

STARS AND STRIPES®

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Virginia Dems score major wins

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Seizing his party's first major Trump-era victory, Democrat Ralph Northam beat back a charge from Republican Ed Gillespie in the race for Virginia governor, a bruising election that tested the power of President Donald Trump's fiery nationalism against the energy of the Trump resistance.

In Virginia, as in several contests across America on Tuesday, the Trump resistance won. And it wasn't close.

Northam, a pediatric neurologist and Army veteran, defeated longtime Republican operative Gillespie in the hard-fought contest. "I'm here

to let you know that the doctor is in," a smiling Northam told supporters gathered in suburban Washington for his victory speech. "As long as I'm governor, I will work hard to make sure we're inclusive."

Northam's victory set off overnight recriminations and finger-pointing among Trump's hardcore supporters. The pro-Trump website Breitbart News, which had earlier praised Gillespie as a "culture warrior," derided him as a "Republican swamp thing." Jerry Falwell Jr., president of Liberty University, said Northern Virginia's voter-rich liberal suburbs should be annexed by the District of Columbia, "to return the governance of (Virginia) to

Virginians."

Virginia voters also elected the state's first openly transgender state representative, among more than a dozen state legislative pickups for Democrats.

The resounding victories marked the GOP's most significant day of defeat in the young Trump presidency and a rebuke to the president himself as his party eyes a suddenly more threatening midterm election season next year.

The Democratic gubernatorial victories in Virginia and New Jersey prompted congratulations from former President Barack Obama, who tweeted Wednesday morning, "This is what happens when the people vote." Obama also congratulated

"all the victors in state legislative, county and mayors' races."

Trump immediately tried to distance himself from the loss.

"Ed Gillespie worked hard but did not embrace me or what I stand for," Trump tweeted Tuesday night as he toured Asia, noting that the GOP won a handful of special elections earlier in the year. "With the economy doing record numbers, we will continue to win, even bigger than before!"

The Republican president played a marginal role in Virginia, largely because Republicans on the ground did not want him there, a state he lost last fall, as his approval ratings hover near record lows.

Church gunman fled mental health facility in 2012

Associated Press

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas — The gunman who killed more than two dozen at a small-town Texas church briefly escaped from a mental health facility in New Mexico in 2012, police reports indicated.

The reports also noted that Devin Patrick Kelley was once caught trying to bring guns onto a military base and threatened superior officers there. Kelley was also named as a suspect in a 2013 sexual assault in New Braunfels, about 35 miles from the scene of Sunday's church attack in Sutherland Springs.

The records that emerged Tuesday add up to at least three missed opportunities that might have offered law enforcement a way to stop Kelley from having access to guns long before he slaughtered much of the congregation in the middle of a service. Authorities said the death toll of

26 included the unborn baby of one of the women killed. Kelley died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after he was chased by bystanders and crashed his car.

The Air Force confirmed Tuesday that Kelley had been treated in the facility after he was placed under pretrial confinement stemming from a court-martial on charges that he assaulted his then-wife and hit her child hard enough to fracture the boy's skull. Involuntary commitment to a mental institution would have been grounds to deny him a weapon provided that records of his confinement were submitted to the federal database used to conduct background checks on people who try to purchase guns.

Kelley was also caught trying to bring guns onto Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico when he was stationed there, according to an El Paso, Texas, police report released Tuesday.

While in the military, Kelley, who was 21 at the time, made death threats against superior officers, according to the June 2012 report, which also mentioned the military charges. He was eventually sentenced to 12 months of confinement for the assault.

The Air Force acknowledged Monday that it did not enter Kelley's criminal history into the federal database as required by military rules, another way he could have been denied a weapon.

Had Kelley been convicted of sexual assault, he would likely have been prevented from purchasing a gun because federal guidelines prohibit sales to anyone convicted of a felony punishable by more than one year in prison. The Comal County sheriff said he was reviewing whether his department mishandled the sexual assault investigation.

Authorities recovered a Ruger

AR-556 rifle at the church and two handguns from the shooter's vehicle. All three weapons were purchased by Kelley, said Fred Milanowski, the agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Houston.

The El Paso report notes that Kelley was committed to a mental health facility in Santa Teresa, N.M., but at some point escaped and was later found by police at a bus station in downtown El Paso in June 2012.

Deputies were called to Kelley's home in New Braunfels in June 2013 about the rape case and investigated for three months, Comal County Sheriff Mark Reynolds said.

It appeared that they stopped investigating after they believed Kelley left Texas and moved to Colorado. Reynolds said the case was then listed as inactive.

Democrat succeeds Christie as NJ governor

Associated Press

ASBURY PARK, N.J. — New Jersey is set to trade its brash-talking Republican governor, a friend and early supporter of Donald Trump, for a former diplomat with an at-times folksy demeanor promising to be on the vanguard of opposing the Republican president.

Wednesday marked the first day of Democratic Gov.-elect Phil Murphy's transition to one of the country's most powerful governorships, taking over for the term-limited incumbent, Chris Christie.

One day after the election, a hoarse Murphy thanked voters at a commuter rail station in Hoboken. He said he would kick off his transition in the evening.

He discussed the change of government in a phone call with Christie on Tuesday night

and said the two would meet in the next couple of days.

But first, the governor-elect said he would be making a lot of telephone calls — and go to his son's soccer game.

The former Goldman Sachs executive and ambassador to Germany under President Barack Obama talked Tuesday during his victory speech in Asbury Park about pushing back against the Trump administration.

"With Donald Trump in the White House, Jeff Sessions as attorney general, polluters running the EPA, zealots heading the Department of Education and Steve Bannon holding Republicans in Congress hostage, governors will have never mattered more," Murphy said.

Murphy's early indication that he'll stand up to Trump comes as Democrat-leaning New Jersey seemed to repu-

diat the two-term governor whose approval ratings have been in the teens.

"New Jersey sent an unmistakable message to the entire nation: We are better than this," Murphy said, citing specifically the "demonizing" of immigrants and "mean-spirited" efforts to take health care away from some voters.

Murphy's victory over Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno came as Virginia also picked a new governor, Democrat Ralph Northam. The results marked the first statewide Democratic wins during Trump's administration after Democrats failed to win special congressional races earlier this year.

Guadagno congratulated Murphy, telling her supporters to clap for him after they began booing him.

"It was a great race," she said. "We left no stone unturned, and

we would not have done it any differently."

Christie was once one of the brightest stars in the GOP, regularly going onto late-night talk shows and winning reelection in 2013 handily over his Democratic rival. That began to change after the 2013 George Washington Bridge lane-closing scandal and snow-balled after he angered voters by spending time out of the state for his presidential run in 2016.

The two men also have sharply different styles, with Christie famously shouting down voters. He quarreled with a woman on Election Day over a local political issue. Even in attacking the Trump administration on Tuesday, Murphy later promised to work with the White House where he found common ground.

Transgender state legislator elected

RICHMOND, Va. — A transgender candidate defeated an incumbent Virginia lawmaker who sponsored a bill that would have restricted which bathrooms she could use.

Democrat Danica Roem, a former journalist, is set to make history as the first openly transgender person elected and seated in a state legislature in the United States. She unseated Republican Del. Bob Marshall, one of the state's longest serving and most socially conservative lawmakers. The race was one of the year's most high-profile, drawing international attention and big money to the northern Virginia House of Delegates district outside the nation's capital.

Roem will be the first transgender member of the House of Delegates and will become the first out transgender person to win and serve in a state legislature, according to the Victory Fund, a political action committee that works to get openly

LGBTQ people elected and has supported Roem.

Roem, who couldn't immediately be reached for an interview Tuesday night, openly discussed her gender identity during her campaign, but it was far from her focus. Instead, she focused on jobs, schools and, with particular fervor, northern Virginia's traffic congestion.

Maine first to expand Medicaid by vote

PORTLAND, Maine — Residents in this rural state grappling with a heroin epidemic and an aging population voted Tuesday to deliver a rebuke to Republican Gov. Paul LePage and join 31 other states that have expanded Medicaid under former President Barack Obama's health care law.

The referendum represents the first time since the law took effect that the question of expansion had been put in front of U.S. voters.

Some 11 million people in the country have gotten coverage through the expansion of Med-

icaid, a health insurance program for low income people.

LePage vetoed five attempts by the state Legislature to expand the program. Tuesday's vote follows repeated failures by President Donald Trump, a LePage ally, and his fellow Republicans in Congress to repeal the signature legislation of Obama.

"This is an exciting night in Maine, but also an exciting night for the country," said David Farmer, spokesman for pro-expansion Mainers For Health Care. "Voters have made it clear they want more health care, not less."

Flint's mayor survives recall election

DETROIT — Incumbent Karen Weaver survived a recall effort to remain Flint's mayor as the Michigan city slowly recovers from a lead-contaminated water crisis.

Weaver won Tuesday's winner-takes-all election and will serve the final two years of her four-year term. The lengthy ballot included Weaver, recall

organizer Arthur Woodson and longtime City Councilman Scott Kincaid, who had received significant donations from labor organizations in a union-heavy town.

The ballot didn't refer to the water crisis. The official reason was Weaver's decision to hire a suburban Detroit trash hauler that became connected to a federal corruption investigation. Still, the troubles caused by Flint's ill-fated switch to a cheaper water source were on everybody's minds.

Some children were found to have elevated lead levels in their blood, which can cause developmental delays and other health problems. The disaster has led to 15 current or former governmental officials being charged with crimes, and lawsuits have been filed by numerous residents.

Some experts have also linked the tainted water to the deaths of 12 people who died after contracting Legionnaires' disease, a type of pneumonia.

From The Associated Press

General's 3rd star stalled by Army review

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Maj. Gen. Ryan Gonsalves, who recently commanded the Fort Carson, Colo.-based 4th Infantry Division, is under review following an Army finding that he mistreated a congressional staffer.

Gonsalves, who was considered to be in contention to serve as the next head of U.S. Army Europe, is now serving as a "special assistant to the commanding general, III Corps."

"General Gonsalves was substantiated for a failure to treat a congressional staffer with dignity and respect," the Army said in a statement. "That finding is currently under review to determine what, if any, further action will be taken."

The Army did not provide additional details about the nature of the incident or the congressional staff member who was involved. Gonsalves could not be reached for immediate comment.

In July, Gonsalves was nominated for a third star by the Army but that nomination has stalled as the investigation plays out.

Allegations of misconduct by general officers have become an embarrassing scourge for the military, with several missteps garnering headlines.

Recent cases include that of Maj. Gen. Wayne Grigsby, who was fired as commander of the 1st Infantry Division and forced to retire this past summer due to an inappropriate relationship with a junior officer

on his staff.

In Europe, Maj. Gen. Joseph Harrington was removed as head of U.S. Army Africa when texts surfaced of a flirtatious relationship with the wife of an enlisted soldier.

The U.S. Navy is now investigating more than 60 admirals in the so-called "Fat Leonard" scandal, according to The Washington Post, in a case that is now one of the largest corruption probes in military history.

Gonsalves relinquished command of 4th ID in late August after leading the division for two years. During that time, 4th ID played a key role in Army efforts in Europe, where a brigade of Fort Carson soldiers recently completed a nine-month tour and stood up a

new mission command element in Poland in a push to fortify NATO's eastern flank.

Meanwhile, the Army said it will name a head for U.S. Army Europe in the coming weeks.

The current commander, Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, was slated to retire by September, but his tenure has been extended while a replacement is sought.

He is expected to relinquish command on Dec. 15, the Army said.

"Many factors come into play in filling vacancies of this type. These factors include a thorough Army and [Defense Department] vetting and recommendation process," the Army said.

The USAREUR post requires formal appointment by the president and confirmation by the Senate.

House, Senate lawmakers reach deal on \$700B defense bill

By CLAUDIA GRISALES

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A key panel of House and Senate members has reached a deal on the massive defense bill, pushing forward a nearly \$700 billion plan to boost pay raises for servicemembers, fund new ships and aircraft and increase missile defense.

Among the funding efforts in the defense budget for fiscal year 2018 are a 2.4 percent pay increase for servicemembers, extension of necessary pay and bonuses to help with retention, and costly repairs for two Navy ships that encountered deadly crashes during the summer. It passes on a plan to create a new Space Corps, according to senior aides of the Senate and House Armed Services committees who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The proposed budget also funds an increase in the number of servicemembers in the military from fiscal year 2017.

The plan "builds on the strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate," a senior Armed Services committee staffer said.

Though the plan has overcome several hurdles already, an approval by a congressional conference committee now sends it for a vote in both chambers and a budget fight on how to fund the major increase in military spending.

The bipartisan deal for the defense bill, known as the National Defense Authorization Act, was revealed Wednesday by senior aides of both Armed Services committees.

There are plenty of challenges ahead, however.

The proposed defense budget, which now totals \$699.6 billion, surpasses budget caps of \$549 billion for defense spending and will require new congressional action to be enacted. Without it, the effort could trigger automatic, across-the-board budget cuts.

The budget also passed on some proposals, declining on a House plan for the creation of Space Corps, a new military service that would be an arm of the Air Force.

The idea drew opposition along the way from several key figures, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. The Senate, in its opposition, went as far as

including language in its bill prohibiting a Space Corps.

Now, under Wednesday's deal, the bill directs for the study of the creation of a Space Corps.

The study will "look at the long-term prospects of creating a military department" for Space Corps, the committee staffer said.

The defense bill also directs for the funding of repairs to the USS Fitzgerald and the USS John S. McCain.

Both ships were badly damaged in separate, deadly crashes that left 17 sailors dead.

The overall boost in the military funding request comes in the wake of a deadly year for the U.S. military when it comes to readiness and safety concerns.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said during the bill's previous debate on the Senate floor that 185 servicemembers have died in military accidents in the last three years.

"We are killing more of our own people in training than our enemies are in combat," McCain said during the Septem-

ber debate.

Wednesday's defense budget deal also incorporates, if not going above, several requests from President Donald Trump's administration to boost defense funding.

On Monday, Trump asked to boost his original military funding request made earlier this year. In that amended plan, the president increased an earlier 2018 defense budget request by allocating an additional \$4 billion for missile defense, \$1.2 billion for the administration's new Afghanistan strategy and another \$700 million for Navy ship repairs.

The new missile defense funding will address an increasing threat from North Korea, Trump had said.

"This request supports additional efforts to detect, defeat, and defend against any North Korean use of ballistic missiles against the United States, its deployed forces, allies, or partners," Trump said in the amendment request, which came in the form of a letter sent late Monday to House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

China launches dredging ship to speed island development

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Just days before President Donald Trump's arrival in the country Wednesday, China launched a colossal dredging ship dubbed the "magic island maker" that could speed up the creation of artificial islands in the disputed South China Sea.

Adm. Harry Harris — head of U.S. Pacific Command and a vocal critic of Beijing's efforts to build up and militarize the islets in the Spratly and Paracel chains — met with Trump on Friday in Hawaii at the start of the president's trip to Asia. Harris has referred to those islets, which were built up using sand dredged from the sea bottom, as China's "great wall of sand."

The new 460-foot dredging vessel, named Tiankun, was moved last week to waters off a

shipyard in Jiangsu province on the eastern coast near Shanghai, the state-owned China Daily reported Saturday. Engineers will now conduct tests of the ship, which can dredge almost 212,000 cubic feet of sand or clay in an hour in waters as deep as 40 yards.

The ship's "cutter-suction" system can cut through solid rock. Its Shanghai-based designer, Marine Design and Research Institute, told China Daily that the ship is "a magic island maker" because of its capability "to conduct coastal and channel dredging and land reclamation operations even in bad weather at sea."

Tiankun — which is expected to be fully operational by June — will be able to dredge an area the size of a soccer field about a yard deep within an hour, the trade magazine Construction Global reported. The dredging

system can pump material up to roughly 10 miles away.

China claims sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, an assertion disputed by neighboring nations that include Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

To bolster its claims and assert military dominance there, Beijing has constructed fighter jet hangars and surveillance arrays on the Spratlys' Fiery Cross, Subi and Mischief reefs, all of which were expanded through dredging, according to a report posted this past summer on the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative website, which is operated by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

China has built 12 missile shelters on Fiery Cross Reef, the report said.

Marine gets time in brig for accident

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Marine corporal will serve a year in the brig after pleading guilty to negligent homicide and reckless driving in a 2015 accident in which a 7-ton truck flipped during routine training at California's Camp Pendleton, killing one Marine and injuring 18 others.

The Marine Corps Times reported Tuesday that a military judge sentenced Cpl. Bin Guo to 4½ years in prison but that was reduced to one year under a pre-trial agreement Guo reached with prosecutors.

Military defense attorney Maj. Nelson Candelario told the newspaper that Guo will also not receive any punitive discharge under the terms of the agreement.

Marines in the accident and the parents of Cpl. Bryan Lauw, 21, who was killed, testified at Guo's sentencing last week.

Academy: Slurs written by 'targeted' student

Associated Press

DENVER — Racial slurs posted outside the dorm rooms of five black students at the U.S. Air Force Academy were written by one of those students, the school said Tuesday.

The announcement was a jarring turn in an episode that prompted the academy's superintendent to warn students that racists were not welcome at the school — a speech that attracted nationwide attention.

The student is no longer at the school, the academy said. A spokesman declined to say whether the student withdrew or was expelled, citing privacy laws. The student's name wasn't released.

The slurs were found in September at a dormitory that houses students attending the academy's prep school. The

prep school is on the academy grounds but not part of the four-year academy program. It helps promising students meet the academy's entrance requirements.

In a written statement Tuesday, the academy said, "We can confirm that one of the cadet candidates who was allegedly targeted by racist remarks written outside of their dorm room was actually responsible for the act. The individual admitted responsibility and this was validated by the investigation."

The statement added, "Racism has no place at the academy, in any shape or form."

Academy superintendent Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria gave his stern speech to cadets shortly after the slurs were reported. A video of the speech was posted online and has been viewed thousands of times.

"If you can't treat someone with dignity and respect, get out," he said.

At one point, he insisted that everyone in the audience take out their phones and record him so his message was clearly heard.

The slurs appeared in the aftermath of racial violence in Charlottesville, Va., and amid a debate about NFL players kneeling for the national anthem.

"We would also be tone deaf not to think about the backdrop of what is going on in our country," Silveria told cadets.

Silveria stood by his speech Tuesday, the Colorado Springs Gazette reported.

"Regardless of the circumstances under which those words were written, they were written, and that deserved to be addressed," he said in an email

to the newspaper. "You can never overemphasize the need for a culture of dignity and respect — and those who don't understand those concepts aren't welcome here."

Silveria, a veteran fighter pilot who directed the air war in the Middle East, took command at the school in August. He graduated from the academy in 1985 and has repeatedly told cadets and staff that his highest priority is ensuring a climate of dignity and respect.

The academy has struggled with sexual misconduct problems several times in recent years, but few racial incidents have been made public.

The academy, outside Colorado Springs, has about 4,000 students.

The prep school usually accepts about 240 students.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Group cancels 'Hunt for the Indian' event

ME SKOWHEGAN — A Maine business group has apologized for a holiday promotion it called "Hunt for the Indian" after a weekend of outrage decrying it as racially insensitive.

The promotion asked members of the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce to join in placing a small Native American figurine inside their businesses, with clues on social media encouraging shoppers to find the figurine with a discount reward for winners. The promotion was announced Saturday, and residents quickly piled on lambasting the effort through social media. The chamber canceled the event.

Volunteer Santa is facing drug charges

NJ SOUTH HACKENSACK — A retiree who volunteers as a Santa Claus is facing drug charges after police allegedly found a crack pipe in his vehicle during a traffic stop.

South Hackensack police said Charles Smith, 66, of Pompton Lakes, was arrested Monday after a traffic stop. They said an officer saw the crack pipe next to a Santa Claus costume.

Authorities said a subsequent search of the vehicle turned up more drug paraphernalia.

State first to make 'ultimate' varsity sport

VT MONTPELIER — Vermont is now the first state in the United States to recognize "ultimate" — the game that started as Ultimate Frisbee — as a high school varsity sport.

A committee that oversees

high school sports in the state unanimously approved ultimate last week as a varsity sport starting in 2019.

Ultimate is played on a field slightly smaller than a football field by teams of seven. Players pass a disc down the field until a teammate catches it in the end zone. If the disc is dropped, it is turned over to the other team.

Bob Johnson, of the Vermont Principal Association, said the decision came after ultimate was played for three years as an exhibition sport. He said there will be about 20 teams for boys and girls across the state.

Blind couple says Uber denied them ride

MA BOSTON — Boston police are investigating after a blind couple said they were denied a ride by an Uber driver, who then dragged one of them down the street.

WBZ-TV reported Tuesday that Milisa Garside had called the Uber through a pilot for the MBTA's paratransit program. She said when the driver saw her service dog, he told them no dogs and drove away.

Her boyfriend, Richard Welch, got his hand caught in the window, and was dragged about 15 feet. He received five stitches and road rash.

Uber said the driver was removed and that drivers agree to accommodate service animals.

Grasshopper found in van Gogh painting

MO KANSAS CITY — A small grasshopper has been found embedded in a Vincent van Gogh painting at a Kansas City museum.

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art said in a news release that the insect was stuck in the thick paint in the lower foreground of the famed artist's

"Olive Trees." Van Gogh was known for painting outdoors and mused in an 1885 letter to his brother that "I must have picked up a good hundred flies and more off the 4 canvases that you'll be getting."

Paintings Conservator Mary Schafer made the grasshopper discovery while examining the painting under magnification.

Women on tracks narrowly escape train

RI WOONSOCKET — Two women had a close call with a freight train when they drove onto the tracks and got stuck, then had to jump from the car as the train bore down on them.

It happened around 11 p.m. Monday in Woonsocket.

Police said the women were from Massachusetts and unfamiliar with the area. When they entered the train crossing, they became disoriented and drove onto the tracks. They got stuck as the crossing gate came down, but were able to jump to safety before the train barreled into the car.

The driver was charged with DUI.

Altercation involves fight over thermostat

ND MINOT — A Minot man is accused of punching his fiancée's brother and threatening him with a knife during a fight that began with an argument over a thermostat.

Authorities allege Cornelius Young, 33, was upset that the other man had turned up the thermostat in a mobile home. The other man tried to defend himself with a children's toy during the alleged assault Friday.

Police said Young's fiancée jumped on his back and bit his ear to distract him, and Young

eventually left the home. Two children present during the altercation weren't injured.

The Minot Daily News reported Young is charged with felony terrorizing.

Police: Worker sold drugs while on job

PA DENVER — Police allege a Pennsylvania Dunkin' Donuts worker sold methamphetamine and heroin on the job, in some cases while wearing his drive-thru window headset.

Pennlive.com reported that Nathan Pizzardi, 35, of Denver, faces felony drug counts.

Police said Pizzardi would leave the store and make sales in the parking lot or at a nearby convenience store. They said he sold the drugs while wearing his uniform and headset.

Student union calls for charges in prank

KS MANHATTAN — The Black Student Union at Kansas State University is calling for criminal charges against a 21-year-old black man who defaced his own car with racist graffiti in what he described as a Halloween prank that got out of hand.

The group posted on its Facebook page late Monday a statement saying it was "appalled, disgusted and hurt" by the false report. Police earlier had announced that Dauntarius Williams admitted that Wednesday's incident was a prank. Police said they thought charges wouldn't be in the community's best interest.

The union said the fact that a black man was involved should not diminish its effect. It urged Riley County authorities to reconsider pressing charges.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Players, fans mourn Halladay's death

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA—A fierce competitor on the mound, Roy Halladay was generous and gentle away from the field.

The eight-time All-Star loved his family, baseball and flying.

Halladay's passion for piloting cost him his life Tuesday when his private plane crashed into the Gulf of Mexico. He was 40.

Former teammates, coaches and fans mourned the sudden loss of the beloved former player, who was known for his tireless work ethic. Nearly every memory began with a story about Halladay's legendary workout program and his early morning routine.

Halladay even outworked Chase Utley.

The fan favorites quickly became close friends after Halladay was traded to the Philadelphia Phillies before the 2010 season. Utley recalled his introduction to Halladay at the team's practice complex in Clearwater, Fla.

"My heart hurts writing this,"

Utley wrote on Instagram.

"I can still remember the first day we met. It was 5:45am on the first day of spring training when I arrived. He was finishing his breakfast but his clothes were soaking wet. I asked if it was raining when he got in. He laughed and said 'No I just finished my workout.' I knew right then — he was the real deal. Thank you Roy for allowing us to witness what it takes to be the best. We will all miss you."

Former teammate Cole Hamels, currently a Texas Rangers ace, joined Phillies chairman David Montgomery at Philadelphia's ballpark to remember Halladay. Fans left pictures, candles and notes outside the stadium to honor Halladay, who played four years there after spending his first 12 seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays.

"Behind everything he did, he had a purpose," Hamels said. "I think you come to realize that you have very small, short moments in life to do something great so you have to

maximize it. You have to make the best of it. And he did. He made us push to a level that sometimes you didn't think you could actually reach. He made everybody better."

Halladay won a Cy Young Award in each league and tossed a perfect game and a no-hitter in his first postseason start in the same year after coming to the Phillies. The 6-foot-6 right-hander was a three-time 20-game winner who finished 203-105 with a 3.38 ERA.

Halladay was a devoted husband to wife Brandy and a loving father to sons Ryan and Braden.

"All-Star pitcher. All-Star person. All-Star father and family man," Montgomery said.

Halladay served as a guest instructor with the Phillies in spring training and had his own office at the complex. He enjoyed working with the organization's young players on the mental aspects of baseball.

"He certainly would have given more to baseball in the future because of his love for the game," Montgomery said.

"But his commitment to his family kept him where he was the last few years. We'd had a number of conversations about his potential future in the game. But he just would say, 'I want it, but it's on hold. It's on hold right now because of my family.'"

Halladay was the pitching coach at Calvary Christian High School, and he was coaching another youth team.

For all of his personal accomplishments, Halladay always put the team first and shared the credit. He gave all of his teammates and members of the organization a luxury watch to commemorate his perfect game and had a special bond with former Phillies catcher Carlos Ruiz.

"Roy was one of the greatest pitchers I ever caught, and an even better person and friend," Ruiz said. "I wanted to win more for him than myself. I will miss him very much. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones and all those, like me, who truly admired him."

3B Arenado tops list of Gold Glove winners

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Colorado Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado won his fifth consecutive Gold Glove Award on Tuesday night, while Minnesota Twins center fielder Byron Buxton headlined a group of six first-time winners.

The prizes for defensive excellence were announced by Rawlings for the 60th time.

Arenado, Cubs right fielder Jason Heyward and Royals left fielder Alex Gordon were each honored for the fifth time, most among this year's winners.

Rockies second baseman DJ LeMahieu got his second Gold Glove, joining Arenado in a banner year for the NL West. Diamondbacks pitcher Zack Greinke won for the fourth time in a row, and teammate Paul Goldschmidt took his third award at first base. Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford won for the third consecutive year at shortstop.

The World Series-winning Astros and NL champion Dodgers were both shut out. Houston pitcher Dallas Keuchel had won the last three years, but was beaten out this

time by Blue Jays righty Marcus Stroman, who snagged his first Gold Glove.

"This is one of the main awards I always wanted to win," Stroman said in an interview on ESPN. "I'm ecstatic. This is huge for me."

Buxton and Twins second baseman Brian Dozier were also among the first-time winners. The group also includes Angels catcher Martin Maldonado, who ended a four-year reign by Royals backstop Salvador Perez. Reds catcher Tucker Barnhart and Marlins left fielder Marcell Ozuna also won for the first time.

"This is a special moment," Buxton said.

Kansas City first baseman Eric Hosmer received his fourth Gold Glove, while Angels shortstop Andrelton Simmons and Rays third baseman Evan Longoria each won their third. Simmons hadn't won since 2014, and Longoria got his first since 2010.

Boston right fielder Mookie Betts and Braves center fielder Ender Inciarte each won for the second time.

Five teams had a pair of winners: the Angels, Diamondbacks, Rockies, Royals and Twins.

Arenado became the first infielder to win five straight Gold Gloves at the start of his career.

"Obviously, five, it's a pretty special number," he said. "It means a lot. ... Right now I want to try to win as many as I can while I'm healthy."

Barnhart beat out two big stars in fellow finalists Buster Posey and Yadier Molina, becoming the first Cincinnati catcher to win since Hall of Famer Johnny Bench in 1977.

"It's as good as it gets for me. I'm a defensive guy and I take a lot of pride in that," Barnhart said.

Molina won eight years in a row in the National League before Posey was picked last season.

"I am taken aback by it, to be honest with you," Barnhart said. "Buster and Yadi are obviously two of the best guys in baseball."

Every major league manager and up to six coaches on his staff vote for Gold Gloves. They cannot choose their own players. Four years ago, Rawlings added a sabermetric component that comprises about 25 percent of the selection total.

No change at the top of CFP rankings

Associated Press

With three games matching teams in the selection committee's top 10, the College Football Playoff race could become a lot clearer on Saturday.

Or more muddled.

Georgia, Alabama, Notre Dame and Clemson held their spots in the top four of the selection committee rankings Tuesday night, and unbeaten Miami moved up three spots to No. 7 ahead of its showdown with the Fighting Irish.

Oklahoma remained fifth and TCU moved up to sixth. The Sooners and Horned Frogs play a key Big 12 game on Saturday, with the winner taking sole possession of first place in the conference.

Notre Dame visits the Hurricanes on Saturday night, and Georgia is at Auburn, which came in 10th.

After Miami in the rankings, unbeaten Wisconsin was No. 8, the highest-ranked Big Ten team. The Hurricanes jumped over Wisconsin after beating Virginia Tech handily last Saturday. The Badgers pulled away late in a rout of Indiana.

Selection committee chairman Kirby Hocutt, Texas Tech's athletic director, said the committee was impressed by

the Hurricanes' most convincing win of the season against a "solid" Virginia Tech team.

"That strengthened their résumé more than, I would say, Wisconsin strengthened their résumé with a win over a three-win Indiana team," Hocutt said.

Washington, the highest-ranked Pac-12 team, is ninth and Auburn is 10th.

No. 14 Penn State and No. 15 Ohio State fell out of the top 10.

UCF was 18th, the highest-ranked team from outside the Power Five conferences. The highest-ranked conference champion from the Group of Five leagues is guaranteed a spot in one of the New Year's Six Bowls, and the American Athletic Conference is in prime position to grab that bid, likely to the Peach or Fiesta bowl.

UCF is unbeaten and leading the American's East Division, and Memphis, ranked 22nd, is in the first in the AAC West.

Paths to the playoff

How each of the top teams get into the semifinals:

Georgia (9-0) and Alabama (9-0) — Win the Southeastern Conference. Both the Bulldogs and Tide can likely afford a loss before getting to Atlanta on

Dec. 2 as long they win that day. If both are 12-0 going into the title game, the loser looks like a good bet to get in, too, depending on how that game goes. But it's no guarantee.

Notre Dame (8-1) — The Fighting Irish should roll in with no issues if they win out and are probably out if they lose for a second time. Simple.

Clemson (8-1) — The Tigers have to like their chances if they win out, though they could use some help from their fellow Atlantic Coast Conference teams. Strong finishes by North Carolina State, Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, Louisville and Boston College, as well as by their non-conference foes Auburn and South Carolina, would ensure a deep résumé. That could also include beating an 11-0 or 10-1 Miami in the ACC title game. The one loss to Syracuse came with an injured QB. And being the defending national champ probably doesn't hurt either.

Oklahoma (8-1) — As of right now, it looks like simply winning out won't be good enough for the Sooners to be a lock. Hocutt noted they have probably the two best road victories of the season, at Ohio State and Oklahoma State. He also tried to downplay how much the committee would hold a defense

ranked 88th in the country against the Sooners. The best-case scenario for OU would be beating TCU on Saturday and again in the Big 12 title game.

TCU (8-1) — Like the Sooners, the Horned Frogs don't have a clear path. Two wins against Oklahoma, both away from home, would be nice. The Frogs do play defense, so they wouldn't have that imbalance issue dogging them.

Miami (8-0) — Just win, baby. Running the table means adding victories against Notre Dame and Clemson, and with a perfect record the Hurricanes wouldn't have to worry about one-loss teams. If they lose to Notre Dame but win the ACC at 11-1 — remember their game against Arkansas State was canceled by a hurricane — that résumé is a little light.

Wisconsin (9-0) — A 13-0 Big Ten champion would seem like a lock to make the playoff, but the Badgers are going to need Michigan and whoever emerges as the Big Ten East champion to play well enough to give them the opportunities for the marquee victories their résumé currently lacks.

Washington (8-1) — Win out. Win big. Hope about half the higher-ranked teams lose at least one more time.

UCLA's Ball involved in China 'situation'

Associated Press

BEIJING — UCLA basketball coach Steve Alford will sit the three players reportedly involved in a shoplifting incident in China for Saturday's game against Georgia Tech in Shanghai.

Alford, however, declined to address the issue further.

"The University came out with a statement, so I won't have any further comment on this other than in answering that question — those individuals won't play on Saturday," Alford said Wednesday in Shanghai.

Pac-12 Conference Commissioner Larry Scott issued a statement Tuesday night saying that UCLA basketball players

were "involved in a situation" in China, with police being summoned to the team's hotel to investigate the matter.

"UCLA is cooperating fully with local authorities," Scott said.

Citing a person close to the situation, the Los Angeles Times reported that freshmen LiAngelo Ball, Cody Riley and Jalen Hill were involved in a shoplifting incident. Ball is the younger brother of Lonzo Ball, the former UCLA star and current Los Angeles Lakers rookie. Their father, LaVar Ball, is also in China and told ESPN that he was "going to wait until I get more intel on what's going on" before commenting.

Police in Hangzhou did not respond to telephone calls from The Associated Press for details.

Scott did not elaborate on what occurred and said the league was directing all inquiries about the specifics of the matter to UCLA.

"We are very disappointed by any situation that detracts from the positive student-athlete educational and cultural experience that this week is all about," Scott said. "Whether in the United States or abroad, we expect our student-athletes to uphold the highest standards. We will continue to closely monitor the situation."

UCLA team spokesman

Alex Timiraos said the school is aware of the situation and is gathering more information.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that local police were called to the hotel where both teams were staying in Hangzhou and inspected UCLA's bus as players waited to depart for practice. Police interviewed players from both teams before clearing three players from Georgia Tech, according to a statement released by the school.

The teams were staying at the Hyatt Regency Hangzhou on Tuesday before leaving for Shanghai, where Georgia Tech and No. 21 UCLA are set to open the season.

NBA roundup

A healthy Love boosts Cavs over Bucks

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Kevin Love joked that he might swing by the hospital on his way home.

On a recent visit, he got a dose of something that made him and the Cavaliers feel better.

Love scored a season-high 32 points without attempting a three-pointer, LeBron James added 30 following an interesting couple of days on social media, and Cleveland withstood a 40-point performance by Giannis Antetokounmpo to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 124-119 on Tuesday night.

The Cavs have been one of the NBA's biggest surprises this season — for all the wrong reasons. But after losing five of six, they did enough to hand the young-and-improving Bucks their fourth straight loss and keep Cleveland fans from panicking.

Love was briefly hospitalized after scoring just four points and leaving a surprising loss to Atlanta in the third quarter on Sunday. Following his best

game this season, Cleveland's center was asked what IV medications he received.

"I don't know," he said with a smile. "Whatever they gave me I might go back and check myself in tonight."

Love added 16 rebounds. J.R. Smith found his stroke and added a season-high 20 points for the Cavs.

Before the game, the Bucks got some scoring help by acquiring guard Eric Bledsoe from Phoenix in exchange for forward/center Greg Monroe and two draft picks.

Knicks 118, Hornets 113: Kristaps Porzingis scored 28 points, including a tiebreaking three-pointer with 1:48 remaining, and host New York earned its third straight victory.

Pelicans 117, Pacers 112: Anthony Davis had 37 points and 14 rebounds for visiting New Orleans, and DeMarcus Cousins added 32 points and 13 boards.

Indiana had six players score in double figures in its third

straight loss.

Spurs 120, Clippers 107: LaMarcus Aldridge scored 25 points, and host San Antonio made a season-high 15 three-pointers in its third straight win.

The Spurs also had a season-best 12 steals, and Danny Green, Rudy Gay and Pau Gasol all had or matched their best scoring output of the season.

Mavericks 113, Wizards 99: Harrison Barnes scored 31 points, rookie Dennis Smith Jr. had 22 and visiting Dallas snapped a six-game losing streak.

John Wall had 23 points and 14 assists in his return from a sprained left shoulder.

Kings 94, Thunder 86: Zach Randolph scored all of his 18 of his points in the second half, Buddy Hield had 21 points and host Sacramento stopped a seven-game losing streak.

Russell Westbrook had 20 points, 12 rebounds and six assists for Oklahoma City, which

has dropped three in a row.

Raptors 119, Bulls 114: DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and host Toronto beat Chicago for its first three-game winning streak over the Bulls since 2009.

Nuggets 112, Nets 104: Nikola Jokic had a career-high 41 points for host Denver, and Will Barton and Paul Millsap scored 17 apiece.

76ers 104, Jazz 97: Dario Saric scored a season-high 25 points and visiting Philadelphia won its fifth straight game.

The winning streak is their longest since the 2011-12 season.

Grizzlies 98, Trail Blazers 97: Tyreke Evans scored 21 points, Mike Conley had 20 — all in the second half — and visiting Memphis held off Portland.

CJ McCollum led Portland with 36 points. Damian Lillard had 12 points on 4-for-16 shooting.

NHL roundup

McDavid scores winner 38 seconds into OT

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Connor McDavid stormed down the ice with Leon Draisaitl trailing a step behind. Two slick passes and a one-timer later, and the game was over.

McDavid scored 38 seconds into overtime to lead the Edmonton Oilers over the New York Islanders 2-1 on Tuesday night.

McDavid intercepted an off-target pass by John Tavares to start a 2-on-1. McDavid carried the puck into the New York end of the ice dropping the puck to Draisaitl, who flipped a behind-the-back pass to McDavid at the circle to set up a one-timer.

The goal was the sixth of the year for McDavid.

"Our two big guns took it down the ice and got us a win," said Cam Talbot, who made 36 saves. "That's what we look to them for in situations like that, and we got it tonight."

The Islanders didn't come out too disappointed, either, despite losing two of three and falling to 8-5-2. New York is 5-0-2 at Barclays Center this season.

"I knew it was going to be a tough game," New York coach Doug Weight said. "They played one of their better games. We did as well."

Kings 4, Ducks 3 (OT): Nick Shore scored on a pass from Dustin Brown with 1:09 left in overtime, and visiting Los Angeles rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat Anaheim in the first Freeway Faceoff of the season.

Blues 3, Devils 1: Vladimir Tarasenko and Jaden Schwartz scored in a 1:35 span bridging the second and third periods and St. Louis sent host New Jersey to its season-high third straight loss.

Penguins 3, Coyotes 1: Justin Schultz scored in his return from a concussion, Matt Murray stopped 24 shots and host

Pittsburgh had little trouble with Arizona.

Predators 3, Blue Jackets 1: Calle Jarnkrok scored in the third period, Pekka Rinne stopped 35 shots and Nashville beat host Columbus.

Canadiens 3, Golden Knights 2: Brendan Gallagher and Jordie Benn scored in the first period and host Montreal beat Vegas for its third straight win.

Sabres 3, Capitals 1: Benoit Pouliot scored the go-ahead goal on an end-to-end rush 3:22 into the third period, and host Buffalo snapped Washington's three-game winning streak.

Hurricanes 3, Panthers 1: Derek Ryan scored the go-ahead goal at 9:35 of the third period and host Carolina beat Florida to snap a four-game losing streak.

Canucks 5, Flames 3: Henrik Sedin scored for the first time this season 38 seconds after Bo Horvat's tiebreaking goal, lifting Vancouver over host Calgary.