

Local News

Local business joins Oregon trade delegation

VocalBooth founder heads to Japan, South Korea

BY MICHAEL KOHN
CO Media Group

VocalBooth, a Redmond-based company that produces studio-grade recording booths, is joining an Oregon trade delegation to Japan and South Korea.

Calvin Mann, who founded VocalBooth in 1997, is part of the delegation that includes representatives from food, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and apparel companies.

VocalBooth produces a variety of products for the voice recording industry, including booths for podcasting, animation voice recording, and music production. Oregon delegates will meet Korean and Japanese distributors and retailers, opening



Calvin Mann founded VocalBooth in 1997.

Bulletin file photo

doors for VocalBooth and other companies to enter new markets. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is lead-

ing the 12-day trip to Asia, which departed from Portland on Friday. "Oregon has strong relation-

ships in South Korea and Japan that have been built on decades of trade and the shared values of economic growth, environmental stewardship, and a desire for a better tomorrow," Brown said in a statement.

The trip marks Brown's first trade mission to Asia since 2019 and is timed to visit the region as it opens back up following the pandemic. A sign of reopening occurred on Tuesday when visa-free travel for U.S. citizen tourists re-started in Japan, according to a statement on the U.S. Embassy website.

South Korea and Japan are Oregon's fourth and sixth largest markets, respectively, for export goods overall, and two of the top markets for the state's agricultural exports, according to a release from the governor's office.

Oregon agricultural exports val-

ued at nearly \$600 million are exported to the two countries. The agricultural delegation includes the Oregon Blueberry Commission, the Oregon Wine Board, and the Oregon Grass Seed Commission.

Together, Japan and South Korea represent 11% of Oregon's \$29.9 billion global export market.

Joining Brown are representatives from Business Oregon, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Travel Oregon, the University of Oregon and the Port of Portland.

Brown is expected to lead several business development meetings, host women's leadership forums, and promote tourism to Oregon. The tour includes a visit to Toyama Prefecture, Oregon's sister state in Japan, located 220 miles northwest of Tokyo.

Reporter: 541-617-7818, mkohn@bendbulletin.com

Endicott wins award from League of Oregon Cities

By SPOKESMAN STAFF

Longtime Redmond mayor George Endicott received the prestigious Mark O. Hatfield Statesmanship Award from the League of Oregon Cities in Bend.

The award, which hasn't been given out since, 2017, is among the highest honors bestowed by the league.

A Central Oregon native, Endicott returned home after 40 years of federal service, first serving on the Redmond Planning Commission, then was elected to the city council in 2007. He was elected mayor in 2009 and has served seven consecutive terms. He is not running for re-election in No-

vember. According to the LOC, the Hatfield Award is presented to "a deserving politician who has provided a lasting benefit to the quality of life for the citizens of Oregon."

Past Hatfield Award winners have included Betsy Johnson, Greg Walden, former Oregon

Governor Neil Goldschmidt and, the award's namesake, former Oregon and U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield.

Hatfield became the youngest-ever Secretary of State in 1956 at the age of 34. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1966 and is the longest-serving senator in Oregon history.



Redmond mayor George Endicott receives an award from the League of Oregon Cities, presented by former Pendleton mayor Phil Houk.

Photo courtesy League of Oregon cities

BIG FOOT FLOORS

Carpet
Vinyl
Hardwood
Laminate

(541) 526-5543
1950 SW Badger Ave #102,
Redmond, OR 97756

Fisher's

RED ROCK
Meat Company LLC

541-416-0711

TOMAHAWK RIB OR TENDERLOIN STEAKS \$15.98 LB

SCAN TO VIEW OUR FACEBOOK!

GIVE A SCHMIDT

MORGAN
for
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
POSITION 3

VOTE BY NOV. 8

Strong leadership to help Deschutes thrive

MORGANLOVESOREGON.COM

Paid for by Morgan Loves Oregon #21655