

SIGN,

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“You look at all of these programs like Oregon and Florida that are crazy kids and times. If the DePaul coaches think I’m capable of doing that, I’m going to take their word for it.”

McNary volleyball player Valerie Diede signed with the University of Hartford, a Division I program in Connecticut, in November.

“It’s not so much that it’s Division I. Yes, it’s cool that it is but it was all about the school and that it felt like it was the right fit for me,” Diede said.



File
McNary senior Valerie Diede signed with the University of Hartford in November.

“I just really liked that school (Hartford) and I knew that’s where I wanted to go. The coaches were really welcoming and just walk-

#4 Volcanoes hold first game delayed by eclipse

A crowd of 5,297 witnessed the first professional sporting event to ever be delayed for a solar eclipse at Salem-Keizer Volcanoes Stadium on Aug. 21.

They came from 34 states not including Oregon, as well as nine foreign countries: Australia, Canada, Colombia, the

Dominican Republic, England, Italy, Japan, Norway and South Africa. Canadians came from British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario.

Noah Petro, a research scientist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, threw two ceremonial pitches, one just before the

eclipse and one just after it. Both balls were sent to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

The game, which the Volcanoes lost 9-5 to the Hillsboro Hops, was delayed for 58 minutes after the top half of the first inning due to the eclipse.



File
Salem-Keizer Volcanoe baseball players look up at the eclipse just before totality during a delay on Aug. 21.

#5 Wise, Witt honored

McNary softball coach Kevin Wise and junior Nadia Witt were voted Greater Valley Conference Coach and Player of the Year. Leading off for the Lady Celts, Witt hit .600 with four home runs, 14 doubles, 28 RBI and 38 runs.

“We’ve just watched her grow up,” Wise said. “We knew she had a lot of talent but she was just so quiet at first. Even though she’s really good, she’s still kind of shy. She’s not a cocky kid at all. Just to see her get to that level and her leadership and the way she carries herself. If we need a hit, she just wills it to happen. You just can’t put into words what she means to us.”

Wise was voted Coach of the Year after leading the Lady Celts to a 19-4 record during the regular season, a league championship and then a trip to the state quarterfinals.

Witt downplayed the honor, giving credit to the players.



File
Kevin Wise and Nadia Witt were voted Greater Valley Conference Coach and Player of the Year.

“That stuff doesn’t happen unless... it’s these guys,” Witt said. “That’s not the coach. It’s the girls. I just focus on them because it’s just a phenomenal group.”

#6 Ismay defender of year

Earning Greater Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year was easier for Matthew Ismay in his senior season at McNary, and not because he had already won the award twice.

“When I was a sophomore, everyone was just so much bigger than me,” Ismay said. “I would just get bullied down in the post. It’s a lot easier now when you’re a little bit bigger.”

“It means a lot to me, especially when I was a sophomore I had no idea that I was going to get it but I always pride myself on defense.”

An emphasis on defense is

exactly what McNary head coach Ryan Kirch needed when he started turning around the team four years ago.

Ismay consistently guarded the other team’s best player.

“It sure makes you look good as a coach,” Kirch said. “We always pride our program on being able to defend and rebound.”

“When Matt was a freshman is when we started to turn things around and he’s been as influential and he sets the tone for us defensively. He’s just a tone-setter.”

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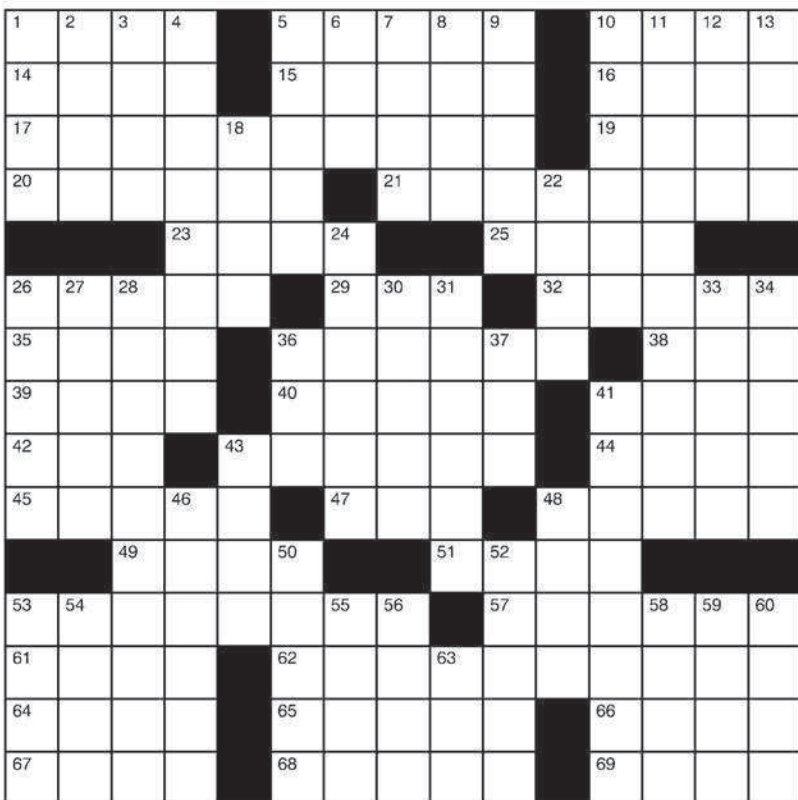
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In Style



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By Charles Preston

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