

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, December 7

- Birthdays:** Megan Weber • Morgan McNickle • Landon Marzahn
- 9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School
- 9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
- 9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion
- 10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship
- 10:00am: St. John's Lutheran Sunday School and Bible Study
- 10:00am: UMC School
- 10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with Communion
- 11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
- 1:00pm: Show Choir Tour of Homes
- 7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Choir

Monday, December 8

- School Breakfast:** Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.
- School Lunch:** Chicken patty on WG bun, French fries, romaine salad, fruit.
- Senior Menu:** Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread.
- Birthday:** Colton Monson
- 6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study
- 4:30pm: JHGGB at Britton (7th at 4:30, 8th at 5:30)
- 6:00pm: JH Wrestling at Sisseton
- 7:00pm: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 9

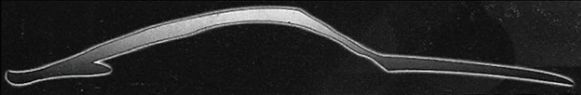
- School Breakfast:** Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.
- School Lunch:** Italian dunkers, sweet tots, veggie cups, fruit.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.



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Two bedroom apartment in the Rix Apartments (former city apartments) at 407 N Garfield

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

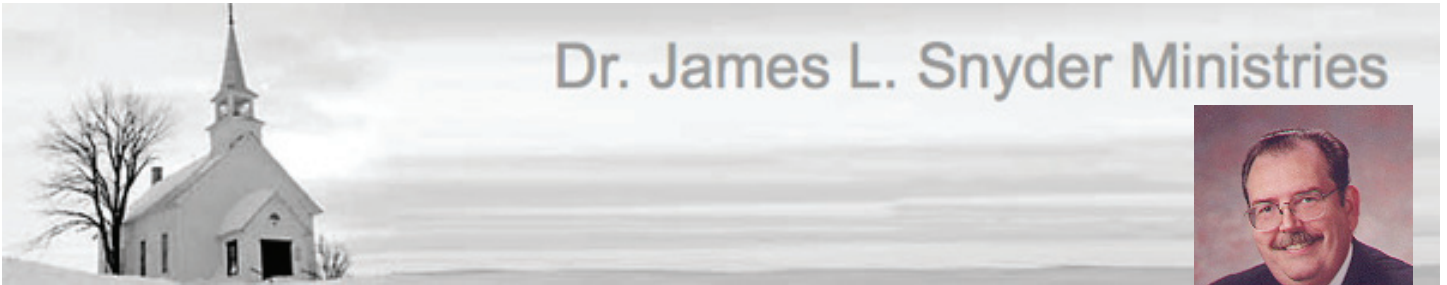
Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



The Great Wall of Silence after Thanksgiving

In our home the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I have a wonderful tradition.

Really, when you think about it, what is a home without traditions? Many people pretend that they do not have traditions which in and of itself has become a tradition.

Our tradition is that on what is normally called "Black Friday" we do not leave our house except to go out and get the mail. Years ago we did, but those ensuing years have created a sense of wisdom that has brought us to banning any out of the house experience on "Black Friday."

When we were younger, we had more energy and could run. Now, running is a very fond memory.

I am not that fond of shopping malls in the first place, and in the second place, I do not like to be run over by a mob trying to out buy me.

Classifieds

House for Rent

Two-bedroom house in Groton. Full basement, breezeway, attached garage, large yard. Wheelchair accessible. Furnished, appliances included. \$700/month. Less with lease. (941) 525-4515.

Apartments For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/397-8131.

Apartment for Rent

One bedroom apartment for rent. Main Street. Ground level. Washer, dryer and dishwasher. Big walk-in closet. \$550 includes utilities. \$400 if you pay your own utilities. Call Chris Kassube at 605-395-7111.

Groton Tour of Homes Sunday, December 7 1-5pm

featuring the beautiful homes of:

Dale & Sandy Carr
Glenn & Wendy Cooper
Jarod & Kristie Flihs
Nikki Kotzer

Refreshments served @GHS.

Tickets \$8 available from Show Choir students, Lori's Pharmacy, Olde Bank Floral 'N More, First State Bank and at the Groton HS Arena on the day of the event.



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Thus, our tradition on "Black Friday" is to stay home and appreciate one another's companionship. It is always good to relish Thanksgiving dinner leftovers, sit back and just enjoy ourselves. I think we also watched a little bit of television.

As we were watching television, a terrible thought wrestled my mind to the mat. I guess my mind is not as strong as it used to be.

The thought was simply this; there is a special holiday that follows Thanksgiving. I did not give it any thought until at this point. That special holiday is Christmas. And Christmas means buying a Christmas present for my wife.

This is always a stressful time for me. After all, what do you get somebody who has everything? She has me! What more could she need. (Don't tell her I said that.)

Now my mind was racing a thousand miles an hour trying to figure out what I should get her as a Christmas present this year.

I thought maybe if I could remember what I got her last year it might give me some ideas for this year. The harder I thought, the less thoughts came. I could not for the life of me figure out what I had given her last year for Christmas.

I knew at this point I was in serious trouble. I decided I would try to get my wife to tell me what I could get her this year for Christmas.

We were chatting back and forth; she was telling me one story after another. I think there were several stories but it all sounded the same to me. Although I have two ears, they do not seem to be connected. So, in the midst of our chatting I said, "You know Christmas is only a few weeks away."

I thought that would get some conversation going and in a subtle way I could direct it to what she wanted for Christmas. Boy, was I wrong.

As soon as I said that, all silence broke loose in our living room. I cannot remember the last time it was this quiet when both of us were in the room.

I am not quite sure she has figured me out yet, she probably has. Anybody who has ever attempted to manipulate their wife into disclosing information knows that I was up against the Great Wall of Silence.

I tried to think of another strategy. Then I came up with one.

"How did you like the Christmas present I got you last year?" Thinking I could get her to talk about something that would refresh my memory and lead me in a direction of something for this year.

"Fine, how did you like yours?" she said and went behind the Great Wall of Silence.

Now I was backed into a corner. I could not remember what she gave me for Christmas last year. I tried to crank up the old think-machine, but it seemed to be out of gas. If only I could remember what she got me it might spark me to remember what I got her.

For the next few moments silence reigned queen for the day as I tried to think of how I could get her to tell me something that I could get her for Christmas.

I had another semi-brilliant idea.

"What did we get your mother last year for Christmas?" I thought this might spur some conversation that would lead me to the information I was seeking.

She looked at me and then said, "What did we get her for Christmas last year? I can't really remember."

Now, I knew very well she knew what we got her for Christmas last year. If anybody knows how to stonewall their husband, it is the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

"What do you think we ought to get her this year?" I asked searchingly. This I thought would spur some conversation.

"I am not quite sure. What do you think she would like?"

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At this point, I think my cover is blown. If I am going to get any information out of my wife about what to get her for Christmas, it will not be during my lifetime.

In the quietness, I began to reflect upon some scriptural admonitions. I especially like what David said, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalms 46:10).

It is in the quietness that the reality of God shines the brightest in my heart.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net or website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

Wrestling season begins

Groton's wrestling squad started out the season yesterday at the Clark-Willow Lake Tourney. Trevor Pray, Kelby Hawkins and Tyler Scott each won two matches to go undefeated.

106: Garrett Schroeder was pinned by Riley Binger, Redfield-Doland, 1:24.

113: Trevor Pray decisioned Carsten McNeil, Redfield-Doland, 8-5.

138: Kelby Hawkins pinned Barrett Nelson, Redfield-Doland, 1:36.

160: Tyler Scott pinned Caleb McNeil, Redfield-Doland, 5:32.

220: Brandyn Anderson decisioned Karsten Stiegelmeier, Britton-Hecla, 4-3.

106: Thomas Crawford was pinned by Jacob Thomas, Redfield-Doland, 0:20.

106: Garrett Schroeder was pinned by Sterling Rausch, Webster, 1:29.

138: Kelby Hawkins pinned Caleb Orris, Clark-Willow Lake, 1:21.

160: Tyler Scott pinned Truman Weyand, Faulkton, 0:40.

220: Brandyn Anderson was pinned by Ray Edgar, Faulkton, 1:05.

113: Trevor Pray decisioned Cade Shoemaker, Webster, 7-0.

138: Kelby Hawkins decisioned Jess Karber, Clark-Willow Lake, 4-3.

160: Tyler Scott pinned Harrison Wookey, Clark-Willow Lake, 5:56.

220: Brandyn Anderson was decisioned by Eric Page, Webster, 6-2.

Today in Weather History

1963: Winds of 50 to 60 mph resulted in blowing snow all day on the 7th, which reduced visibilities to near zero and produced snow drifts several feet deep in many areas. Snowfall in eastern South Dakota was generally from 3 to 7 inches with 1 to 2 inches in the western part of the state. Storm total snowfall included 8 inches at Sisseton, 5 inches at Watertown and Wheaton, 4 inches at Aberdeen, and 2 inches at Mobridge.

1971: Heavy snow of 7 to 12 inches was reported in north central South Dakota on the 7th. Timber Lake and Eagle Butte each reported 12 inches of snow. Strong winds accompanied the snow and caused extensive drifting. Drifts up to 15 feet were reported in sheltered areas near Lemmon. 7 inches fell at Mobridge and 11 inches fell at Selby. McIntosh received 4 inches.

1952: Killer Smog settled on London. Thousands of people died, mostly children & the elderly, from acute bronchitis caused by the smog. The Killer Smog began on December 4 and ended on December 9.

1996: Poor weather conditions resulted in the cancellation of the Men's World Cup downhill ski race scheduled for Whistler, British Columbia. Too much snow and poor visibility had damaged training runs.

1740 - In early December two weeks of mild and rainy weather culminated in the worst flood in fifty years in the Lower Connecticut River Valley. The Merrimack River swelled to its highest level, and in Maine the raging waters swept away mills, carried off bridges, and ruined highways. (David Ludlum)

1935 - Severe flooding hit parts of the Houston, TX, area. Eight persons were killed as one hundred city blocks were inundated. Satsuma reported 16.49 inches of rain. The Buffalo and White Oak Bayous crested on the 9th. (6th-8th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Heavy rain fell across eastern Puerto Rico, with 19.41 inches reported at Las Piedras. Flooding caused five million dollars damage. Another in a series of storms hit the northwestern U.S., with wind gusts above 100 mph reported at Cape Blanco OR. While snow and gusty winds accompanied a cold front crossing the Rockies, strong westerly winds, gusting to 93 mph at Boulder CO, helped temperatures in western Kansas reach the 60s for the sixth day in a row. Freezing drizzle in northeastern slowed traffic to 5 mph on some roads in Morrow County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - An outbreak of cold arctic air brought up to 18 inches of snow to the Colorado Rockies, with 14 inches at Boulder CO, and seven inches at Denver. Heavy snow blanketed New Mexico the following day, with 15 inches reported near Ruidoso. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Full-Time CNA
Part-Time/Casual CNA

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- ★ Flexible Spending Accounts
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- ★ Paid Time Off and other Leave Programs
- ★ Employee Assistance Program (EAP)


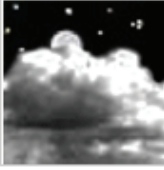





To inquire stop in 1106 N 2nd St. Groton, SD or call Michele Herr, DNS (605) 397-2365. EOE/M/F/D/V

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TODAY	TONIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY
						
Partly Sunny High: 43 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 25 °F	Blustery High: 30 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 8 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 27 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 17 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 34 °F



Changing Conditions Today

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weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



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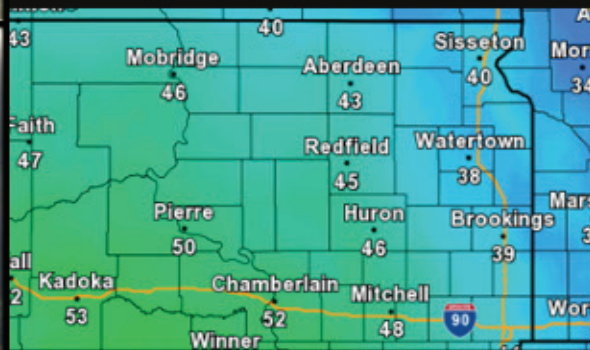
Morning



Afternoon—Tonight



High Temperatures



Light freezing rain is possible for far northeast SD and west central MN early this morning. Temperatures will quickly rise above freezing later in the morning. A cold front will then move from west to east across the region later this afternoon and tonight. Gusty northwest winds will occur behind the front, especially for parts of northwest SD. Additional light precipitation is possible for parts of north central and northeast SD as well as west central MN. Light rain will transition to light snow tonight. Very little accumulation is expected.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 36.0 at 2:28 PM

Low: 10.5 at 2:56 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 32 at 9:03 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1918

Record Low: -27° in 2013

Average High: 28°F

Average Low: 9°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.11

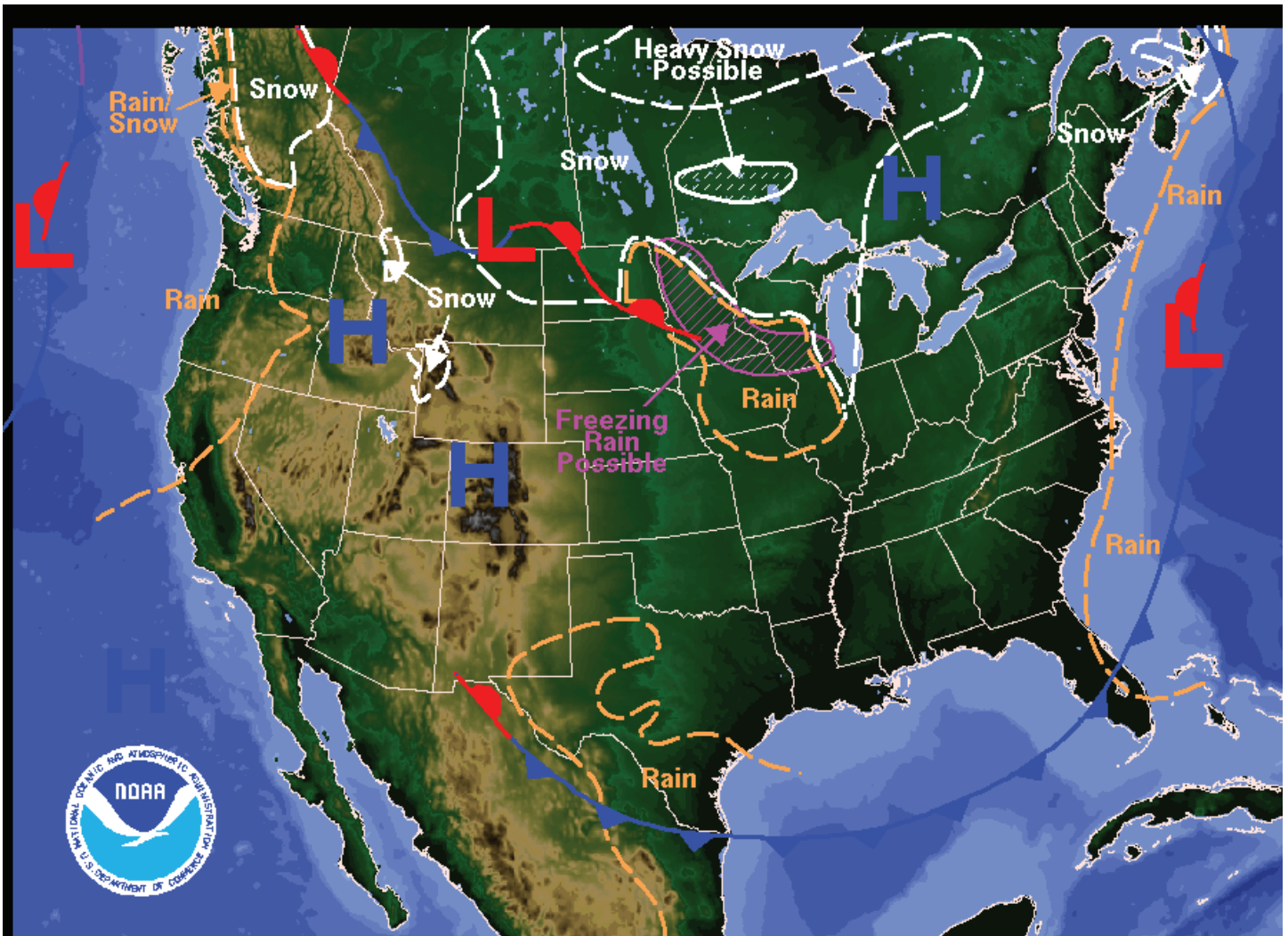
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.31

Precip Year to Date: 13.99

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:01 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Dec 07, 2014, issued 3:34 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

His old bicycle was worn out. He begged his dad for a new one.

Finally it was his birthday. When he came home from school that afternoon, he discovered a beautiful new bicycle in the garage. With great excitement he rode down the street to show it to his best friend.

Soon he returned home and waited for his father. When his dad arrived, he began to cry, "George got a new bike, too. It has a light on the handlebar. It's better than mine."

Jealousy! It begins at birth, rages in most hearts, and for some, lasts a lifetime.

In the Bible "jealousy" is sometimes described as the opposite of love and thankfulness and the enemy of gratitude.

It is the "attitude of gratitude" that exposes our faith in God. Often we only feel secure in what we have, not Whom we have, Jesus Christ. When times are good, bank accounts secure, the economy flourishing, and jobs secure, we rarely notice what others have.

As Christians we need to look at our lives through God's eyes. Looking at our lives through His eyes may enable us to find joy in the smallest event, happiness in the smile of a child, satisfaction in a job well done.

Embracing our lives just as they are and being thankful for what we have will enable us to give up the struggle to acquire what we want but do not need. Where we are and what we have is exactly the way things are to be. Rejoice and be thankful!

Prayer: Help me, Lord to accept all that I have as gifts of Your goodness, especially my salvation. Remove jealousy from my heart and envy from my mind. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 4:11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

SD to offer school principal master's degree

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Four of South Dakota's public universities will work together to create a new master of education degree in principal preparation.

The South Dakota Board of Regents approved the new degree program this week at its meeting in Rapid City.

Starting next summer, the degree will be offered by Black Hills State University in Spearfish, Northern State University in Aberdeen, University of South Dakota in Vermillion and South Dakota State University in Brookings.

Regents executive director and CEO Jack Warner says the program will emphasize unique challenges principals in rural parts of the state deal with.

The program will be delivered through a combination of face-to-face coursework, online instruction and field-based learning experiences.

A group of educators developed the program with grant support from the Bush Foundation.

Inauguration ceremonies set for Jan. 10 in Pierre

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Inauguration ceremonies for South Dakota's elected officials will be on Jan. 10, and tickets go on sale for celebratory events on Dec. 8.

State legislators, constitutional officers and Gov. Dennis Daugaard will take their oaths of office in Pierre as part of the ceremonies, which also include two balls.

The Capitol Ball will be at the state Capitol, while the Inaugural Ball will be held at the Ramkota River Centre. Tickets can be purchased online or from the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce.

The event is organized by the city-appointed inaugural committee.

N. Dakota St. ousts S. Dakota St. 27-24 in FCS

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Three-time defending champion North Dakota State had its hands full with South Dakota State Saturday in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. Fortunately for the Bison, those hands belonged to quarterback Carson Wentz and freshman receiver RJ Urzendowski.

Wentz threw a 12-yard TD pass to Urzendowski with 54 seconds left as the Bison rallied to beat

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Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

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the Jackrabbits 27-24.

North Dakota State (12-1) improved to 11-0 all-time at home in the FCS playoffs.

Urzendowski, a freshman with 20 catches and two TDs all season, had four clutch catches for 109 yards and two TDs as the second-ranked Bison advanced to play No. 7 seed Coastal Carolina (12-1) in the FCS quarterfinals Dec. 12 or 13.

Wentz marched the Bison 76 yards in 2:18 for the winning TD after South Dakota State (9-5) had scored to go ahead with 3:18 to play.

"Carson Wentz is a winner," NDSU coach Chris Klieman said. "RJ Urzendowski is a pretty doggone good football player. He's not a true freshman in Week 13, he's a legitimate receiver at the FCS level."

Tre Dempsey's interception ended South Dakota State's hopes in the waning seconds.

Wentz was 14 for 25 for 235 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for 70 yards and a score. He threw a perfect fade to Urzendowski for the winning score.

"The last couple of weeks he was mad at me and saying I hadn't been throwing him the ball. I told him today he was going to get an opportunity to make some plays," Wentz said.

John Crocket ran for 103 of the Bison's 182 rushing yards.

South Dakota State's Zach Zenner rushed for 133 yards and two scores. He finished just nine yards short of the FCS record for career rushing, but did become the first player to run for 2,000 yards in three straight years.

It was the first time Zenner rushed for more than 100 yards against NDSU.

Austin Sumner was 13-for-22 for 132 yards and a 3-yard TD pass to Jake Wieneke that gave the Jacks a 24-20 lead late in the game.

Jason Schneider had three catches for 59 yards.

"It's so tough week in and week out," Klieman said of the Missouri Valley Football Conference. "I knew this game was going to come down to the fourth quarter. I'm so glad I don't have to prepare for Zenner, Sumner or Schneider anymore."

NDSU's first possession ended with a 27-yard touchdown pass from Wentz to Urzendowski. Wentz later scrambled 28 yards for a touchdown that made it 14-0 with 13:24 left in the half.

But the rest of the second quarter belonged to Zenner, who found himself taking snaps and scored twice in a span of 3:12.

With 8:48 to play, Zenner took a snap and weaved his way 17 yards for a score, capping an 8-play, 74-yard drive helped by a pair of NDSU penalties.

After a defensive stop, Je Ryan Butler returned an NDSU punt 80 yards to the 11, leading to a Zenner 4-yard TD run with 5:36 left to tie it 14-14.

"It literally was the same thing they did in 2011 and they drove it down on us and scored," Klieman said. "We didn't prep for that phase of their game because we hadn't seen it."

SDSU's Justin Syrovatka and NDSU's Adam Keller exchanged field goals in the third quarter to go into the final quarter tied 17-17. Syrovatka's 33-yard field goal with 6:43 left in the third quarter gave SDSU its first lead.

But Keller's 29-yarder with 7:45 to go gave NDSU a 20-17 lead and gave him the school career record of 52 field goals.

Sumner led the Jacks on go-ahead drive, helped by a pass interference call — one of 11 for 110 yards against NDSU. He hit Jake Wieneke on a slant pass to go up 24-20 and set the stage for the comeback.

Urzendowski's 29-yard catch kept the Bison game-winning drive alive.

"There definitely was no panic in the huddle. It was just another game," Urzendowski said.

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Urzendowski had a 41-yard catch that led to Keller's fourth-quarter field goal.

"RJ was huge," Wentz said. "It's amazing, a true freshman coming into a situation like this."

SDSU finished with 275 yards of total offense, the first time in five weeks it had less than 500 yards.

The Jackrabbits have been to the playoffs four straight years and lost in the second round for the fourth straight year.

"We were blessed to be in the playoffs and we had a good win at Montana State," SDSU coach John Stiegelmeier said. "It's a hard road. We have to go further. I don't think we've taken a step. We finished in the second round again. I don't care who you play, you've got to beat somebody to get to Frisco, Texas, and we didn't do it."

South Dakota State slams UMKC 81-61

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Cody Larson and Jake Bittle scored 18 points apiece as South Dakota State slammed the University of Missouri-Kansas City 81-61 on Saturday.

Larson also contributed four rebounds and six blocked shots for the Jackrabbits (3-3). Bittle led the team with eight rebounds. Deondre Parks added 14 points and Keaton Moffitt nine. The team hit 83.3 percent from the line overall and 49 percent from the field.

Skyler Flatten sank a pair of 3s early in the first period to give South Dakota State a 17-4 lead on its way to a 44-25 advantage at the break. A 3-point play by Parks to start the second half extended the Jackrabbits' lead to 20 and from there they cruised to the win.

Martez Harrison led the Kangaroos with 12 points. Deshon Taylor added 10.

South Dakota officials wrapping up EB-5 loose ends

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The political fallout from South Dakota's investment-for-visa scandal is likely over, but state officials are still investigating how to claw back roughly \$1 million in public funds.

A legislative audit committee released a report this week that found that a former state official who committed suicide last year was solely to blame for the missing money, which spawned state and federal investigations. But the state is still examining how to reclaim the missing funds and legal fees stemming from a lawsuit, and evaluating whether a company involved in the scandal should be considered a financial institution — and therefore subject to banking taxes.

The handling of the EB-5 federal investment program in South Dakota was scrutinized during this election season. Former Gov. Mike Rounds faced accusations over his management of the program, but he overcame the criticism to become South Dakota's newest U.S. senator.

The state Government Operations and Audit Committee's final report said Richard Benda was the only person responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars in "misdirected" funds. Missing from the report were others Democrats have accused of having a hand in the program's mismanagement, including Rounds and Joop Bollen, a former state administrator who oversaw the program as a public employee and as part of a private company.

South Dakota was one of the pioneers in EB-5 financing under Bollen and Benda, a former Governor's Office of Economic Development secretary. The program recruits wealthy immigrant investors for projects in exchange for green cards. Benda's suicide came as state officials prepared felony theft charges against him in connection with the financial misconduct, which left the state short of more than \$500,000.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's top aide Tony Venhuizen told The Associated Press Friday that Pierre attorney

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Paul Bachand is still working through the state's options to reclaim the money.

The South Dakota Board of Regents is also evaluating how to recover about \$510,000 in fees related to a lawsuit against the state. An arbitrator in early October dismissed the breach-of-contract lawsuit filed against the state in 2008 by California-based Darley International and later that month denied the state's attempt to recover attorney fees and costs.

Darley filed the lawsuit against the South Dakota International Business Institute, where Bollen administered the EB-5 visa program while he worked for the public institute at Northern State University. Darley had an agreement to recruit investors in China for South Dakota projects.

Board of Regents CEO Jack Warner said the regents are exploring opportunities to reclaim the funds, but declined to comment further. Bollen on Saturday declined to comment on the matter.

Democrats want a more thorough accounting of Bollen's role in the program's troubles and have criticized Bollen for moving the program under a privately run company he created. The program was privatized in 2009 and turned over to SDRC Inc., a company which Bollen had founded and served as president.

SDRC Inc. continues to oversee existing EB-5 projects, and now South Dakota's Division of Banking is considering whether the company should be considered a financial institution because it administers some loans. Such a determination could result in SDRC Inc. owing millions in banking taxes.

Banking Division director Bret Afdahl on Friday said that the state is waiting on some documents before deciding whether to label SDRC Inc. a bank. Meanwhile, the state Revenue Department has signaled that if SDRC is deemed a financial institution, it will work to collect bank franchise taxes.

Group changes name after militants adopt moniker

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota hospitality group is changing its name after facing some criticism following the adoption of the same moniker by militants in the Middle East.

The company formerly known as ISIS Hospitality is now Liv Hospitality, LLC. The group has operated casinos, hotels and other business in South Dakota for more than 25 years.

A group of militants who refer to themselves as the Islamic State was formerly referred to as ISIS or ISIL. The jihadists want to rule over a broad swath of the Middle East.

The South Dakota company opened the search for a new name to its employees. Liv Hospitality came from a pool of 40 names.

The company says it is working on website updates and will soon change vehicle wraps and keycard holders.

Crazy Horse waives admission for food donation

CRAZY HORSE, S.D. (AP) — Crazy Horse Memorial in western South Dakota is decked out for the holidays, and weekend admission is free for the next month with a food donation.

Crews at the Black Hills attraction have installed special lighting on the mountain and put up thousands of displays inside and outside the complex below. Music by Manheim Steamroller will be combined with choreographed lighting on the mountain sculpture starting Dec. 19.

The memorial will waive admission every weekend through Jan. 4 with a donation of three cans of food per person for the Care and Share Food Drive.

SD flags to be at half-staff for Pearl Harbor Day

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Flags in South Dakota will fly at half-staff Sunday in honor of the attacks on Pearl Harbor 73 years ago that day.

The directive from South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is in accordance with a presidential proclamation designating Sunday as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The flags will fly at half-staff from 8 a.m. until sunset.

AP News in Brief

US: 6 Guantanamo prisoners have been sent to Uruguay to be resettled as refugees

MIAMI (AP) — Six prisoners from Guantanamo Bay have been transferred to Uruguay, the U.S. government said Sunday, announcing a resettlement deal that had been delayed for months by security concerns in the Pentagon and political considerations in the South American country.

The six are the first prisoners transferred to South America from the U.S. base in Cuba, part of a flurry of recent releases amid a renewed push by President Barack Obama to close the prison.

Uruguayan President Jose Mujica agreed to accept the six men — four Syrians, a Tunisian and a Palestinian — as a humanitarian gesture and said they would be given help getting established in a country with a small Muslim population.

All six were detained as suspected militants with ties to al-Qaeda in 2002 but were never charged. They have been cleared for release since at least 2010 but they could not be sent home and have languished as the U.S. struggled to find countries willing to accept them.

“We are very grateful to Uruguay for this important humanitarian action, and to President Mujica for his strong leadership in providing a home for individuals who cannot return to their own countries,” U.S. State Department envoy Clifford Sloan said.

California protesters smash windows, pelt police with rocks; 2 officers injured

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — Two officers were injured as a California protest over police killings turned violent with protesters smashing windows and throwing rocks and bricks at police, who responded by firing tear gas, authorities said.

Several officers were struck, but there were just two reports of injury, Berkeley police spokeswoman Jenn Coats said. A Berkeley police officer received hospital treatment for a dislocated shoulder after being hit with a sandbag, while another sustained minor injuries.

Saturday night’s demonstration against police killings of unarmed black men in Missouri and New York began peacefully, the latest of several in the Bay Area in recent days. But Officer Coats said that some protesters later broke away and began throwing rocks, bottles and pipes at officers.

Scores of law officers from several surrounding agencies joined Berkeley Police Department in trying to quell unrest that went on for hours, into early Sunday morning.

She said several businesses on University Avenue were vandalized, including Trader Joe’s, Radio Shack and a Wells Fargo Bank branch. Some squad cars were also damaged.

GOP's Cassidy beats Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, last of chamber's Deep South Democrats

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy has denied Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana a fourth term, calling his Senate victory “the exclamation point” on midterm elections that put Republicans in charge on Capitol Hill for President Barack Obama’s last two years in office.

With nearly all votes counted, unofficial returns showed Cassidy with a commanding victory in Saturday’s runoff as he ousted the last of the Senate’s Deep South Democrats. In the South, Democrats will be left without a single U.S. senator or governor across nine states stretching from the Carolinas to Texas.

Cassidy, after a campaign spent largely linking Landrieu to Obama, called his win more of the same message American voters sent nationally on Nov. 4 as Republicans scored big gains in both chambers of Congress.

“This victory happened because people in Louisiana voted for a government that serves us, that does not tell us what to do,” Cassidy said in Baton Rouge, the state capital.

He did not mention Obama or offer any specifics about his agenda in the Senate, but said in his victory speech that voters have demanded “a conservative direction” on health care, budgets and energy policy.

Republicans to hold at least 246 House seats next year to tie post-World War II high

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans will hold at least 246 House seats come January, according to election results Saturday, giving the GOP a commanding majority that matches the party’s post-World War II high during Democratic President Harry S. Truman’s administration.

The GOP retained control of two seats in runoffs in Louisiana, expanding the advantage for Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who can afford defections from his increasingly conservative caucus and still get legislation passed. Combined with the Republican takeover of the Senate, Congress will be all-GOP for the final two years of President Barack Obama’s second term.

The latest count gives the GOP a 246-188 majority. One race, in Arizona, is still outstanding.

In Louisiana’s 5th Congressional District, which extends from the state’s northeast into parishes bordering Mississippi, physician Ralph Abraham defeated Jamie Mayo, the Democratic mayor of Monroe. The incumbent, Vance McAllister, had failed to advance to the runoff. Elected less than a year ago, the married McAllister saw his career undermined after a video surfaced earlier this year showing him kissing another woman.

In the 6th Congressional District, in the Baton Rouge area, former state coastal restoration chief Garret Graves turned back Democrat Edwin Edwards, a four-term governor and ex-congressman who had to overcome his 2000 corruption conviction and subsequent prison term.

Central Philippines escapes last year’s devastation as typhoon weakens after hitting land

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP) — Typhoon Hagupit knocked out power, mowed down trees and sent more than 800,000 people into shelters before it weakened Sunday, sparing the central Philippines the type of devastation that a monster storm brought to the region last year.

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Shallow floods, damaged shanties and ripped off store signs and tin roofs were a common sight across the region, but there were no confirmed deaths or major destruction after Hagupit slammed into Eastern Samar and other island provinces. It was packing maximum sustained winds of 140 kilometers (87 miles) per hour and gusts of 170 kph (106 mph) on Sunday, considerably weaker from its peak power but still a potentially deadly storm, according to forecasters.

The typhoon, which made landfall in Eastern Samar late Saturday, was moving slowly, dumping heavy rain that could possibly trigger landslides and flash floods.

Traumatized by Typhoon Haiyan's massive death and destruction, more than 800,000 people fled to about 1,000 emergency shelters and safer grounds. The government, backed by the 120,000-strong military, had launched massive preparations to attain a zero-casualty target.

Rhea Estuna, a 29-year-old mother of one, fled Thursday to an evacuation center in Tacloban — the city hardest-hit by Haiyan last year — and waited in fear as Hagupit's (HA'-goo-pit's), wind and rain lashed the school where she and her family sought refuge. When she peered outside Sunday, she said she saw a starkly different aftermath than the one she witnessed last year after Haiyan struck.

Arrest of China's ex-security chief addresses corruption, leaves Xi stronger

BEIJING (AP) — The criminal case against China's ex-security chief not only plays to public demands to curb corruption but spells the downfall of one of President Xi Jinping's biggest rivals, puts other challengers on their toes and leaves Xi more solidly in control than ever.

The fate of the once-feared Zhou Yongkang, 72, appeared to be sealed by the just-after-midnight announcements Saturday that he was expelled from China's ruling Communist Party and arrested in a criminal investigation into allegations ranging from bribe-taking to leaking state secrets.

"Many of Xi's enemies have been scared, and he's been successful in intimidating his enemies," said Willy Lam, an observer of China's elite politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "All of them have become obedient — at least superficially — to Xi Jinping."

Zhou, with a face that looks like it is made of stone, was a former member of the party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee and was once in charge of the country's police, security forces and judiciary, a vast apparatus that spends more on domestic security than what China spent on the People's Liberation Army, the world's biggest military.

Zhou's status as security czar would have meant he had access to private phone conversations and secret information about national leaders. The state secrets allegations against him likely stem from his attempts to use leaks about colleagues to jockey for position ahead of China's handover of power in late 2012 to a new generation of leaders at the retirement of President Hu Jintao, Lam said.

News Guide: The rise and fall of China's former security czar Zhou Yongkang

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese authorities announced that they have arrested Zhou Yongkang, a former member of the all-powerful Standing Committee of the ruling Communist Party's Politburo, on accusations including taking bribes and leaking state secrets.

Zhou is the highest-level official to fall in Chinese President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign, which began in late 2012.

Here's a look at Zhou's rise and fall, and what could be in store for the man who once oversaw China's

vast apparatus of police, state security, prosecuting offices and courts.

Killings by Jamaica's police down sharply, drawing cautious praise from human rights groups

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaican police have often been viewed with suspicion and fear, routinely accused of indiscriminately using their weapons and intentionally killing suspects as the island struggled with soaring violent crime.

Now, with overall violence ebbing, the Caribbean country is on track to have the fewest deaths at the hands of law enforcement in years, drawing cautious praise from human rights activists and making officers more welcome in some of Jamaica's grittiest districts.

The number of citizens killed by police is expected to reach just over 100 this year, far below the 258 slain last year by security forces. The annual total of police killings hasn't been below 200 since 2004.

"Police always used to come with guns cocked, but more of them are calmer now and have a better attitude," said Susan Ramsay, a mother of three in the rough east Kingston neighborhood of Rockfort. "It's gotten to the point where I prefer seeing the police around here than not seeing them."

There seems to be a mix of reasons for the reduction, but perhaps the biggest is a new-found fear among officers of prosecution by an independent agency that investigates allegations against police.

Children with autism and their families take test 'flight' to alleviate air travel stress

LINTHICUM, Md. — With boarding passes in hand, children with autism spectrum disorders and their families took part in an air travel rehearsal at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

Fifty families experienced a typical day at an airport, from check-in and security to receiving peanuts and pretzels from flight attendants onboard a Southwest Airlines jet for a 30-minute simulated "flight" that never left the gate.

Rehearsals like this one originated with a Massachusetts-based chapter of The Arc, an advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, with the intention of alleviating some of the stress of air travel for children with autism.

Who's in? Who's out? Playoff selection committee has tough choices ahead

WACO, Texas (AP) — Alabama is in. So is Oregon. That we know for sure about the College Football Playoff.

The rest of the contenders didn't make it so easy on the selection committee, ensuring some drama before the first playoff pairings are revealed Sunday.

Florida State? The Seminoles are far from perfect, but they are still unbeaten.

The Horned Frogs were third last week and certainly did nothing to hurt that on Championship Saturday.

Baylor and Ohio State presented winning final arguments, too.

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Dec. 7, the 341st day of 2014. There are 24 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan launched a pre-emptive air raid on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as well as targets in Malaya, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippines and Wake Island; the United States declared war against Japan the next day.

On this date:

In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1796, electors chose John Adams to be the second president of the United States.

In 1808, electors chose James Madison to be the fourth president of the United States.

In 1836, Martin Van Buren was elected the eighth president of the United States.

In 1842, the New York Philharmonic performed its first concert.

In 1909, chemist Leo H. Baekeland received a U.S. patent for Bakelite (BAY'-kuh-lyt), the first synthetic plastic.

In 1911, China abolished the requirement that men wear their hair in a queue, or ponytail.

In 1946, fire broke out at the Winecoff (WYN'-kahf) Hotel in Atlanta; the blaze killed 119 people, including hotel founder W. Frank Winecoff.

In 1963, during the Army-Navy game, videotaped instant replay was used for the first time in a live sports telecast as CBS re-showed a one-yard touchdown run by Army quarterback Rollie Stichweh. (Navy beat Army, 21-15.)

In 1972, America's last moon mission to date was launched as Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral. Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, was seriously wounded by an assailant who was then shot dead by her bodyguards.

In 1987, 43 people were killed after a gunman aboard a Pacific Southwest Airlines jetliner in California apparently opened fire on a fellow passenger, the pilots and himself, causing the plane to crash. Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev set foot on American soil for the first time, arriving for a Washington summit with President Ronald Reagan.

In 1993, gunman Colin Ferguson opened fire on a Long Island Rail Road commuter train, killing six people and wounding 19. (Ferguson was later sentenced to a minimum of 200 years in prison.)

Ten years ago: Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAH'R'-zeyeh) was sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president. The House of Representatives passed an intelligence network overhaul measure, 336-75. Amway co-founder Jay Van Andel died in Ada, Michigan, at age 80. Singer Jerry Scoggins, who performed "The Ballad of Jed Clampett," the theme song to "The Beverly Hillbillies," died at age 93.

Five years ago: The Obama administration took a major step toward imposing the first federal limits on pollution from cars, power plants and factories the same day an international conference on climate change opened in Copenhagen, Denmark. Manager Whitey Herzog and umpire Doug Harvey were elected to the baseball Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee.

One year ago: North Korea freed an 85-year-old U.S. veteran of the Korean War after a weeklong detention, ending the saga of Merrill Newman's attempt to visit the North as a tourist six decades after he oversaw a group of South Korean wartime guerrillas still loathed by Pyongyang.

Today's Birthdays: Linguist and political philosopher Noam Chomsky is 86. Bluegrass singer Bobby Osborne is 83. Actress Ellen Burstyn is 82. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., is 77. Broadcast journalist Carole Simpson is 74. Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench is 67. Actor-director-producer James Keach

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is 67. Country singer Gary Morris is 66. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 65. Sen. Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, is 62. Basketball Hall of Famer Larry Bird is 58. Actress Priscilla Barnes is 57. Former "Tonight Show" announcer Edd (cq) Hall is 56. Rock musician Tim Butler (The Psychedelic Furs) is 56. Actor Patrick Fabian is 50. Actor Jeffrey Wright is 49. Actor C. Thomas Howell is 48. Producer-director Jason Winer is 42. NFL player Terrell Owens is 41. Rapper-producer Kon Artis is 40. Pop singer Nicole Appleton (All Saints) is 39. Latin singer Frankie J is 38. Country singer Sunny Sweeney is 38. Actress Shiri Appleby is 36. Pop-rock singer/celebrity judge Sara Bareilles (bah-REHL'-es) (TV: "The Sing-off") is 35. Singer Aaron Carter is 27.

Thought for Today: "Any frontal attack on ignorance is bound to fail because the masses are always ready to defend their most precious possession — their ignorance." — Hendrik Willem van Loon, Dutch-American journalist and lecturer (1882-1944).