Sculptures often are the product of creative minds that present the abstract as art form.

Or they commemorate great individuals, such as Rip Caswell’s recent tribute to U.S. Navy Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, which will be placed at Pearl Harbor.

Portland’s Julian Voss-Andreae, a German-born sculptor who studied quantum physics, turned to what he knows after being commissioned by Rutgers University.

He’s finishing a 20-foot, 3,200-pound polished stainless steel and colored sculpture called “Synergy,” based on the collagen molecule — the most abundant protein in humans. It’ll be formally unveiled at Rutgers in late September in front of the New Jersey university’s Center for Integrative Proteomics Research building and to honor its founding director, Dr. Helen M. Berman, who determined the first high-resolution, three-dimensional atomic structure of the collagen molecule.

Voss-Andreae, who studied mathematics and philosophy in Europe and pursued graduate research in quantum physics, created his first protein sculpture in 2001. He also created “Quantum Man” in 2007, a favorite at Maryhill Museum of Art in Goldendale, Wash.

On his current project, he says: “My goal (was) to create something beautiful and wonderful that works as ‘art’ for an audience even without scientific knowledge. This sculpture reflects some true aspects of nature, by echoing the structure of one of our own major building blocks.”

The sculpture will be shipped to Rutgers in about a week.

**Wailing souls ramble on**

Ron Rogers and the Wailing Wind kick off the band’s First Friday Happy Hour Sept. 6 with a taste of a music from its new CD. Rogers brings his distinctive voice and his Texas roadhouse ramble to the Landmark Saloon, 4847 S.E. Division St., from 6 to 8 p.m.

Expect to hear some new stuff from the band’s sixth CD, titled “Ron Rogers and the Wailing Wind.” It comes two years after the band released “Country and Eastern.” The same top local musicians are part of Rogers’ crew: Dave Grafe on the pedal steel guitar, Chris Bond on drums and blues veteran Don Campbell on the bass. Singer/songwriter Rogers’ newest 12-song collection was recorded in his home studio, analog-style, and will soon be released on Santa Monica, Calif.’s Civil Defense Music label.

The band has already shot a video for one of its new songs, “Haywire,” and is cranking up live shows to build up to the CD’s release.

“It’s all about storytelling to a cool beat and electric guitars,” Rogers says. “It’s about as much fun as you can have standing up.”

**Petite prize**

Jamie O’Neill of Portland has been crowned Mrs. USA Petite at the recent pageant in Kissimmee, Fla. She also received the “Photogenic” award.