



# The Northwest Connection

## Centennial Arch... continued from pg. 1

been set in place. The height of the arch from the street to the center span is 22 feet.

The columns on each side are faced with Columbia River Basalt which was harvested in the Columbia River Gorge from a local quarry. This is the same stone used to construct the original Columbia River Scenic Highway built in the late

20's and early 30's. A time capsule located in the south column will be opened in 2110.

The original concept was the idea of the Troutdale Historical



Society which raised a third of the monies through fundraising.

Local corporations down to the grade school children contributed financially to this project. It is our hope that this will be a draw to our downtown and to the tourists who are attracted to the scenic spots along the old Columbia River Highway. ■

*Become a fan of the Troutdale First Friday Art Walk on face book.*



Max and Cheryl Maydew, Mayor Jim Kight and Rip Caswell

photo credit: Bill White

## A Journey of Love continued from pg. 1

years later that they brought little Gracie home. Jerry said, "The hardest part was the waiting. It seemed like it would be a fairly short process and just took so long. There were so many disappointments along the way. Sometimes it felt like it would take forever." Apparently, China was making some big changes to their international adoption procedures including moving office locations and also making preparations for the winter Olympics in Beijing, which caused delays. Still, Jerry insists that China is one of the best countries to adopt from because they have a very systematic process and once you are logged into their system, after completing the required paperwork, it's not a matter of if you'll get a child, it's just a matter of when.

The Stitzels started out on the list for a "healthy" child, but as the months of waiting turned into years, they decided to switch to the "special needs" list in April 2009. The "special needs" children included those with medical issues ranging from minor to major and waiting children who simply hadn't been adopted yet and were often older. Just a few months later on August 8, Sarah's 14th birthday, three potential adoptive children came through. Two of them had prohibitively severe medical conditions; Jerry and Diana knew with their limited health coverage that they could never afford to take care of either child. Jerry said, "It's just heartbreaking. You want to adopt them all." The third child was Gracie, whose Chinese

name was Li Qian. When the Stitzels saw the tiny picture of Gracie, who was decked out in quilted leopard print pants and a puffy hello kitty fabric jacket, they felt a special connection.



The first picture of Gracie we saw, sent by the adoption agency.

They had 24 hours from the time they received the email to "lock her in." They quickly found a pediatrician to review Gracie's special medical needs, which included crossed eyes, a droopy eyelid and a small head circumference and were given the encouraging

analysis that her conditions were correctable. They made the final decision to adopt Gracie on August 10, 2009.

Soon after, they discovered they would be traveling to China in October. After years of waiting, they had less than two months to prepare for their new daughter. Their adoption agency took care of all the travel arrangements and gave them all the information they'd need about expenses, travel schedule and expectations. Jerry says, "The adoption agency you choose is so important. Make sure you get with a good agency who knows what they're doing and can keep you on task and keep you motivated as time goes by, and frustrations rise, and patience wears thin." The Stitzels were very impressed with their agency, AWAA.

After more paperwork,

*continued on pg. 17*

The Centennial arch project had hit a brick wall regarding funding. The Troutdale Historical Society appealed to the Troutdale City Council to bring this project to fruition. After much deliberation, the council made an enterprising decision to take ownership of the project. The funding balance was supported through the budget process and the city took full control of the construction of the arch. The arch will become a full city asset upon completion. The formal dedication will take place on Friday, May 7th, at 6:30pm. Hope to see everyone there.



## PATRICK SHEEHAN

For State Representative

I believe Oregonians deserve a state government that is **fair, responsive and affordable.**

I look forward to a balanced and fair legislature; **where the agenda is determined by the vigor of the idea, not by the party affiliation of the person making it.**

Please join me in the fight to return our state legislature to the people – **so we can put Oregon back in business!**

**I NEED YOUR HELP.** Visit my website to learn more about my positions and talk to your neighbors today. Please email me at [patrick@patricksheehan.org](mailto:patrick@patricksheehan.org) to volunteer.

**PATRICKSHEEHAN.ORG**

**Endorsed by:** Bruce Hanna, House Republican Leader; Kevin Cameron, Deputy House Republican Leader; Representative Bill Kenemer, Representative Tim Freeman; Representative Vic Gilliam; David Jochen, Damascus City Councilor; Lee Merrick, Director, North Clackamas School Board; Kevin L. Mannix; Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.; Oregon Farm Bureau Federation; Oregon Right to Life PAC

Paid for by Friends of Patrick Sheehan.

## Jim Needham

for  
**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners,  
Position 3**

*A proven history of working for voters on Curus & Molalla School District Boards; Molalla City Council, Clackamas County Coordinating Committee, Community Action Board, and Community Adviser to Clackamas County Roadmap to Healthy Communities.*

**I believe Clackamas County needs More Jobs!**  
*Jobs which will not go away when Federal Stimulus Funds expire. Sustainable Jobs in the private sector are the result of removing financial and legal obstacles which impair creation of Jobs in new businesses or expansion of existing businesses.*

**I believe Clackamas County needs More Solutions!**  
*New solutions to New challenges of "the worst recession since the Great Depression". We cannot keep doing the same things expecting different results. Increasing taxes and government spending have increased the cost of government by 49% in just 4 years! We need more efficient and effective use of the diverse human and natural resources which are so abundant here in Clackamas County.*

**I believe Clackamas County needs Less Government!**  
*Less government intrusion into property owner and individual rights to the fruit of their labor – as guaranteed by our Constitutional Republic under God. Less cost for elected leadership with part-time Commissioners. More representation of rural areas with District Representation. More self-determination for communities and citizens.*


I have the experience and knowledge to achieve these goals and WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN WIN! For further information point your Internet Browser to <http://www.fyi.biz> - E-mail me at [jim@fyi.biz](mailto:jim@fyi.biz)

Paid for by:

## Warren Kitchen

for Clackamas County Commissioner  
**Position #2**

**Jobs, Liberty and Limited Government**



**Jobs are the number one priority, Business needs the County to prioritize and get back to basics, cut regulations, suspend SDC's (system development charges). Let businesses grow to create the jobs we need.**

**Liberty is not on the county's priority list. But it is mine. The proposed county tree ordinance assaults the rights of property owners and limits potential development. Limited Government is what we want back, not the government "machine" it has become. That disregards the voters will and uses tax payer dollars for mailers to push it's own agenda, like measures 66 & 67.**

**Lets go back in time to when we had limited government, when a handshake was a sign of trust and integrity. When respect for rights and voters was more than words. With the people at my side, we can take back our county government.**

**This is why I respectfully ask for your vote May 18th.**

**God Bless America**  
**Warren Kitchen**  
[www.warrenforcommissioner.com](http://www.warrenforcommissioner.com)