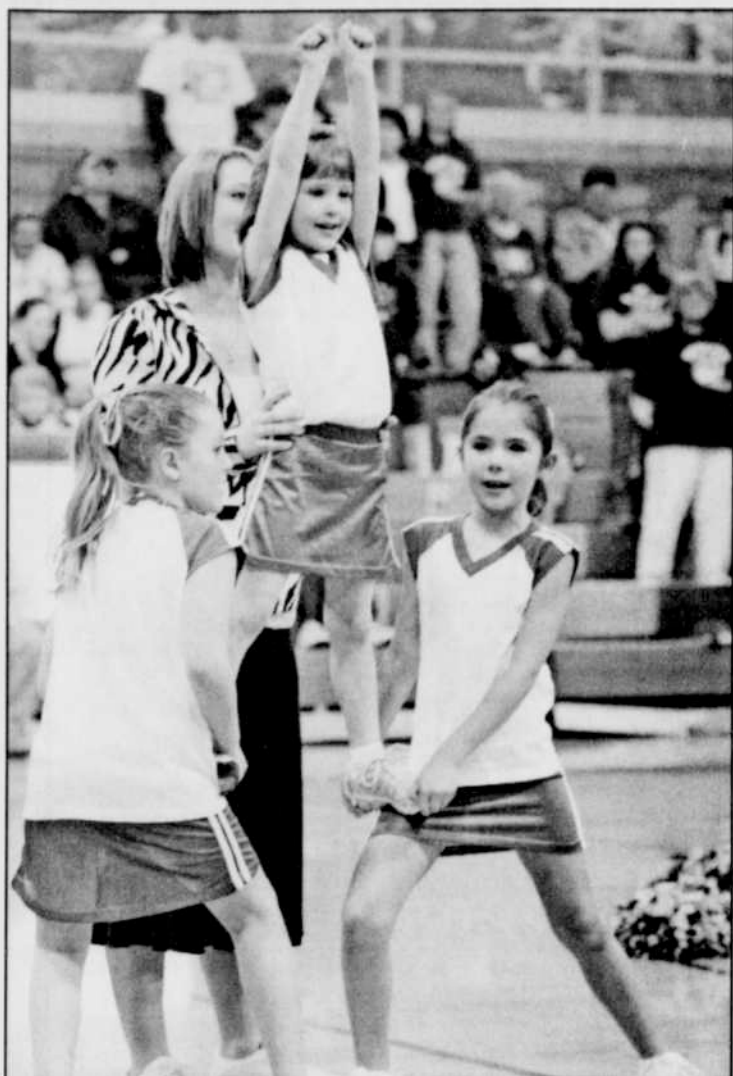


Colt cheerleaders perform for crowd



Heppner cheerleader Kathryn Strouse supports Madelyn Nichols while Diana Healy and Sophie Grant cheer on the crowd. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

Kilkenny donates \$5 million at arena ceremony

Editor's Note: The following article was written by Greg Bolt and was published in The Register-Guard.

Shovels hit the dirt Saturday as the University of Oregon officially broke ground on its new basketball arena, but the man who dug deepest was Athletic Director Pat Kilkenny. UO President Dave Frohnmayer announced that Kilkenny is making a \$5 million gift to the new pavilion on behalf of his family, a donation that led the university to announce it is naming the arena's playing floor Kilkenny Court. The news brought even more cheer to a crowd already jazzed by the long-awaited start of what will be the biggest public works project in university and Lane County history.

The Kilkennys were in good company in the festive crowd of almost 250, which included former UO football standouts Dennis Dixon, who just earned a Super Bowl ring as a backup quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Ahmad Rashad. Also on hand was retired Rear Adm. John Dick, a member of the 1939 Duck basketball team that won the NCAA championship.

But the loudest cheers were for UO graduate and top benefactor Phil Knight, who made a rare appearance at the private event. He also was on hand later for a ceremonial tip-off before the Ducks faced Arizona in what turned out to be their 11th consecutive loss.

A \$100 million gift from Knight and his wife, Penny, is providing the financial backstop for what the UO has named the Matthew Knight Arena after the couple's late son. The Nike founder stepped to the podium amid a standing ovation and was by turns jovial and emotional, shedding a tear when he spoke of how much the arena meant.

"If my son Matthew



Former Oregon players Ahmad Rashad and Dennis Dixon are pictured with Pat Kilkenny, Phil Knight, Nike Founder, and university of Oregon president, Dave Frohnmayer at the ground-breaking ceremony for the new basketball arena at the University of Oregon. -Contributed Photo

were here, he'd be as proud as he could be," Knight said.

He and other guests and university officials wore special Nike jackets with the words "Mac to Matt" embroidered on the breast, a reference to the coming change as venerable but aging McArthur Court is retired and the Ducks move to what some are now calling Matt Court.

Later, Knight joined Rashad, Dixon, Kilkenny, Dick, Frohnmayer, men's basketball coach Ernie Kent and a long string of arena supporters to take turns pushing gold-painted shovels into a pile of dirt.

Frohnmayer, assisted by a construction official, even took a turn at the controls of a backhoe to make a ceremonial scoop.

Knight, wearing his trademark sunglasses, hardly stopped smiling despite the day's gray chill and standing for about a dozen photos with everyone from construction officials to his grandchildren.

"It's a big step and a great morning," he said after all the pictures were taken.

Design and construction of the arena will cost \$200 million, on top of the \$27 million spent to buy the site and \$18 million for an underground parking garage for general university use and arena events.

tween athletic and academic programs.

Kilkenny said he donated to the arena to honor his family, which besides his parents and wife, Stephanie, includes three brothers and a sister. All the siblings went to the UO, and although he cracked up the crowd with a few jokes at their expense, he said that experience helps bind them together.

"We all have one thing in common. We all went to the University of Oregon," Kilkenny said. "It was the greatest times of our lives and something we all share together."

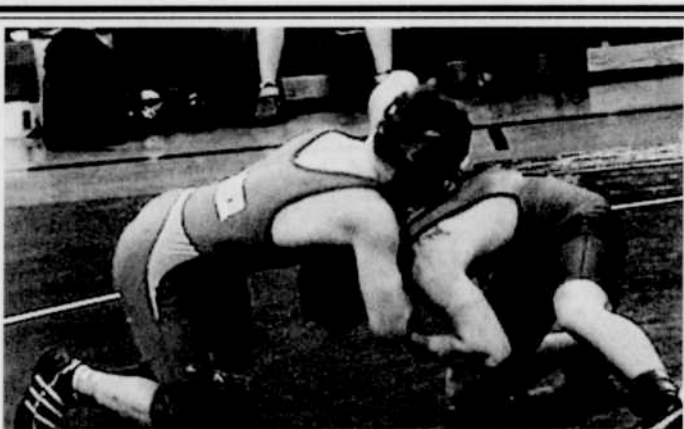
Getting to this day was a long haul for Kilkenny, whose top mandate when he was hired two years ago was to get the stalled arena project moving. The challenge didn't diminish after the Knights' \$100 million gift, as critics attacked the financial plan for the building and neighbors won a ruling that required a time-consuming process to get a conditional use permit.

Although the project won through, critics remain and the delay has pushed the opening date back from fall 2010 to January 2011. Kilkenny admits that he thinks "it was a little harder than it should have been," but said he still sees his glass as half full.

"I'm thrilled that we're in the ground," he said. And, of his opponents, "I don't think anything was malicious or ill-intended."

And Kilkenny said challenges remain. Keeping the project under budget will be difficult, even with prices falling and contractors hungry due to the recession. But he said digging into his own pocket for the arena was easy.

"There'll be some tough days when we have to decide how to allocate our money," Kilkenny said. "But I've been blessed. It's not hard for me to do these things."



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Mustang Varsity Baseball Schedule

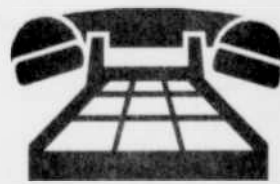
Following is the Heppner High School varsity baseball schedule for the 2009 season:

-March 17: Pendleton JV, 2 p.m.
-March 21: at La Grande, 12 p.m.
-March 24: Mac Hi/Salem
-March 27-28: Colfax Tourney.

-Apr. 4: Burns, 1 p.m.
-Apr. 7: at Baker, 2 p.m.
-Apr. 11: at Irrigon, 11 a.m.
-Apr. 14: Pilot Rock, 4:30 p.m.
-Apr. 18: Weston McEwen, 11 a.m.
-Apr. 21: at Stan-

field, 11 a.m.
-Apr. 25: BYE
-Apr. 29: Irrigon, 4:30 p.m.
-May 2: at Pilot Rock, 11 a.m.
-May 5: at Weston McEwen, 4:30 p.m.
-May 9: Stanfield, 11 a.m.
-May 12: Cross-Over (#3 vs. #2)

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New ATV Safety Laws FREE online certification


New safety laws are now in effect for operating quads and three-wheel ATVs (Class I ATVs) and off-road motorcycles (Class III ATVs) on lands open to public use. (See chart below for age-related timelines.) In order to make training as convenient as possible, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department now offers this free safety and education program and certification online on the website www.rideATVoregon.org.

SAFETY TRAINING EXEMPTION: Safety training isn't mandatory for riders using an ATV or off-road motorcycle for farming, agriculture, forestry, nursery, Christmas tree growing operations or when riding on private land.

MANDATORY TRAINING AGES

Year	Mandatory Safety Training Age
Jan. 1, 2009	Youth 15 and under and adults supervising youth
Jan. 1, 2010	30 and under
Jan. 1, 2011	40 and under
Jan. 1, 2012	50 and under
Jan. 1, 2013	60 and under
Jan. 1, 2014	All riders must have an ATV safety education card

Morrow County OHV Park is active in these changes and do offer the hands on training. ATV Safety Institute and the MSF Motorcycle safety foundation do have instructors on site. Any questions or concerns please contact Morrow County 541-989-9500.



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By **DAVID SYKES**
REALTOR

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2. The competition: How does your home compare with similar properties on the market or recently

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