

# TOP 10,

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## 8 Copeland named MVC Player of the Year

The McNary football squad received 16 all-conference spots for the 2021 season, with the top honor going to Celtics senior quarterback Tyler Copeland.

Despite missing a game and playing half the season with a high-ankle sprain, Copeland was named the Mountain Valley Conference Player of the Year after throwing for 1,757 yards

and 22 touchdowns — Copeland also received an honorable mention nod as a safety.

“The hard work has paid off. The Lord has blessed me through this process. I couldn’t have done any of it without Him,” Copeland said. “This is a team sport and my team was always there to pick me up.”

Copeland led McNary to a 7-4 record as well as a playoff win over North Medford.

“You can’t ask for a better competitor. It’s nice to have an athletic quarterback,” McNary head coach Jeff Auvinen said. “I can’t commend that kid enough.”



## 9 KLL under new management

At their meeting on Monday, Nov. 15, the Keizer City Council unanimously agreed to grant the management of Keizer Little League to For the Love of the Game, a nonprofit run by Mavericks League owners Jerry and Lisa Walker, plus their son, Mickey.

The contract is for 10 years, with For the Love of the Game’s performance being evaluated every two years by the Keizer city manager.

“We have some really big visions of what we want to do with the complex, improvements we want to make to not only the fields but to the area itself, and hopefully that will directly benefit baseball and softball in this community,” said Mavericks League CEO Mickey Walker.

Some of those big visions include bringing turf to the facility and making the park accessible for other sports.

“Turf is obviously a big thing that we want to have, that is something we would love to be able to accomplish. It’s just a long-term plan, not a one-to-three-year process,” Walker said. “Not only could it benefit baseball and softball, we hope that we can develop it in a way to help other sports, like soccer or lacrosse.”

Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark, who has been a cheerleader of the nonprofit for months, expressed pleasure in For the Love of the Game managing the complex, and criticized the way the park has been run in the past.

“Over the last 10 years we have seen there have been some inconsistencies, and that has not served the players well,” Clark said. “I’m excited to bring on professional management of the facility that will allow parents to watch their kids play instead of serving

nachos.”

Days after the Council granted management of Keizer Little Park to For the Love of the Game, the nonprofit officially hired Corey Paul to run the day-to-day operations at the facility.

The Vancouver, Wash. resident will be the lone full-time employee of For the Love of the Game. He will oversee scheduling of fields and maintenance of the park.

## 9 Rangers draft Zavala 38th overall

On Monday, July 12, Keizer native and University of Oregon outfielder Aaron Zavala was drafted by the Texas Rangers in the second round of the Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft with the 38th overall pick.

It is the third highest an Oregon player has been drafted since the university revamped their baseball program in 2009.

In his junior season with the Ducks, Zavala was named the Pac-12 Player of the Year and was a consensus first-team All-American, batting .392 with nine homers, 38 RBIs and 64 runs scored.

The assigned value of the pick is just over \$1.9 million.

Zavala played 22 games in his first season in the minors, batting .293 with an a homer, nine RBIs and nine stolen bases.

