



COUGAR GIRLS IN SQUEEKER - It was a 3-2 softball contest, with Hidden Valley the winner, in the Skyline Conference opening game in Cave Junction on Tuesday, April 4. The Mustangs took an early 3-0 lead and held on. I.V.'s Jessica Ragsdale had a single and a triple. IVHS girls also lost Thursday, April 6 to Rogue River, 3-2, 4-0 on the Chieftain field. Cougar boys

opened their baseball season with a 10-1 loss to Hidden Valley April 4. Rain canceled games scheduled for last Thursday, Saturday and Monday, April 6, 8 and 10. The boys were to play North Valley on its field Tuesday, April 11; and against Rogue River at RR Wednesday the 12th, as the I.V. field is temporarily 'a duck pond.' (Photo by Dale Sandberg)

Oregon agriculture notches record \$4 billion year

Oregon farmers and ranches enjoyed a record-breaking year during 2005, generating more than \$4 billion in product sales -- the highest annual agricultural earnings estimate recorded since the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service began compiling the data three decades ago.

Thirteen Oregon counties had more than \$100 million in farm sales, led by Marion, \$540; Clackamas, \$362; Washington, \$275; Umatilla, \$275; and Yamhill, \$264.

The 2005 sales of \$4.1 billion represent a 5 percent increase during the total recorded for 2004.

Ag sales for Josephine County last year totaled \$32 million.

"While breaking the \$4 billion mark is noteworthy, '05 can best be described as a good but not necessarily great year for Oregon agriculture," said Larry Burt, an OSU Extension economist and primary author and coordinator of the annual report.

"Price instability and market volatility depressed earnings in some sectors of the farm and ranch economy," he said. "On the other hand, several commodities enjoyed significant growth in value of sales in 2005."

Approximately 72 percent of the total earnings came from sales of crops, while 28 percent came from livestock sales, Burt said. This approximate 70/30 ratio has held steady in Oregon agriculture for the past several years, he added.

For the second straight year, cattle and calves were the state's number-one agricultural commodity in gross sales with a total value of \$619 million.

Nursery crops came in a close second with sales of \$618 million.

However, Burt pointed out that Oregon's ornamental crops taken as a whole -- including nursery, greenhouse crops and Christmas trees -- far exceeded all other agricultural commodities with 2005 earnings of \$878 million. This is some 2.6 percent above the 2004 level and more than 25 percent of the estimated statewide total for all commodities, he said.

Two agricultural commodities, poultry and other

animal products, made significant gains in sales during 2005.

"Poultry gross sales climbed 17 percent over year-earlier levels due in large part to increased value of broiler chicken sales of just over 28 percent," Burt said "In addition, chicken egg production statewide increased slightly from 2004 levels, and a 7

percent price improvement led to chicken egg value of sales improving to just over \$50 million, a 9 percent increase compared to 2004."

Other animal products -- excluding cattle, dairy and poultry -- also showed a gain of slightly more than 17 percent in sales from 2004 to 2005.

Worldwide, women buy clothing to feel better

When it comes to beauty, women around the world are surprisingly united.

That's what a recent survey found when it interviewed 20,000 women in 22 countries.

"While there are some interesting differences by geography and age, this fourth biannual survey reveals once again that women are overwhelmingly united in their views on beauty," said Debbie Eiser, vice president of global marketing research at Avon, which conducted the 2005 Global Women's Survey.

Survey participants were asked about such hot beauty topics as what they do to indulge themselves, what they do to combat the signs of aging and which skin-care products they use.

Eighty percent of women 15 to 24 said that they already were experiencing signs of aging. More than half said that they would reach for an appropriate skin care product -- preferable one combining natural herbs, medicinal plants and modern science's most advanced ingredients -- as soon as signs of aging emerged.

Respondents also reported that while appearance is important, cosmetic surgery is not a consideration for most women.

Shopping was listed as women's favorite indulgence, with 42 percent of

women around the world saying that when they want to do something special for themselves, they buy clothes. Other popular indulgences are having their hair done (30 percent), eating out (23 percent) and buying makeup (23 percent).

In Eastern/Central Europe, buying makeup and eating sweets is more popular.

The majority of women prefer healthier alternatives to protect how they look, with 93 percent of women globally saying that they put some effort into improving their appearances.

Where do women look the best for their ages? Japan is tops at 11 percent, with the United States and France tied at 10 percent, and Brazil at 9 percent.

What do women do when they notice signs of aging? In the United States, 71 percent of women prefer a combination of natural and scientifically advanced ingredients in their facial skin-care products.

Wrinkles and fine lines are the most-common signs of aging. Although awareness of cosmetic procedures is fairly high, it's not the first course of action in the "race against time." Globally, 95 percent of women say that they have had no cosmetic surgery, citing as reasons high cost, a lack of interest and concerns about the risks.

(NAPS)

CAVE JUNCTION
ART WALK
FRIDAY, APRIL 14, • 5-8 P.M.

Explore the Visual, Literary, Performing & Epicurean Arts of the Illinois Valley
Exhibits showing through April

Taylor's Country Store
202 S. Redwood Hwy 592-5358
Chef Jeff's Dinner Special
New York Steak * Coconut Shrimp
Featuring
Deborah Dawson
"New Watercolors"
Music: Steve "Wiz" Krisa
Solo Acoustic & Vocals

Pizza Pit
316 S. Redwood Hwy 592-6111
IRVAC Learning Through Art
presents
Lorna Byrne Middle School
7th Grade Class
"Asian Dreams"
Accordion Books . Origami

A Creative Space
119 1/2 Redwood Hwy - 592-6484
Featuring
Illinois Valley High School
Student Art Work
"Community Ties"
Traveling Silent Auction
Sponsored by
Grants Pass/Josephine County
Chamber of Commerce
Hosted by
Illinois Valley Chamber Mixer

BeBe's Art for Everyone
148 S. Redwood Hwy - 592-5343
Presents the
6th Annual Doll Show
10 Artists Showing
Traditional to Contemporary
Art Dolls

Rising Suns
146 S. Redwood Hwy - 592-2430
Featuring
Diane Moller
Nature Photography

Time Capsule
144 S. Redwood Hwy - 592-3883
Retro & Vintage Clothing & Collectibles
Featuring
Crystal Schroeter
Mirror Mosaics
Mixed Media Creations

Shining Stars
102 S Redwood Hwy - 592-2236
(At the County Building)
Featuring
Dave Monsma
Nature Art Photography
Fresh Hot Soup & Baked Goods
Music: *Moment's Notice*

Changes Art Gallery
200 W. Lister #C - 592-6431
Paintings * Pottery * Photography
Featuring
Jim Nordal
Hand-Thrown Pottery & Jewelry
Music: George Shook "Mr. Banjo"
Mark Kelz "Mr. Bones"

Jefferson State Financial Group
221-B S. Redwood Hwy - 592-6262
Featuring
Gregg Jennings
"Past, Present, and Future"
IVFD Volunteer Firefighters
Acrylic Paintings

Eye Care Group
Optometric Physicians
355 Caves Hwy - 592-3921
Featuring
Vickie Robinson
Locally Grown
Pressed Floral Designs
Viewing during
Regular Business Hours

Illinois Valley Merchants Association

Coming May 5th at the
Josephine County Building

592-4118



IVFD Volunteer Firefighters

Past - Present - Future

FIRE SALE!

- 40% off paintings to IVFD Volunteer Firefighters
- 10% of all sales donated to I.V. Fire Association

Date: Second Friday Art Walk, April 14

Time: 5 to 8 p.m.

Where: Jefferson State Financial Group, 221-C S. Redwood Hwy.
(green building next to Dairy Queen)



Sponsored in part by Evergreen Federal Bank • Art Walk Logo courtesy of IVCaDo