

D & D mechanic gets national attention

CBS to tell story of Larry Woody, Otto Shima

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The Cottage Grove Sentinel

When I wrote about blind mechanic and owner of D&D Automotive Larry Woody and his deaf apprentice, Otto Shima, back on Feb. 21, I knew that it was a great story. I never imagined, however, that it would turn into a national story, but it has; over the weekend, CBS Evening News' Steve Hartman flew out from New York to interview Larry and Otto and do a story, which will air on CBS towards the end of the Evening News on Friday.

"It's a story about what's right about America," said Hartman, who spent most of Monday with Larry and Otto. "Not only is he overcoming his injury, he's also giving back."

CBS found out about Larry and Otto because Cottage Grove resident and long-time D&D customer Kathleen Albin saw the article in the Sentinel and sent it to CBS via email. She didn't expect to hear back.

Apparently Larry and Otto's story piqued somebody's interest at CBS, though, because the network announced that it was going to run the story as a brief, along with two others, that viewers could then vote on. The winner would become a feature story for Hartman's



photo by Joe Hansen

Larry Woody of D&D Automotive (left) is interviewed by CBS' Steve Hartman.

"Assignment America" series.

Larry and Otto won by a landslide.

"I was honored that anyone saw me and even thought enough of me to do this," said Larry after the interview. He also added, "I couldn't be here doing what I'm doing without the community behind me."

Larry might be honored, but he shouldn't be surprised. This story is special. In fact it's so special that it caught the eye of a reporter from

CBS Evening News.

Ever since this first happened, people keep asking me if I'm excited about the fact that CBS picked up on my story. I suppose I am excited, but truth be told, it's not my story at all. It's Larry's story, and Otto's. I'm just glad they're getting the recognition they deserve.

The show starts at 5:30 p.m. this Friday. Larry and Otto's segment will likely come on around 5:50.