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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Troops still might get bigger pay raise

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Troops still have a chance in December to receive their highest pay raise in years, even if Congress goes ahead with plans to put off a vote on 2017 defense spending for months to accommodate President-elect Donald Trump.

The House and Senate are hashing out the details of the National Defense Authorization Act, a sprawling military policy bill, and could wrap up this week. House lawmakers have proposed a version of the annual bill that includes a 2.1 percent pay increase instead of the

1.6 percent increase ordered by President Barack Obama to take effect in January.

If the House proposal prevails in the final NDAA — the Senate went with the lower raise — it could become law in December, and the Defense Department would be required to begin doling out the biggest military pay raise in five years, according to congressional staff involved with the legislation.

Obama used an executive order to set the 2016 pay raise at 1.3 percent.

Congress has already abandoned plans to pass a 2017 defense appropriations bill before the end of the year, which could

leave other new policies in the NDAA unfunded for now. But the pay raise could go into effect even as other spending increases are delayed, staff members said.

Republican leaders announced this month they will pursue a stopgap budget measure to maintain current federal and military funding levels through the end of March so Trump can have input after being sworn in Jan. 20 as president.

The Defense Department has repeatedly warned against such moves, contending it will cause a budgetary complication and thwart good planning. It remains uncertain how the closed-door

NDAA negotiations will pan out in the coming days.

The Armed Services committees in the House and Senate are wrangling over whether to risk Obama's veto of the NDAA by boosting base spending with \$18 billion to buy new hardware such as ships and aircraft, to increase the number of troops and to boost pay that has been lagging behind the private sector for years.

Military pay raises have been kept below 2 percent since 2011, while troops and families have been stressed by deployments, aging equipment and shrinking overall defense spending.

War game shows gap in Army's cyber capabilities

Bloomberg

U.S. forces participating in a multinational war game were tested with a barrage of cyberattacks, electronic-warfare jamming and drones that confirmed major gaps in capabilities that must be remedied, according to a leader of an office dedicated to deploying new technologies quickly.

"We need this type of assessment," Maj. Gen. Walter Piatt, operations director of the Army's new Rapid Capabilities Office, said of the exercise last month.

Army soldiers, Marines and special operations forces were joined by Australian and Canadian counterparts for the 11 days of mock warfare in Texas and New Mexico. The war game simulated a conflict in the Pacific that was heavy on electronic warfare against an adversary force intent on dis-

rupting communications and navigation. Italian troops overseas linked in via satellite.

The new office is designed to harness promising technologies that can be deployed within five years of identifying a combat need, an initiative aimed at blunting an erosion in capabilities and countering improvements by Russia, China and other adversaries.

The war game evaluated 41 concepts and capabilities including robotics, electronic warfare, defensive cyberspace operations, expeditionary mission command and systems to counter drones.

Piatt said the lessons learned in the exercise may result in a list of technologies to buy, rethinking the use of existing technologies, or bringing forward part of a developing technology through rapid prototyping.

Should more troops be eligible for food stamps?

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Despite steep pay raises since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, too many military personnel still struggle to feed their families and need an easier way to get food stamps, according to a new bill from a San Diego congresswoman.

Democratic Rep. Susan Davis has introduced the Military Hunger Prevention Act in a bid to exempt the military's Basic Allowance for Housing when determining eligibility for food stamps and 17 other federal food programs.

Basic Allowance for Housing is a tax-free payment given to servicemembers who don't live in military housing. About two out of every three servicemembers nationwide draw the allowance, and the monthly amounts vary by pay grade. Troops with spouses or children get bigger allowances.

Take as an example a junior

Navy petty officer who enlisted three years ago and currently has a spouse and one child. The family lives near base in pricey San Diego.

That household would receive about \$17,000 per year for the housing allowance, plus \$4,000 in nontaxable help for food and other items, according to the Department of Defense. Add the sailor's regular pay, and the total compensation package hovers near \$51,000 annually.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, that's about \$3,000 less than what the typical full-time wage earner in San Diego County makes.

But it's high enough to disqualify the servicemember from being eligible for food stamps. Even if the household added three more children, the housing allowance would bar them from getting food stamps in California.

Mabus makes waves pushing Navy ahead

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus recently recalled the last year in the life of his father, a timber merchant who died decades ago at 85.

"The last year of his life, he didn't cut a single tree but he planted thousands, and he did that as an act of faith, an act of hope," Mabus told sailors in Hawaii. "He knew as an absolute fact that he would never see any money, never see any benefit, but he did it. He did it for his granddaughters that he never met. He did it for their children."

The long haul has been a major part of the philosophy that has driven the former Mississippi governor since he assumed the Navy post in May 2009. He retires Jan. 20 after serving longer in that job than anyone since World War I.

Mabus is also among the most controversial Navy secretaries. His coterie of fervent admirers consider him the Obama administration's most effective service secretary. His detractors decry him as a social activist whose decisions — naming a ship for assassinated gay activist Harvey Milk, removing terms with "man" from enlisted rating systems and integrating men and women in Marine Corps basic training — undercut esprit and combat effectiveness in favor of social engineering.

'Disruptive' secretary

During Mabus' tenure, the Navy signed contracts for 86 new ships, more than double the number contracted for in the previous seven years. His admirers credit his political skills for building bipartisan support for his policies on Capitol Hill.

"Ray Mabus is one of the most successful service secretaries in modern times," said Loren Thompson, a defense expert at the Lexington Institute, a libertarian think tank in Virginia. "During the Obama years, the Navy has been by far the best-managed of the military depart-

ments. Mabus has run a tight ship, and as a result, the Navy and Marine Corps are in better shape than the Air Force or the Army."

During his tenure, the self-described "disruptive" Navy secretary implemented an ambitious plan to wean the fleet off fossil fuels, increased the length of maternity leave and overruled a decision by the Marine Corps opposing a Pentagon order to allow women in all combat jobs.

He has also promoted gender neutrality in the Navy and Marine Corps by calling for unisex uniforms, instituting guidelines for transgender servicemembers, integrating men and women in basic training and stripping job titles of gender reference.

Those steps have drawn fire from conservatives, who are likely to look for a new direction in the incoming Donald Trump administration, which will be working with a Republican-controlled Congress.

GOP ire

The changes involving the Marine Corps so enraged Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter of California, a Marine veteran, that he called for Mabus to resign and described him as "a greater threat to the Marine Corps than ISIS," meaning the Islamic State group.

Some female sailors are opposed to the proposed pants-only style — no more skirts — while others have criticized the possibility of having to spend more on uniforms during a transition.

The House Armed Services Committee noted in a markup of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act that the Navy was unable to identify an "operational necessity" for the uniform changes.

Mabus also angered some conservatives over naming ships. In 2012, he proposed naming a littoral combat ship after Democratic Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who became an icon for gun control advocates after she was gravely wounded

by a gunman in Tucson, Ariz., in January 2011.

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., added an amendment to the 2012 defense authorization bill calling for a report on how far Mabus had strayed from unofficial naming protocols.

The subsequent report concluded that, aside from the USS Gabrielle Giffords, the ship names Mabus had chosen were "consistent with established, special and unofficial naming conventions."

Expect criticism

"I've always been astounded at people that work their whole lives to get into leadership positions and then refuse to lead," Mabus told Stars and Stripes. "If you are making decisions, you're going to get criticism. If you don't get any criticism, it probably means you're not doing very much."

Mabus contends that the underlying motive for his changes has been to make sailors and Marines better warfighters.

"Overall, I hope that my legacy is that the Navy and Marine Corps are substantially changed but also significantly stronger than they were eight years ago," Mabus said.

On the top of his to-do list was increasing the number of ships being built for the Navy, a goal Mabus has achieved.

"In 2001, the U.S. Navy had 316 ships," Mabus said. "By 2008, seven years later, after one of the big military buildups in our history, we were down to 278 ships." With the contracts in the pipeline, the Navy is on track to possess 308 ships by 2021, he said.

Mabus has also overseen the commissioning of the first wave of the troubled littoral combat ships, which have suffered from high-profile breakdowns at sea.

Critics say the Navy let construction get ahead of testing for the new style of warship.

"We just think the LCS program was totally mismanaged, that the Navy prioritized speed in the program rather than having a good sense of what they

want the ships to actually do," said Mandy Smithberger, a defense expert with the Project on Government Oversight, a non-partisan watchdog organization in Washington.

LCS controversy

The ships were designed for a smaller crew than past warships, but Smithberger and other critics argue that the manning expectations are unrealistic.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office recommended last summer that Congress pause funding LCSs until the Navy alters its acquisition strategy.

Mabus has defended the vessels, calling them "great ships" earlier this fall and maintaining that the Navy will work through the initial problems.

Mabus also touts the success of moving the Navy and Marine Corps away from fossil fuels to renewables. He launched the Great Green Fleet initiative soon after becoming secretary, and earlier this year, the first aircraft carrier group was deployed using a 50-50 blend of fossil and biofuels.

As of last year, Navy and Marine Corps bases were getting half their energy from renewable sources, such as solar, wind and geothermal, Mabus said. Renewables account for about 35 percent of the energy the Navy uses at sea — half of which is nuclear.

"We're better warfighters today because of it," he said. "We're more expeditionary because of it. We're less vulnerable because of it."

Sweeping changes in Navy policy, however, are likely what Mabus will be most remembered for — assuming they aren't reversed by the incoming administration.

Mabus' effort "clearly reflects President (Barack) Obama's views," said John Hattendorf, emeritus Ernest J. King professor of maritime history at the U.S. Naval War College in Rhode Island.

For military-weary Okinawa, Trump offers glimmer of hope

The Washington Post

NAHA, Japan — From Brussels to Bahrain, London to Lima, there's concern about what Donald Trump might do as president. Military alliances and trade pacts are in doubt, and anxieties are running high.

But for many people in the southern Japanese island prefecture of Okinawa, Trump offers a slight glimmer of hope, a potential crack in the wall that has repelled their attempts to lessen the American military presence here.

"Lots of people are saying the same thing — that they have a tiny hope that something will change, that Donald Trump might reduce the burden of military bases on Okinawa," said Hiroko Ohshiro, 65, a retired office clerk who regularly protests new base construction here. She still describes herself as "70 percent pessimistic" — but that's an improvement on the 100 percent failure rate Okinawa has recorded in trying to resist new American bases.

"People here have a very vague expectation that under a Trump administration, the bases might move and the situation might change," said Manabu Sato, professor of political science at Okinawa International University. "If [Hillary] Clinton had won, nothing would have changed. People now want an opportunity to change the situation."

On the campaign trail, Trump repeatedly threatened to close the U.S. military bases in Japan unless Tokyo funded the entire cost for their operation, saying that the United States was losing "billions" and a rich country like Japan should be able to pay for its own defense. Japan contributes almost \$4 billion annually to run the bases, which offer protection for Japan against North Korea and China, but are also a crucial part of the U.S.' forward deployment in Asia. Now, people here are eagerly waiting to find out whether Trump was genuine or whether this was just campaign bluster.

"Mr. Trump's policies haven't been decided so we shouldn't be swayed by his actions each time, but should remain cautious while vehemently conveying our message," said Denny Tamaki, who represents Okinawa in the lower house of the Japanese parliament. "Okinawan lawmakers like myself will continue to appeal to the U.S. that the Okinawan people's position is different from the one of the central government."

Takeshi Onaga, who was elected governor of Okinawa two years ago on a pledge to block the relocation of a controversial Marine Corps air station, plans to visit Washington in February to make his case to the new president.

Onaga has visited Washington twice since his election in 2014 but has found most doors closed to him. The Pentagon

views his complaints as an issue for him to take up with Tokyo, not Washington.

"It would be great if Mr. Trump could review the base issue in Okinawa from scratch," said Yoichi Iha, a former local mayor who now represents Okinawa in the upper house. "Mr. Trump can probably do things that might not go along with conventional ways of thinking."

Okinawa was occupied by the U.S. for almost three decades after the end of World War II, and the bases remained even after it was handed back to Japan in 1972.

This island chain accounts for less than 1 percent of Japan's landmass but houses 74 percent of the U.S. military bases in Japan. Many locals say that places an unfair burden on them and is part of a history of being treated as second-class citizens by Tokyo.

For 20 years, the U.S. and Tokyo have been trying to relocate the huge Marine Corps air station at Futenma to a remote spot farther north at Henoko.

Two new runways will be built on reclaimed land, adjoining an existing American military base. Polls have consistently shown strong opposition to the plan, with as many as 85 percent wanting the air station moved off the island entirely, and Onaga has used his power to try to block progress.

Local activists say the construction will destroy the natural environment and put endangered species at risk, and they have been protesting vehemently since construction began at Henoko just over two years ago.

Many residents are also incensed at the clearing in the subtropical Yanbaru forest on the northernmost part of Okinawa's main island to make way for six new military helipads.

The northern area is already used for jungle warfare training for the Marines, although almost 10,000 acres, or nearly half of it, will be returned to Okinawan control next month.

Further tempering the slight optimism here are reports that Trump is close to nominating retired Marine Gen. James Mattis as his defense secretary. Many people here think that Mattis would side with the Marine Corps.

"So the situation could actually become worse if Donald Trump puts a hardliner into a key position," said Chihiro Yamada, 36, a school assistant who is also opposed to the bases.

Sato, the political scientist, said he does not expect to see any change. "I think Trump will threaten Japan and try to get more money out of it," he said. "Then he can say, 'I'm a good businessman, I got a better deal from the Japanese,' and then he can abandon his pledge."

Suit is latest LCS setback

Alabama Media Group, Birmingham

As the U.S. defense budget reaches a critical phase this week, with lawmakers hoping to pass it for the 55th consecutive time, the much-maligned littoral combat ship program has gathered another black mark against its name.

After years of overspending, engine breakdowns and being highly criticized by defense policymakers across the country, one prominent ship designer is awaiting a decision after suing the U.S. Navy for allegedly stealing his designs and applying them to parts of the \$15 billion LCS manufacturing project, according to a report by the Daily Beast.

While the specific designs in question relate only to the Lockheed Martin-built version of the LCS, manufactured in Wisconsin, it could also spell trouble for Austal's variation being built in Mobile, Ala., because both are funded as a package in the National Defense Authorization act. It's yet to be seen how much funding the LCS program will receive in the 2017 budget, but there is a large contingent of detractors on Capitol Hill who would like to see it scaled back significantly.

Arizona Republican John McCain, Senate Armed Services Committee chairman, has long reviled the ships, which he has said are over budget, badly built and not relevant to the Navy's future. His counterpart in the House, Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, is a strong proponent of smaller and more sensible defense acquisitions.

David Giles, 80, a British-born ship designer, claims the U.S. Navy stole two patents he filed in 1992 and 1993 through his company, Fastship. He claims his designs have been incorporated into Lockheed Martin designs for the LCS ships.

Lockheed was made aware of Giles' ideas and entered into a partnership with him in 2002. Even though his general idea was welcomed by Navy designers, Navy planners decided they needed something half the size and up to 10 knots extra. In January 2003, the Navy decided it needed something more robust and bigger; Giles' designs became relevant again. But he was dropped from the team a year later and the Navy steamed ahead using his designs, he claims.

In 2008, Giles wrote to the Navy accusing them of breaking patent law by using his designs. The Navy rejected the claims. Then in 2010, Giles' patent expired and the Navy became free to use it. It wasn't until 2012 that Giles officially filed suit.

After four years of delays, the case is expected to be resolved in the coming months.

Raging wildfires force Tennessee evacuations

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Raging wildfires fueled by high winds forced the evacuation of thousands of people and damaged hundreds of buildings in a popular resort town on the border of the Smoky Mountains National Park as National Guard troops arrived early Tuesday to help overwhelmed firefighters.

Rain had begun to fall in some areas, but experts predicted it would not be enough to end the relentless drought that has spread across several Southern states and provided fuel for fires now burning for weeks in states including Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina.

The storms appeared to be taking aim at the nearly 28,000-acre Rough Ridge Fire in north Georgia and the nearly 25,000-acre Rock Mountain Fire that began in Georgia and then spread deep into North Carolina.

In Gatlinburg, Tenn., officials said hundreds of homes and other buildings, including a 16-story hotel, were damaged or destroyed by flames. Emergency officials ordered evacuations in downtown Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge and in other areas of Sevier County near the Smoky Mountains while crews continue to battle the blaze,

which also had crept to the edge of the Dollywood theme park.

About 14,000 residents and visitors were evacuated from Gatlinburg alone, officials said.

No deaths have been reported, though several people were hospitalized with burns, emergency officials said in a news release. Officials say there are about 1,200 people sheltering at the Gatlinburg Community Center and the Rocky Top Sports Park. Several other shelters have opened to house those forced from their homes. TV broadcasts showed residents streaming out of town just as rain started to wet roads.

Workers at an aquarium evacuated because of the wildfires were concerned about the thousands of animals housed there. Ryan DeSears, general manager of Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, told WBIR-TV the building was still standing and all workers had been evacuated late Monday. However, he said workers were anxious to return to check on the well-being of the 10,518 animals.

The rain forecast "puts the bull's-eye of the greatest amounts right at the bull's-eye of where we've been having our greatest activity," said Dave Martin, deputy director of operations for fire and aviation

management with the southern region of the U.S. Forest Service.

The projected rainfall amounts "really lines up with where we need it," Martin said Monday. "We're all knocking on wood."

After weeks of punishing drought, any rain that falls should be soaked up quickly, forecasters said. It will provide some relief but won't end the drought — or the fire threat, they said.

Drought conditions will likely persist, authorities said. The problem is that rainfall amounts have been 10 to 15 inches below normal during the past three months in many parts of the South, authorities said.

"I think we racked up deficits that are going to be too much to overcome with just one storm system," said Mark Svoboda, director of the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, Neb.

In Mississippi, trees were reported downed Monday in nearly 20 counties. The storms moved across Alabama on Monday night and fell on Georgia during the overnight hours. High wind warnings were issued for mountainous areas in northern parts of Georgia.

Terrorism eyed in Ohio State attack

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Investigators are looking into whether a car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University that injured 11 people was an act of terrorism by a student who had once criticized the media for its portrayal of Muslims.

The attacker, identified as Abdul Razak Ali Artan, plowed his car into a group of pedestrians on campus shortly before 10 a.m. Monday and then got out and began stabbing people with a butcher knife before he was shot to death by a campus police officer, authorities said.

A motive was not immediately known, but police said they were investigating whether it was a terrorist attack.

Artan was born in Somalia and was a legal permanent U.S. resident, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the case and spoke on condition of anonymity.

University Police Chief Craig Stone said Artan deliberately drove his small gray Honda over a curb outside an engineering classroom building and then began knifing people.

Officer Alan Horujko, 28, who was nearby because of a gas leak, arrived on scene and shot the driver in less than a minute, Stone said.

Angshuman Kapil, a graduate student, was outside Watts Hall when the car barreled onto the sidewalk.

"It just hit everybody who was in front," he said. "After that, everybody was shouting, 'Run! Run! Run!'"

Eleven victims, mostly students, were taken to three Columbus hospitals. Most had been hurt by the car, and two had been stabbed, officials said. One had a fractured skull.

Four remained hospitalized Tuesday morning, the hospitals said.

Several prayer vigils were held Monday night to support the victims and the community.

Classes at OSU were canceled after the attack but were scheduled to resume Tuesday.

Trump: Flag-burners should face consequences

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump said Tuesday that anyone who burns an American flag should face "consequences," such as jail or a loss of citizenship — a move that was ruled out by the Supreme Court nearly three decades ago.

Trump took to Twitter early Tuesday morning, stating, "Nobody should be allowed to burn the American flag — if they do, there must be consequences — perhaps loss of citizenship or year in jail!"

It was not immediately clear what prompted the tweet.

The president-elect's tweet is in direct conflict with free speech rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. It came as he prepared to name a secretary of state and a transportation secretary.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1989 that flag-burning is "expressive conduct" protected by the First Amendment.

Rep. Sean Duffy, R-Wis., took issue with the tweet. "We want to protect those people who want to protest. ... I disagree with Mr. Trump on that," Duffy said Tuesday on CNN's "New Day."

Duffy is the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee's panel on oversight and investigations.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman hits husband with holiday turkey

LA BATON ROUGE — Police said a 32-year-old Baton Rouge woman was arrested after she held a knife to her husband's throat and hit him with a Thanksgiving turkey during an argument in their kitchen.

The Advocate reported an officer arrived at the couple's home Thursday to find Helen Jackson and her husband standing face to face, yelling at each other. After separating the two, the man told the officer he was trying to cook a turkey when the confrontation occurred.

Jackson faces charges of aggravated assault and domestic abuse battery.

State looks for ways to save on inmate burials

MO ST. LOUIS — Missouri corrections officials are seeking bids from funeral homes in an effort to reduce the state's cost of burying inmates who die behind bars and have nobody to claim their bodies.

Bid documents request the cheapest wood boxes and least expensive grave liners as the Department of Corrections tries to spend less than the \$62,000 it spent to bury unclaimed prisoners in 2015.

Last year 104 of Missouri's roughly 32,000 prison inmates died while incarcerated, including 55 whose remains were not claimed by family.

Catering truck takes nosedive at airport

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Two people were hurt when a catering truck went over a barricade at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Interna-

tional Airport and took a nosedive to a lower level.

The LSG Sky Chefs truck blocked a tunnel that led to the airfield and a terminal Sunday. It took more than five hours to move the truck back into a horizontal position.

The driver and passenger got out of the truck on their own but were taken to a hospital with injuries that weren't life-threatening.

Nonprofit raises money for state's only giraffe

NV LAS VEGAS — A nonprofit wildlife ranch is trying to raise about \$20,000 to help care for the only giraffe in Nevada.

KVVU-TV reported that Lion Habitat Ranch, which houses about 50 animals, said the giraffe, named Ozzy Picasso, has outgrown his old home and needs a new place to stay warm in the winter. The ranch said the money raised will also go toward medical care and food.

The 2-year-old Ozzy has grown five feet in the past year and is expected to reach 18 feet tall in the next two years.

'Scatter garden' sought for cremated remains

MD TAKOMA PARK — As cremation rates in the U.S. continue to soar, a group of Maryland residents is seeking a permanent space where people can have their remains scattered.

The Washington Post reported Jennifer Beman and her Takoma Park neighbors are asking their city to create the country's first public "scatter garden," where residents' remains would be freely scattered and where families could return to remember.

Beman, who presented the idea to the City Council this fall,

envisioning using one of the city's existing gardens and creating a wall for names on plaques.

Mourners hold vigil for euthanized whale

NY EAST MORICHES — Nearly 200 people gathered along the shore of Long Island's Moriches Bay over the weekend to memorialize a humpback whale that was recently euthanized.

The 33-foot-long mammal was euthanized by veterinarians Nov. 23 after it was first spotted on a sandbar in shallow water Nov. 20.

The whale, which weighed between 15 and 20 tons, remained grounded for four days before the decision was made to end its life.

Officials with the Riverhead Foundation of Marine Research and Preservation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the best chance for the whale's escape was hoping a high tide would allow it to free itself.

Museum has exhibit of rare fishing reel types

KY FRANKFORT — Capital City Museum in Frankfort has opened an exhibit displaying rare fishing reels known as Frankfort or Kentucky reels.

Curator John Downs said the multiplying reel was perfected in Frankfort, and the exhibit has examples of all four major Frankfort reel makers.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources said all of the makers apprenticed with the Meek brothers, who had a jewelry business in the early 1830s in Frankfort.

Downs said an 1860 ad shows a low-end reel selling for \$13, which was about a month's pay for a Union soldier.

Ban on sex between lawyers, clients mullied

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The nation's largest state bar association is overhauling ethics rules for attorneys for the first time in 30 years, and some lawyers are not happy about a proposal that would open them up to discipline for having sex with clients.

California currently bars attorneys from coercing a client into sex or demanding sex in exchange for legal representation. Supporters of an all-out ban say the relationship between a lawyer and client is inherently unequal, so any sexual relationship is potentially coercive. Some attorneys say it's an unjustified invasion of privacy.

The proposed change is part of a long-awaited shake-up of the state bar association's ethics rules for attorneys, last revised in 1987.

Sheriff's deputy dies in accidental shooting

OH BOWLING GREEN — Authorities said an off-duty sheriff's deputy in northwest Ohio died after accidentally shooting himself.

The Wood County Sheriff's Office identified the deputy as Sgt. Alvin Adams. Officials said he accidentally shot himself Saturday with a shotgun he owned outside his home in Grand Rapids, about 30 miles south of Toledo.

The Wood County sheriff said Adams, 56, worked in the jail at the Wood County Justice Center in Bowling Green.

The sheriff said Adams shouted to his girlfriend to call 911 after shooting himself. He died at a Bowling Green hospital.

From wire reports

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Rodgers leads Packers past Eagles

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Aaron Rodgers threw perfect passes, ran for key first downs and did all his talking on the field.

Nobody will question his leadership this week.

Rodgers had 313 yards passing and tossed two touchdown passes to Davante Adams to help the Green Bay Packers snap a four-game losing streak with a 27-13 win over the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday night.

The two-time NFL MVP openly criticized his teammates while the losses piled up, causing people to point the finger back at him for the way he handled it. But Packers coach Mike McCarthy praised his quarterback's approach.

"His positive attitude has been consistent through all this time," McCarthy said. "He's grown as a quarterback since the start of 2008, and grown as a person all the way through. He's an excellent leader, always

has been."

Rodgers hasn't had a losing record since his first season as the starter replacing Brett Favre. He's led the Packers to seven straight playoff appearances and a Super Bowl title. But the team's recent struggles and some of Rodgers' comments made him a target for criticism.

"It's been a rough stretch," Rodgers said. "We're human, so you lose a few in a row and doubt starts to creep in whether or not you can actually finish one of those games off. So for us to finish it off the way we did on offense the last two drives, defensively to come up with a stop, and to finish out the game with a couple of sacks was great for our confidence."

Green Bay (5-6) wasn't losing because of Rodgers or the offense. The defense allowed at least 30 points in each of the four previous games and 89 in the past two. Injuries on both sides of the ball didn't help the situation.

Rodgers made sure the Packers started fast, leading them to touchdown drives on the first two possessions. They took the hostile crowd out of the game early and became the first team to win in Philadelphia (5-6) this season.

Ben Roethlisberger and the Steelers only managed a field goal against the Eagles in Week 3. Matt Ryan and the Falcons had their lowest scoring output (15 points) here on Nov. 13.

The victory kept Green Bay's sinking playoff hopes alive but the Packers are still two games behind the Lions (7-4) in the NFC North.

"There's a big difference between 4-7 and 5-6 for sure, but I hope there's not a ton of relief because we still have a lot of things in front of us we'd like to accomplish," Rodgers said. "This is a step in the right direction, a game we needed to take care of business, but we have a short week with Houston coming in and we have to have a similar performance."

Rodgers showed off his accuracy under the prime-time lights, going 30-for-39. He made two passes to Adams that will make all the highlight tapes.

Rodgers threw a perfect 20-yard TD pass to Adams to give the Packers a 14-7 lead early in the second quarter. Nolan Carroll had excellent coverage on the play, but Rodgers put the ball in a tight spot and hit Adams in stride in the back of the end zone.

After Ha Ha Clinton-Dix intercepted Carson Wentz in the third quarter, Rodgers connected with Adams again. Adams was covered well on a deep pass, but Rodgers threw it in the right spot and Adams made an outstanding over-the-shoulder catch for a 50-yard gain.

"When Aaron gets in a rhythm and he starts finding guys ... and making great throws, that's the offense we're accustomed to having," right tackle Brian Bulaga said.

Lions enter stretch with chance to win division title

Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — The Detroit Lions are alone in first place, and their top competitors in the NFC North have been floundering.

It's an opportunity for the Lions to win their first division title since 1993 — but their outlook could change awfully quickly if the next few weeks go badly.

"Confidence is building, but one thing we know about the league is, it will humble you," defensive lineman Kerry Hyder said.

The Lions play three of their next four games on the road, starting this weekend at New Orleans. With road games against the New York Giants and Dallas also coming up, there are plenty of potential pitfalls awaiting a Detroit team that is in this position only because of its success in close

games.

The Lions (7-4) haven't had a game decided by more than seven points all season. They've won enough of them to take a one-game lead over Minnesota in the division, and Detroit has the tiebreaker over the Vikings after sweeping them. But the Lions have room for improvement in all phases.

"Like anything else in our system, we can get better," coach Jim Caldwell said. "We can get better defensively. We can get better offensively. We can get better in our kicking game."

Detroit has had its share of chances recently to end its division title drought. In 2011, the Lions won their first five games, but they finished 10-6, well behind Green Bay. In 2013, the Lions were 6-3 and in sole possession of first place. The Packers were dealing with major injury problems, but Detroit

lost six of its last seven games, costing coach Jim Schwartz his job.

The following season, the Lions went 11-5 but lost a showdown at Green Bay in a regular-season finale that decided the division.

Detroit has won six of its last seven after beating Minnesota on Thanksgiving, and the Vikings have dropped five of six. Green Bay is below .500. If the Lions win two of their remaining five games, that might be enough to keep them in first place. They have home games against Chicago and Green Bay still to come.

The road games will be tough, though, starting Sunday at New Orleans.

"Obviously Drew (Brees) has been one of the best quarterbacks in the league for a long time, pretty prolific. Those guys have been together," Caldwell said. "He's been in the

same system."

The Saints (5-6) aren't in great shape in the playoff race, but unlike Minnesota, New Orleans has been playing fairly well lately. The Saints have won five of eight since an 0-3 start.

New Orleans has scored at least 32 points in six of its 11 games. Detroit has reached that total only once.

"They have a powerful offense," Hyder said. "They can run the ball well, they can throw the ball deep well. As a defense, we've got to bring our lunch pails."

Notes: TE Brandon Pettigrew, who tore his left anterior cruciate ligament late last year and hasn't played at all this season, spoke for a bit in the locker room Monday. He did not rule out the possibility of returning this weekend. ... The Lions signed TE Logan Thomas to the practice squad and released LB Brandon Chubb.

More Big 12 Bedlam for Oklahoma St.

Associated Press

Oklahoma State has made an impressive recovery to again go into Bedlam with a chance to win the Big 12 title.

And Cowboys coach Mike Gundy still insists that their record is even better than what officially is 9-2 with a seven-game winning streak since losing their conference opener.

"You don't get to 10 wins very often, and double digits is a pretty special place to be," Gundy said after their 31-6 victory at TCU.

This is the fourth time in six seasons since the Big 12 went to 10 teams without divisions, and second year in a row, that 11th-ranked Oklahoma State (9-2, 7-1 Big 12) will prepare for its rivalry game against seventh-

ranked Oklahoma (9-2, 8-0) still in title contention. But the Cowboys' only Big 12 championship was five years ago.

Oklahoma State took 10-1 records into Bedlam in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

Gundy truly believes the Cowboys are 10-1 again this season since officials admitted after their 30-27 loss to Central Michigan on Sept. 10 that the game-ending Hail Mary touchdown pass on an untimed play should have never happened.

"No one will ever convince me we didn't get the win," Gundy said again late Saturday.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops seems to agree with him.

"In my eyes they've only got one loss if you play by the rules," Stoops said.

Oklahoma, which is going for

its 10th Big 12 title, won 56-28 at West Virginia on Nov. 19 to win its eighth game in a row since two non-conference losses.

The winner is the Big 12 champ since the league no longer declares co-champions.

There is no debate about Oklahoma State's 35-24 loss at Baylor on Sept. 24, or how the Cowboys have pushed forward since those two setbacks in a three-game span.

"Everybody has that fire in their eyes," senior running back Chris Carson said. "We forgot about it and got back to work ... and things have been picking up for us."

Carson and Justice Hill combined for 302 of Oklahoma State's 334 yards rushing in the most lopsided home loss for TCU (5-5, 3-4) in coach Gary

Patterson's 16 seasons. Hill finished with 155 yards on 16 carries, and Carson had 147 yards on 17 carries.

Last season, with quarterback Mason Rudolph dealing with a broken foot, the Cowboys lost 58-23 at home and Oklahoma claimed another conference championship.

"I think being in it last year and then kind of having it slip through my fingers, not being able to play, I'm just really excited," Rudolph said.

"It's the first time we are able to host, basically, the Big 12 championship," Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield said. "We've been having a one-week-at-a-time mindset and we're taking care of business and we're right where we want to be right now."

Ennis leads No. 23 Oregon's rally past Boise State

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Growing pains are nothing new for the oldest veteran on Oregon's roster, who may have finally found his comfort zone.

After missing most of the Ducks' run to the Elite Eight last season because of a foot injury, sixth-year senior Dylan Ennis, a graduate transfer from Villanova, is still getting acclimated to his teammates.

Ennis scored 18 points and No. 23 Oregon rallied for a 68-63 victory over Boise State on Monday night.

Tyler Dorsey added 17 points for the Ducks (5-2), who came back from 14 down in the first half to win their 28th consecutive home game.

A three-pointer by Ennis with 3:30 to play put Oregon ahead for the first time since early in the game.

"He probably played as well as anybody we had," coach Dana Altman said.

Ennis also made nine of 10 free throws and had six rebounds in his best all-around game with the Ducks, but he was particularly pleased with his lone three when Oregon

needed it most.

"That was one that was in rhythm and it just went down," Ennis said. "I haven't played with these guys at all. We're still meshing in and we're going to get it."

"Last year we had a few growing pains and at the end of the year we got it right, and that can happen this year as well."

After Dorsey's free throw gave Oregon a 66-63 lead, the Broncos (3-3) had a chance for a tying shot, but Paris Austin lost possession on a baseline drive with 5 seconds left. Dillon Brooks sealed the win with two free throws.

Brooks, a preseason All-America selection, had five points and shot 1-for-9 in 21 minutes off the bench in his fourth game back from offseason foot surgery.

"He had a bad game," Altman said. "He was trying too hard, going way too fast."

Austin led Boise State with 16 points. Nick Duncan added 15 on five of the Broncos' 11 three-pointers.

Altman thought his team was lucky to come back after Boise State built its big lead from be-

yond the arc.

"When a team hits more than 10 threes, you're fortunate to win playing as poorly as we did."

No. 1 Kentucky 115, Arizona State 69: Freshman De'Aaron Fox posted the second triple-double in school history with 14 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to lead a dominating effort by the Wildcats at Paradise Island, Bahamas.

Fellow rookie Malik Monk scored 23 points for the Wildcats (7-0), who dominated an undersized team and quickly turned the game into a romping display of their athleticism and ability to run in transition.

Kentucky led by double figures roughly 6 minutes in, led 58-30 by halftime then scored the first 12 points after the break to go up 40 with 15 minutes left.

No. 18 Butler 68, Utah 59: Kelan Martin scored 18 points as the Bulldogs, who moved into the Top 25 earlier Monday, remained undefeated by handing the host Utes their first loss of the season.

Butler controlled the game from the opening tip and trailed

just once at 20-19. The Bulldogs responded to that with a 14-3 run to take a 10-point lead.

A 13-4 run early in the second half, highlighted by a deep three-pointer from Tyler Lewis, put Utah away. Butler did what it's done all season — shoot well from the field, play stingy defense and limit turnovers. The Bulldogs shot 52.8 percent and held the Utes to 36.5 percent.

No. 25 West Virginia 108, Manhattan 61: Esa Ahmad scored 19 points to lead the host Mountaineers in the final game of the NIT Season Tip-Off.

The Mountaineers (5-1) forced a school-record 40 turnovers, surpassing the 34 by VMI in 2014-15.

West Virginia started the game on an 8-0 run over the first 3 minutes, then both teams essentially traded baskets through the next 12 minutes. In the final 5 minutes of the first half, James Long and Nathan Adrian led a 22-5 scoring run, giving the Mountaineers a 60-27 lead.

Adrian had 15 points for West Virginia, while Daxter Miles Jr. added 11 and Long had a career-high 10.

Warriors top Hawks for 12th straight

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Runner-up for Defensive Player of the Year in two straight seasons, Draymond Green desperately wants to prove how good Golden State can be on that end of the floor.

Kevin Durant, Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson can have all the scoring glory. Green takes it personally when people question the Warriors' D.

Green blocked two shots in the final 43.4 seconds, Durant had 25 points and 14 rebounds, and the Warriors held off the Atlanta Hawks and their strong bench 105-100 on Monday night for a 12th straight victory that tied the third-longest streak in franchise history.

"I wouldn't necessarily say I have something to prove for that award, more so that people have kind of counted our defense out," said Green, back from missing one game with an ankle injury.

Curry scored 25 points with four three-pointers, and Thompson added 20 points as Golden State's Big Three each reached 20 points for the second consecutive game.

The Warriors won their seventh straight home game and

fifth in a row against Atlanta at Oracle Arena.

Durant knocked down a three-pointer with 2:57 left in the third quarter that pulled Golden State to 76-73. Then, as the period wound down, he dribbled over midcourt and found Ian Clark for a long three to beat the buzzer and cut Atlanta's advantage to 81-80.

Durant's jumper to start the fourth put the Warriors ahead, and Andre Iguodala followed with back-to-back baskets. Iguodala finished with 12 points, five rebounds and five assists.

Dennis Schroder scored 24 points for the Hawks, and Tim Hardaway Jr. had 10 against his father's former team. Dwight Howard added 14 points and 16 rebounds, while Paul Millsap had 14 points and 14 boards.

"We got to 100 and we haven't seen that in a while," Millsap said. "It's a good start. We played a tough team, a good team, so we'll build on the positives."

Thunder 112, Knicks 103: Russell Westbrook got his third straight triple-double and nearly did it by halftime, finishing with 27 points, 18 rebounds and 14 assists for his NBA-leading

eighth of the season as visiting Oklahoma City beat New York.

Westbrook had 14 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists at the break and is now averaging a triple-double for the season, raising his averages to 30.9 points, 11.3 assists and 10.3 rebounds through more than a month of the season.

Enes Kanter added a season-high 27 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Celtics 112, Heat 104: Isaiah Thomas had 25 points and eight assists, Avery Bradley added 18 points and Boston beat host Miami.

Jae Crowder scored 17 points and Kelly Olynyk had 14 for the Celtics, who beat Miami for the fourth consecutive time. The 112 points were the most scored against the Heat this season.

Jazz 112, Timberwolves 103: George Hill had 24 points, eight rebounds and four assists, and Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 17 rebounds to lead visiting Utah to its third straight win.

Gordon Hayward scored 24 points and Utah's top-ranked defense put the clamps on young Timberwolves stars Andrew Wiggins and Karl-Anthony Towns.

Towns had 19 points and 12 rebounds but shot 8-for-18.

Raptors 122, 76ers 95: Kyle Lowry scored 24 points and set a team record by hitting all six of his three-pointers, and host Toronto extended its winning streak over Philadelphia to 13 games.

Lowry added eight assists and four rebounds. He topped the 5-for-5 mark on threes set by several other Raptors throughout the years.

Wizards 101, Kings 95 (OT): Bradley Beal made a career-high seven three-pointers and finished with 31 points as host Washington recovered after giving up a late lead and beat Sacramento in overtime.

John Wall had 19 points and 11 assists for the Wizards, but committed a career-high 11 turnovers.

Hornets 104, Grizzlies 85: Kemba Walker and Jeremy Lamb scored 21 points apiece, and Charlotte built an early lead on the way to beating host Memphis.

Walker and Lamb were a combined 14-for-25 from the field, including 7-for-13 on three-pointers. The rest of the Hornets were 2-for-13 from outside the arc.

Tarasenko's OT goal lifts Blues over Stars

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Giving up a lead late before going on to win two straight games is not St. Louis coach Ken Hitchcock's idea of good hockey.

Vladimir Tarasenko scored at 3:24 of overtime to lift the Blues to a 4-3 victory over the Dallas Stars on Monday night. Tarasenko took a pass from Jori Lehtera and fired a wrist shot past Stars goalie Antti Niemi for his 10th of the season and team-leading 23rd point.

The Stars had tied it with 50 seconds left in the third period on defenseman Jamie Oleksiak's second goal of the game.

"There's a real concern about the leads," Hitchcock said. "There's a real concern about what we gave up and how we did it. We played terrific and had full control of the hockey game. We got careless on our

checking and our puck management."

The Blues also gave up a late third-period goal in Saturday's shootout win over Minnesota.

"There's a lot of good things to like with what's going on right now," Hitchcock said. "You like our spirit and our ability to come back but there's genuine concerns on my part about elements of our game that don't hurt you at home but will kill you on the road. We have to get that cleaned up."

On the tying goal, Dallas had an extra skater with Niemi pulled and Oleksiak sent the puck at the net from the left point and it got past Blues goalie Jake Allen for his fourth career goal.

Robby Fabbri, Alex Pietrangelo and David Perron also scored for St. Louis, and Allen finished with 18 saves.

Islanders 2, Flames 1 (OT): Thomas Hickey scored 1:53 into overtime, helping

New York again find its footing at home with a win over Calgary.

With the Flames caught in an awkward change after Michael Frolik broke his stick, captain John Tavares wheeled around the zone and then backhanded one that Hickey tipped past Brian Elliott.

Tavares also scored in the first period. Thomas Greiss stopped 25 shots for the Islanders, standing tall during a barrage late in the second period before allowing Sean Monahan's tying goal 5:51 into the third.

New York rebounded from a wild, frustrating three-game trip to the West Coast. The Islanders beat Anaheim in a 14-round shootout but then lost twice on goals in the final 3 minutes of regulation against Los Angeles and San Jose.

Last-place New York is just 1-6-1 on the road but is 6-4-3 at Barclays Center.