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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Juan Jimenez, right, shows his sheep during the sheep showmanship competition at the Clatsop County Fair.

Army Corps prevails over Oregon LNG

Federal magistrate finds against energy company

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

A federal magistrate judge has found that Oregon LNG's challenge to an Army Corps of Engineers easement on the Skipanon Peninsula in Warrenton came too late.

Oregon LNG claimed the Army Corps, which has held an easement to deposit dredging spoils since 1957, has no right to land beneath the water that the energy company intends to use for a \$6 billion export terminal and pipeline project. The company also wanted the U.S. District Court in Portland to declare that the company has the right to access the property across tidelands.

But Magistrate Judge John V. Acosta concluded Tuesday that the federal lawsuit should be dismissed because the 12-year statute of limitations to bring such a claim under federal law had expired.

The federal statute of limitations starts to run in such property title disputes when a complainant knew or should have known that the United States claimed an interest in the land.

While the Army Corps has not deposited dredging spoils on the easement since 1992, the judge found that the state and the Port of Astoria — which has leased the property to Oregon LNG since 2004 — knew or should have known of the easement.

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Court case gives Port more time on hotel

Smithart will keep control for now

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Brad Smithart will operate the Astoria Riverwalk Inn for a few more weeks.

The owner of Hospitality Masters, whose lease on the hotel was terminated by the Port of Astoria for failing to pay rent, has challenged the Port's attempt to evict him.

Smithart's move Friday sets up a Circuit Court trial on Aug. 11 on the eviction.

Three suitors are competing to take over the Uniontown hotel, a potentially valuable waterfront property, but will have to wait until the legal case plays out.

While the Port wants Smithart off the property, the trial gives the Port more time to vet the suitors and work out the details of a management transition.

Had Smithart been evicted Friday, the Port would have had to select a new operator immediately or been left with the choice of running the hotel or shutting the property down during peak summer season.

Showing off

Keep smiling, even when your pig won't listen

By MCKINLEY SMITH
The Daily Astorian

Juan Jimenez, a 14-year-old sophomore at Astoria High School, knows to pose his sheep for the judge to show off the muscles on its legs. He also knows how to walk his chicken with its head and tail high.

Last week at the Clatsop County Fair, he showed a sheep named Lamborghini, a chicken named Winston and a pig named Tocino. That's Spanish for bacon.

Jimenez, who has been in 4-H for four years, enjoys showing his animals, but it can be frustrating when the animal does not behave in showmanship competition. Nevertheless, it is important to keep a smile on your face.

"I kept smiling and tried to go with it even though my pig didn't listen," he said.

Cried over sheep

Raising and working with animals destined for market can be tough. Jimenez said he cried at the end of last year over his sheep.

"If it's a market animal, don't get too attached to it," he said.

For instance, now he is careful to stop his sheep from nibbling on him because he

knows he will miss that experience when the sheep is gone.

Tim Clark, a swine superintendent, has worked with Jimenez for two years. He said the teenager always keeps his pig pen clean and tidy and is very helpful.

"He's one of the hardest working kids out there," Clark said.

Jimenez couples that work ethic with a drive to improve. He gets better and better each year, Clark said.

"If he doesn't know something, he'll find out the answer or a way to figure something out," Clark said.

When Jimenez is given advice in the showroom, he immediately puts it to use to improve his showing style, Clark said.

Katherine Kahl, Jimenez's 4-H leader, said he is saving money for college from the auctions. He is also in the

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Juan Jimenez competes in the swine showmanship competition.

Miethé rapping out hits for Stealth

Warrenton teenager lives, breathes softball

She's just one of those girls who seats, sleeps and breathes softball.

And a long season just came to a close for Warrenton's Landree Miethé, as her 16U Amateur Softball Association team — the Stealth — went 1-3 in the recent national championship 'A' tournament, held last week in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Stealth opened pool play — along with 184 other teams from around the country — a week ago with a 4-3 win over the White Lightning 99, from Knoxville, Tenn.

The rest of the tournament was not so good for the Stealth, who dropped a 10-4 decision to the Kenosha, Wis., Cyclones to finish up pool play; followed by a pair of losses to teams from Indiana and Alabama in bracket play Wednesday and Thursday.



Still, "it was a lot of fun," said Miethé, who will be a junior at Warrenton High School this fall. "It's been a nice ride, and it was a pleasure playing with all my teammates."

Based out of Milwaukie

The Stealth are a 16U team based out of Milwaukie. Most of the players are from larger schools, such as Rex Putnam High School and others in and around Milwaukie.



Submitted Photo

Warrenton's Landree Miethé, right, with one of her softball idols, former USA national team pitcher Jennie Finch.

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