

# Fair: 4-H teaches children responsibility, how to deal with failure

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leadership club and is a championship poultry showman this year.

## Interest in art

Jimenez doesn't only show animals. He also submitted several pieces of artwork, a pair of soccer-themed pajamas he'd made and a horticulture project featuring three succulents. Many of his pieces received purple ribbons.

He uses different mediums to create art. One of his friends went to Washington, D.C., brought back a style of spray paint art and shared it with Jimenez and their other friends. Jimenez creates planetary artwork this way, vivid planets on a black background spotted with stars.

He also does pen art. One such piece depicts a blue Lamborghini — the car, not the sheep. Another piece shows his favorite soccer player, Cristiano Ronaldo of Real Madrid.

Jimenez enjoys his projects, but his favorite part of the fair is spending time with his friends. It

is the time of year he gets to see his friends the most.

## Goats can be hard to walk

It was 10-year-old Emily Rasmussen's first year at the fair showing animals. The Warrenton Grade School student showed dairy goats.

While waiting for her showmanship competition Friday, Rasmussen witnessed a goat give birth at the fairgrounds. As she watched, she made sure a little girl next to her could see.

She takes care of Jacob, Bethany and Gretchen. Gretchen is her favorite, even if she's hard to walk.

"I love her and I love how she acts," Rasmussen said.

Her favorite part is spending time with the goats.

Rasmussen leased the trio from her 4-H leader, Gina Jasper.

Rasmussen is really good with the animals and willing to spend a lot of time with them, Jasper said. She is always willing to clean the pen.

Rasmussen lives in the city, so taking care of Jasper's animals helps her see what farm life is all about.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

**Juan Jimenez, left, talks with John Clement, right, while working with his sheep at the Clatsop County Fair.**

If Rasmussen is new to the game, Jasper is a seasoned expert. She has been leading 4-H for about 25 years.

"I love it, it's the best thing," Jasper said.

## Dealing with failure, death

Through 4-H, Jasper said, children learn about responsibility and dealing with failure.

Sometimes they do not match the judge's preference, sometimes their animals do not behave

— whatever the challenge, they still do their best.

Then there is the market element.

Jasper starts out by informing the 4-H students that many of the animals they have will go to market. Sometimes, children want to keep their animals, but she shows them how big those animals can get.

"It's really emotional for them because they spend a lot of quality time with their animals, especially at fair," Jasper said.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

**Emily Rasmussen competes in the goat showmanship competition at the Clatsop County Fair.**

# Port: 'I've never seen anything like this'

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## Extraordinary twists

Over the past few months, the dispute between the Port and Smithart over control of the Riverwalk Inn has taken several extraordinary twists, with a revolving cast elbowing for position.

"I've never seen anything like this," Smithart said after a court appearance in the case Friday.

Smithart, who had fallen behind on payments to the Port, the city and county, said he is still prepared to hand over management of the hotel. He would like the new operator to keep his staff of workers, who have been running the hotel during the controversy.

Both the Port Commission and Smithart had agreed in June to assign the remaining two years of Smithart's lease to Ganesh Sonpatki, of the Param Hotel Group in Portland, who intended to operate the property as a budget hotel. Sonpatki

had agreed to pay off more than \$350,000 of Smithart's public debts.

But the lease was not assigned to Sonpatki before it was terminated by the Port. Colin Hunter, a Portland attorney for Sonpatki, said the holdup was because the assignment did not include a provision of the lease that would have given Sonpatki the option to renew for another five years.

"The Port promised to assign Param Hotel Group the remaining two years on the lease plus a five-year extension that's contained in the lease," Hunter said. "That's what the Port promised and that's what we think the Port should be held to."

## 'Unclean hands'

In a legal filing Friday in the eviction case, Damon Henrie, a Beaverton attorney for Smithart, argues that the Port's failure to assign the lease to Sonpatki shows the Port has "acted with unclean hands and should be

prevented from now evicting" Smithart.

Any losses or damages, Henrie contends, are the result of the Port's negligence in failing to execute the Port Commission's directive to assign the lease to Sonpatki.

Along with Sonpatki, two other suitors are interested in taking over the Riverwalk Inn.

William Orr, a Seattle businessman who grew up in Astoria, has formed a partnership with Chester Trabucco — the developer behind the Hotel Elliott — and others to upgrade the hotel as part of a marina village redevelopment.

Mark Hollander, the president of Hollander Hospitality of Bellingham, Wash., is interested in bringing a Marriott to Astoria. Hollander has talked about a short-term management agreement with the Port to operate the hotel while negotiating a long-term deal to redevelop 6 acres the Port holds in Uniontown.

# Miethe: Her 2015 softball season began back in March at Warrenton High School

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As it turned out, Miethe was the team's leading hitter in Tennessee, as she finished the tournament 5-for-9 at the plate, with a double, triple, five runs scored and three RBIs.

For the summer season, Miethe was second on the Stealth in batting average (.500) and runs scored.

In Thursday's final loss, she had a run-scoring triple and scored on a wild pitch.

"I adjusted really well to the pitching," Miethe said. "There were a few girls who threw a ton of rise balls. We got a few hits off them."

"We got a lot better during the season," she said. "It was hard for me going from a small community like Warrenton to a large community. But it was a lot of fun, I got a lot better and gained more confidence."

Miethe's 2015 softball season officially began back in March, at Warrenton High School. Miethe was the starting catcher for the Warriors, and made the first team all-league team as a sophomore.

She was also honorable mention all-state.

## Watched college softball World Series

From there, she joined up with the Stealth — but not before making a trip to Oklahoma City to watch the NCAA college softball World Series.

Once there, "I loved it. I had so much fun," she said. "I met one of my favorite players (Louisiana State University's Bailey Landry)," and also touched base with former University of Arizona and USA national team pitcher Jennie Finch.

"She was real sweet and very nice," Miethe said.

Miethe then took up some odd jobs to raise funds for her trip to nationals, then arrived in Tennessee a few days before the tournament, so her mom — Warrenton coach



Submitted Photo

**Landree Miethe strikes a pose for her summer 16U softball team, the Stealth.**

Staci Miethe — could visit Graceland in Memphis.

"She had a great time," she said. "She's a big Elvis Presley fan."

The Stealth lost to the Indiana Dreams last Wednesday night — which was more of a nightmare for the Stealth, who committed nine errors; and the Birmingham, Ala., Mustangs knocked the Stealth out of the tournament Thursday afternoon, 10-2.

**Liked playing outfield**

"I played pretty good," said Miethe, who started in center field. "I really liked playing the outfield. You can

get a lot of pop flies and you can throw people out. We had a couple girls who are really good at catching, and they deserved that spot.

"Our pitcher was injured, but we fought through and played hard."

And now, it's on to more softball, of course.

In addition to playing varsity volleyball for the Warriors, Miethe will compete in fall softball.

"It keeps me in shape," she said. After high school, "I want to continue playing, because this is one of my favorite sports. I really enjoy it."

— Gary Henley

# LNG: Oregon LNG has brushed off other adverse rulings

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At an interagency meeting in 2009, the Army Corps raised concerns that the project could intersect with dikes and levees on the easement and conflict with the disposal of dredge spoils. Oregon LNG, in a declaration to the court, said the company had not been aware prior to that meeting that the Army Corps would assert any interest in the land.

Oregon LNG sued the Army Corps over the issue last August.

An attorney for Oregon LNG could not be reached for comment on the magistrate judge's findings or whether the company would appeal.

## Brushed off adverse rulings

Oregon LNG has

brushed off other adverse rulings against the project, which involves an 87-mile pipeline from Washington state through Columbia, Tillamook and Clatsop counties to an export terminal in Warrenton.

In April, the state Land Use Board of Appeals upheld Clatsop County's 2013 decision to deny a permit for a portion of the pipeline. Oregon LNG responded by saying the company would continue to pursue the project, downplaying the importance of local review.

Local, state and federal agencies are examining different aspects of the project. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has said the final environmental impact statement could be completed by next February.

## Critics celebrate

Environmentalists, fishermen and many residents in Warrenton and Astoria have been fighting to stop the project, warning that the pipeline and terminal could pose safety and environmental risks.

Critics have celebrated every potential setback for Oregon LNG as victories that could doom the project.

"The corps vigorously defended this lawsuit to protect a valuable public property right and the court got it right," Miles Johnson, a clean water attorney for Columbia Riverkeeper, a Hood River-based environmental group, said in a statement.

Johnson said the ruling "could spell the end to Oregon LNG's 10-year effort to site one of the most destructive, dangerous projects we've ever seen proposed on the Columbia River."



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Critical Care Unit  
9 years at CMH**

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