tri-county region manufacture and distribute recreation-related products, mostly for export outside of Central Oregon. Nationally, the outdoor products industry generates \$121 billion in spending each year.

"We are excited to give OSU-Cascades students an opportunity to contribute to the growing field of outdoor products, and in a region that appreciates the natural environment and the importance of outdoor recreation in people's lives," said Hydro Flask general manager Scott Allan.

The proposed outdoor products program will teach students how to apply creativity and innovation in order to identify and develop new products that serve outdoor recreation customers. Courses will take students from product idea to market, and include subjects such as branding, finance, product engineering and manufacturing, supply chain, and marketing.

Local industries will be involved in shaping hands-on learning experiences for students, including internships and senior year capstone projects.

Sisters songwriter releases CD

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Raman Ellis is one of Sisters' premier musicians. A multi-instrumentalist, singer and songwriter, Ellis recently released a new CD entitled "The Tides."

The recording features Ellis' musical compadres from Tumbleweed Peepshow, among others — local musicians who bring Ellis' vision to life: Brent Alan, Benji Nagel, Justin Veloso, Nick Patterson and Laurenne Ross.

"The development was just years of trying to get songs written," Ellis said of the genesis of his CD. "It was just a process of sorting through and deciding which songs were the strongest. I felt confident and good about all of them."

Ellis got his start as a standout member of the Americana Project, Sisters Folk Festival's music education outreach program. As it is for many artists, songwriting starts as a highly personal endeavor.

"At the core of it, it's really just a way ... of processing in life for me," he said. "It's a self-help tool to begin with, honestly."

Once the songs are brought into the world, they



PHOTO PROVIDED

are shared with everybody, and it moves "from a need to an enjoyment," he said.

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The Tides is available through iTunes and Spotify

and CD Baby — and at Tumbleweed Peepshow gigs.

"I want to have something to leave people with after we're done playing," he said.

He's working on making the CD available through local retailers.

Ellis funded the recording effort through a Kickstarter campaign, and he expressed gratitude toward all those in the community who have supported his music — through the Kickstarter and by coming to gigs.

"The whole environment is definitely conducive," he said.

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- Solid black
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- Missing fur on tail tip
- Clipped right ear
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- Microchipped
- Last seen Sat., July 2, at Bend Sisters Garden RV Park
- Not social with strangers, needs to be approached with love and care

Gina is from Damascus and needs to find her way home! If you can catch her, please take her to any animal humane center or veterinarian and have them call me directly.
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