



Jerry Bryan, of Otter Creek Transportation. (Photo by IVCDO)

Otter Creek Transportation got rollin' with help from an IVCDO micro loan

For more than six years, Jerry Bryan and Amy Machado have been working diligently to make their business dream, Otter Creek Transportation, come true.

As Jerry relates, "In November 1999, we had a dream of starting a non-emergency medical transportation business in the Illinois Valley. We felt we had the experience and background to make the business a success; however, we were not in a position to borrow conventional start-up funds.

"We read about the IVCDO Micro Loan Program and applied. The process was smooth and efficient, with the loan packet material offered by the CDO, and the loan committee provided further insight and information that helped us plan our business and expansion.

"We were approved for our start-up funds in May 2000, and Otter Creek Transportation became a reality. We opened our doors in June, with me driving full-time and Amy doing the books and billing.

"Our initial plan was

that Amy would start driving part time in June 2001. However, Otter Creek grew quickly, and Amy left her part-time job in October 2000 to become a second driver."

During 2002, Otter Creek experienced phenomenal growth, with five employees, two owner-drivers and seven vehicles.

"During 2003, due to state budget cuts, we experienced some cutbacks, and opted to start High Country Shuttle in partnership with Roy and Ellen Hager," said Jerry. "To keep our employees working, we also established Caveman Cab in Grants Pass.

"We quickly realized we had far too much on our plate, so we sold our interest in High Country Shuttle to the Hagers, and Caveman Cab to Edward Tangeman.

"In essence, the original micro loan put seven people to work and grew to three businesses.

"In 2004, we again approached the IVCDO loan program to fund the repair or replacement of several aging vehicles, and were approved with funding for

our needs.

"With a strong, growing business, we found ourselves in a position where we could buy our own home (another long-time dream for both of us), and we have permanently located in the Illinois Valley.

"Without the financial and long-term support of the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization and the Micro Loan Program, we would not have realized our dreams of starting our own business and buying our own home. We wholeheartedly support the IVCDO and hope that they continue their programs to facilitate future businesses in the Illinois Valley."

If you would like to discuss business ideas, plans, problems or capital needs, contact the IVCDO office at 592-4440, or e-mail to billm@ivcdo.org. Check our free business counseling, and our Revolving Loan Fund, which is flexibly geared to small business start-ups and expansions. "We CAN Help!"

Weeds in seeds sprout unwanted breeds

Planting desirable grasses and other vegetation is a key strategy in restoring habitat for salmon and other threatened or endangered species in Oregon.

But it will do no good if what is planted is infested with weed seeds. The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) is using education as a means to ensure that the right kind of seeds go into the ground this spring.

"We definitely believe in the importance of habitat restoration projects on agricultural and nonagricultural lands," said ODA Director Katy Coba. "We just need to make sure that efforts are not compromised by the introduction of weeds in those sensitive areas."

From the 2-acre land

owner, who plants from a 20-pound bag of seed, to a federal agency land manager responsible for thousands of acres that may buy seed by the ton, using clean, weed-free seed is critical to repairing the land.

"We have some major weeds out there right now, and don't need anymore from the planting of seeds," said Tim Butler, manager of ODA's Weed Control Program. Yellow star thistle, knapweed, and white top are examples of the kinds of weeds that can turn a restoration project sour.

"Habitat restoration projects are designed to get a desirable species to establish in a sensitive area," said Butler. "Grasses you are trying to establish have a fibrous root

system that holds the soil together and prevents erosion. But if something undesirable like knapweed gets a hold, it can dominate the site with a tap-root system that doesn't hold the soil and can increase siltation in nearby streams."

Oregon's past and present history offers examples of unintended consequences of seed plantings that inadvertently included weeds.

In the late 1980s, to prevent erosion, the U.S. Forest Service used aircraft to drop grass seed on thousands of acres destroyed by fire in Northeast Oregon. Unfortunately, that seed was contaminated with yellow star thistle. The weed spread like a biological wildfire itself and became an expensive problem to deal with.

CJ Municipal Court continues collecting fines

Nearly \$8,000 has been collected by the city of Cave Junction Municipal Court from July 1, 2005 through January 2006.

The \$7,862 total is comprised of \$4,562 in traffic

fines, and \$3,300 in motor vehicle impound fees.

During January there were nine defendants on the docket with 13 offenses.

Four persons were found guilty through default by not

appearing; four pleaded guilty or no contest, and an extension was granted one person.

Five citations also were included during January.

Spirits high

Fueled by customer interest in top-end vodkas, Scotches and other premium beverages, sales of distilled spirits in Oregon and across the country continue to climb, keeping with the trend that began in 2000, reports the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

According to industry statistics, nationwide sales of spirits increased 7.5 percent to \$16.3 billion during 2005, up from 28.7 percent during 2000.

Per capita consumption of distilled spirits in Oregon continues to rise, but is still down from a high of 1.92 gallons in 1979. In 1995, the per capita rate had dropped to 1.21 gallons, but by 2003, it had risen to 1.34 gallons.

Meanwhile, Oregon's estimated 2005 per capita consumption rate for beer was 22.5 gallons, and wine, 2.8 gallons.

Unclean teeth link noted to heart disease

According to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of people in the United States.

To urge Americans to join the battle against heart disease, February was "American Heart Month."

Oral bacteria have been associated with heart disease, according to the American Dental Association.

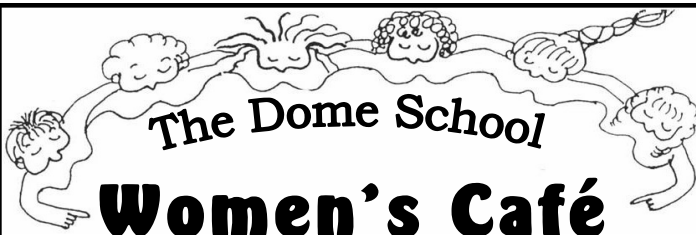
Because of this, some dentists suggest that using an electric toothbrush eliminates the human error aspect of brushing by cleaning all six surfaces of the teeth simultaneously.

(NewsUSA)

DARN NEAR EVERYTHING IS BACK TO REGULAR HOURS!!

**WE'VE BEEN SHOPPING!!
COME SEE ALL THE GOODIES!!**

**136 S. Redwood Hwy.
541-592-5255
www.darn-near-everything.com**



A Fine & Performing Arts Show

Saturday, March 11

5 to 7 p.m. - Art Show
7 to 10 p.m. - Performances

Admission is on a sliding scale: \$8 - \$15
Dinner & desserts are sold separately from 5-7 p.m.

All are welcome but young children are discouraged.

Info: Dome School - 592-3911

9367 Takilma Rd., Cave Junction

Country Breakfast

I.V. Senior Center

520 E. River St.

**Saturday, March 4
8 to 11 a.m.**

* Biscuits & Gravy * Pancakes
* Eggs * Bacon * Sausage
* Coffee, Milk, Juice



Adults - \$5
Children 12
& under - \$2.50

11TH ANNUAL MARCH ON HUNGER



"...BECAUSE NO ONE SHOULD BE HUNGRY"

DAY: Saturday, March 4

TIME: 11:30

**WHERE: 5th & "A" Streets, Grants Pass
(parking lot)**

**ROUTE: 6th & "A" Streets to the River
Rock Café parking lot**

WHAT: Walk (skip, dance, skate, etc.)

WHY: This parade is the kick-off for the entire month of March, which is "Hunger Awareness Month".

During March, the Josephine County Food Bank seeks to raise food and funds donations as well as awareness about the hungry people living right here in our own community.

"Hunger has a face...our neighbor's"

Josephine Community Transit will provide free transportation at the end of the parade back to 5th & "A" Streets.

YES!!! I WANT TO HELP FIGHT HUNGER.

Enclosed is my gift of

☐ \$25
☐ \$50
☐ \$100
☐ \$500
☐ \$1,000
☐ Other _____

JOSEPHINE COUNTY FOOD BANK

1470 SE "M" Street, Suite 1-C, Grants Pass OR 97526

Phone: (541) 479-5556 FAX: (541) 476-6268 E-mail: gayle.daniel@ucancap.org

IVCDO Meeting Schedule

Making Things Happen!
March, 2006

Day	Date	Meeting	Time	Location
Thur	3/2	Workshop Meeting	7:00-9:00 PM	County Bldg
Tues	3/7	Executive Comm.	5:30-6:30 PM	IVCDO Office
Wed	3/8	Operational Oversight & Projects & Programs	5:30-6:30 PM	IVCDO Office
Thur	3/16	General Membership	7:00-8:30 PM	County Bldg
Mon	3/20	Community Relations	5:00-6:00	IVCDO Office

Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars.