

Groton Daily Independent

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Homecoming Theme for 2015-2016 is Holidays.

Daily Themes

- Monday--MS/HS is Sports Day; Elementary is Camo Day
- Tuesday--MS/HS is Toga Day; Elementary is Sports Day
- Wednesday--MS/HS is Tacky Tourist Day; Elementary is Pajama Day
- Thursday--MS/HS is Color Day (Seniors-black, Juniors-white, Sophomores-blue, Freshmen-yellow, 8th grade-red, 7th grade-green, 6th grade-purple, Staff-pink); Elementary is Holiday Dress-up Day.
- Friday--Spirit Day

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Thursday, September 24

MS/HS is Color Day (Seniors-black, Juniors-white, Sophomores-blue, Freshmen-yellow, 8th grade-red, 7th grade-green, 6th grade-purple, Staff-pink)

Elementary is Holiday Dress-up Day.

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, fruit, links, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hot ham and cheese, sweet tots, romaine salad.

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli or carrots, garlic toast, sherbert.

Birthdays: • Jesse Overacker • Charles Dirks • Ben Woodward • Turner Webb • Jerry Locke • Wade Marzahn

10:00am: Boys golf at Sisseton

4:00pm: 7th Grade FB host Aberdeen Central

4:30pm: VB hosts Clark-Willow Lake (7th/8th play at same time on two courts)

6:00pm: Volleyball hosts Clark-Willow Lake (JV at 6 followed by varsity)

Friday, September 25

Spirit Day

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Tailgate Party

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend veggies, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Jason & Kathy Holm

Birthdays: • Grant Rix • Jarrett Rix • Joey Padfield

11 am to 3 pm: Jungle Day Bazaar at the First Presbyterian Church

1:00pm: Homecoming Parade

7:00pm: Football hosts Aberdeen Roncalli



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13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445
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RSVP honors Groton Senior Citizens



RSVP, North Central Region, honors Groton senior citizens, for years of volunteering to the community. Pictured L-R standing are Lee Schinkel, ten years; Darlene and Wally Fischer, five years; and sitting is Elda Stange, Lifelong Award, with 20 years, and over 4,000 hours. Elda holds a certificate signed by President Obama.

Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

TJ Sperry:
380-7915
Tyler Sperry:
216-8431

Sperry Stump Removal



Groton FBLA 5K Color Run/Walk

October 3, 2015



Registration: 8 a.m.

Run starts at 9 a.m.

in front of GHS

**Pre-registration gets you
a shirt. Must be post-
marked by Sept. 23. Stop
at GHS to pick up form.**

**For more information,
contact Brooke Lingbeck
at 397-8381.**

**Proceeds go to
Groton FBLA.**

Cooking Methods and Vitamin Loss

Cooking methods can limit vitamin intake thus impacting the health value of certain foods essential to human metabolism.

"Cooking foods can reduce the vitamin content because some vitamins are susceptible to loss from heat, air, water, and light," said Biyi Chen, SDSU Graduate Student in Nutrition and Exercise Science.

Chen explained that currently, 13 vitamins are found and divided into two categories: four fat-soluble which are A, D, E, and K; and nine water-soluble, eight of which are B vitamins and vitamin C.

"Water-soluble vitamins, especially most of the B vitamins and vitamin C, leach into cooking water; as well as fat-soluble vitamins; including vitamins A, D and E, leach into cooking oils," Chen said. "Only two vitamins, K and B-3, are stable enough to hold up well during cooking."

Best cooking methods to preserve vitamins

Cooking methods that use only small amounts of fat or water and don't require long heat exposure preserve nutrients best, Chen explained. "The type of food preparation influences the loss of vitamins. Choose the best cooking methods to help retain the vitamins of food," Chen said.

Table 1 shows vitamin loss by different cooking methods.

Table 1. Vitamin loss by different cooking methods	
Cooking methods	Vitamin loss in % (C, B1, B2, B6)
Boiling	35 – 60
Poaching	Less than boiling
Steaming	10 – 25
Pressure cooking	5 – 10
Microwave cooking	5 – 25
Roasting	10 – 47
Stewing/Braising	10 – 12
Grilling	10 – 12
Baking	10 – 12
Frying	7 – 10

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Moist-Heat Cooking Methods:

Boiling and poaching will cause a great loss of water-soluble vitamins, such as folate, vitamin B1 and C, so Chen recommends steaming and microwave cooking as good methods to minimize the loss of vitamins.

"Steam can transfer more heat at the same temperature, so the food cooks faster and fewer nutrients are lost," Chen said. "Stewing/braising can also help with preserving the vitamins, but heat-sensitive vitamins are partially destroyed."

Chen added that pressure cooking is comparable with steaming and stewing.

Dry-Heat Cooking Methods

With dry-heat cooking methods, heat can be transferred through air or fat. "This method is suitable for foods rich in proteins and where a crust is desired; however, heat-sensitive vitamins are partially destroyed during roasting, grilling, and baking," Chen said.

Fry-Cooking Methods

Chen said that correct frying of vegetables preserves vitamins better than boiling or steaming. "Frying does increase the amount of fat and energy," Chen said.

The advantage of frying cooking includes: no loss of water-soluble vitamins, only a small amount of heat-sensitive vitamins destroyed, and possible increasing of vitamin E based on oil used for cooking.

Tips to help retain the vitamins of food during cooking

- * Wash vegetables whole and before peeling under running water.
- * Peel thinly or cook with skin on, and cut into large pieces.
- * Raw vegetables and fruit salads: add a little lemon juice or vinegar to slow down vitamin C loss.
- * Use the smallest amount of water necessary, and cook with the lid on.
- * Serve immediately. Keeping food warm causes a vitamin C loss of 4-17% in one hour and 7-34% in two hours.

Jungle Day Bazaar

Friday, Sept. 25, 2015

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Presbysterian Church

Groton

Serving BBQs

Chicken Salad Sandwiches,

Pie

Food - Candy - Crafts - White Elephant Sale



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Today in Weather History

September 24, 1986: Thunderstorm high winds along with several tornados brought damage to parts of western and central South Dakota from the late evening in the morning hours of the 25th. Winds were estimated up to 80 mph. Many trees and power poles were downed along with damage to many buildings. The tornadoes occurred near Newell, east of Cedar Butte, west of Murdo, 20 miles northwest of Pierre, and northwest of Ridgeview in Dewey County.

September 24, 1992: South winds gusting to 50 to 55 mph across northeast South Dakota during the day toppled several trees and light poles. In Aberdeen, a front window was blown out of a store.

1926 - The temperature at Yellowstone Park dipped to nine degrees below zero. It was the coldest reading of record in the U.S. during September. Severe freezes were widespread over the northwestern U.S. causing great crop destruction. In Washington State, Spokane County experienced their earliest snow of record. Harney Branch Experiment Station in Oregon reported a temperature of 2 degrees above zero to establish a state record for the month of September. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1950 - A smoke pall from western Canada forest fires covered much of the eastern U.S. Daylight was reduced to nighttime darkness in parts of the Northeast. The color of the sun varied from pink to purple, blue, or lavender. Yellow to grey-tan was common. (24th-30th) (The Weather Channel)

1972 - Lightning struck a man near Waldport, OR, a young man who it so happens was carrying thirty-five pieces of dynamite. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - The first full day of autumn proved to be a pleasant one for much of the nation, with sunny skies and mild temperatures. Thunderstorms again formed over Florida and the southwestern deserts, and also formed along a cold front in the northeastern U.S. A storm spotter at Earp CA sighted a couple of funnel clouds, one on the California side of the state line, and the other on the Arizona side. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced large hail and damaging winds in the southeastern U.S., with reports of severe weather most numerous in North Carolina. Golf ball size hail was reported at Tick Creek and a number of other locations in North Carolina. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Forty-seven cities between the Rockies and the Appalachians reported record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 38 degrees at Abilene TX, 34 degrees at Jackson KY, and 36 degrees at Midland TX established records for the month of September. The low of 36 degrees at Midland smashed their previous record for the date by thirteen degrees. Fayetteville AR and Springfield MO reported their earliest freeze of record. Thunderstorms produced torrential rains in northeastern Florida. Jacksonville was deluged with 11.40 inches of rain, and flash flooding resulted in two deaths. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Patched Fog then Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 73 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 80 °F



Rain Departing – Slow Clearing

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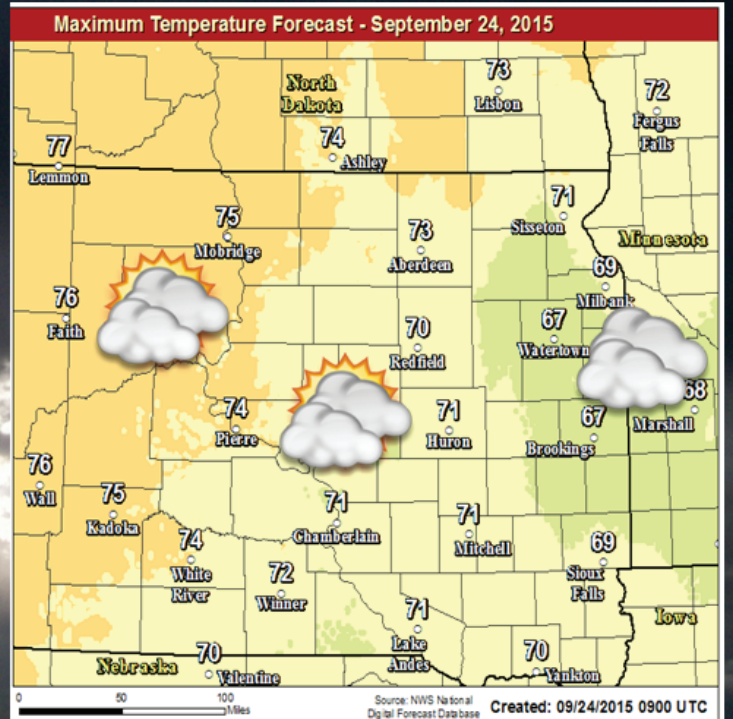
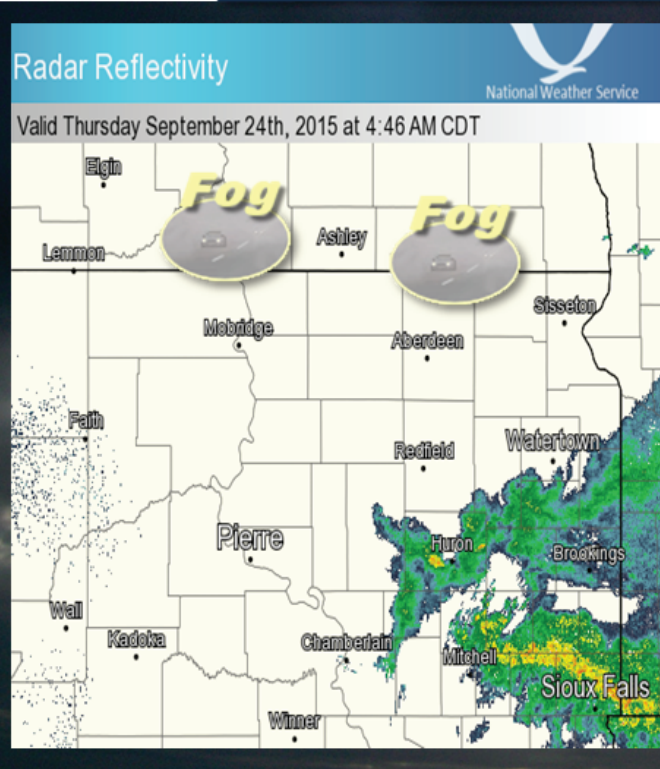
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 09/24/2015 at 5:14AM

Rain will continue to slowly press east through the day. With partial sunshine - temperatures will mostly warm into the 70s. Dry conditions are expected through the weekend with a steady temperature increase.

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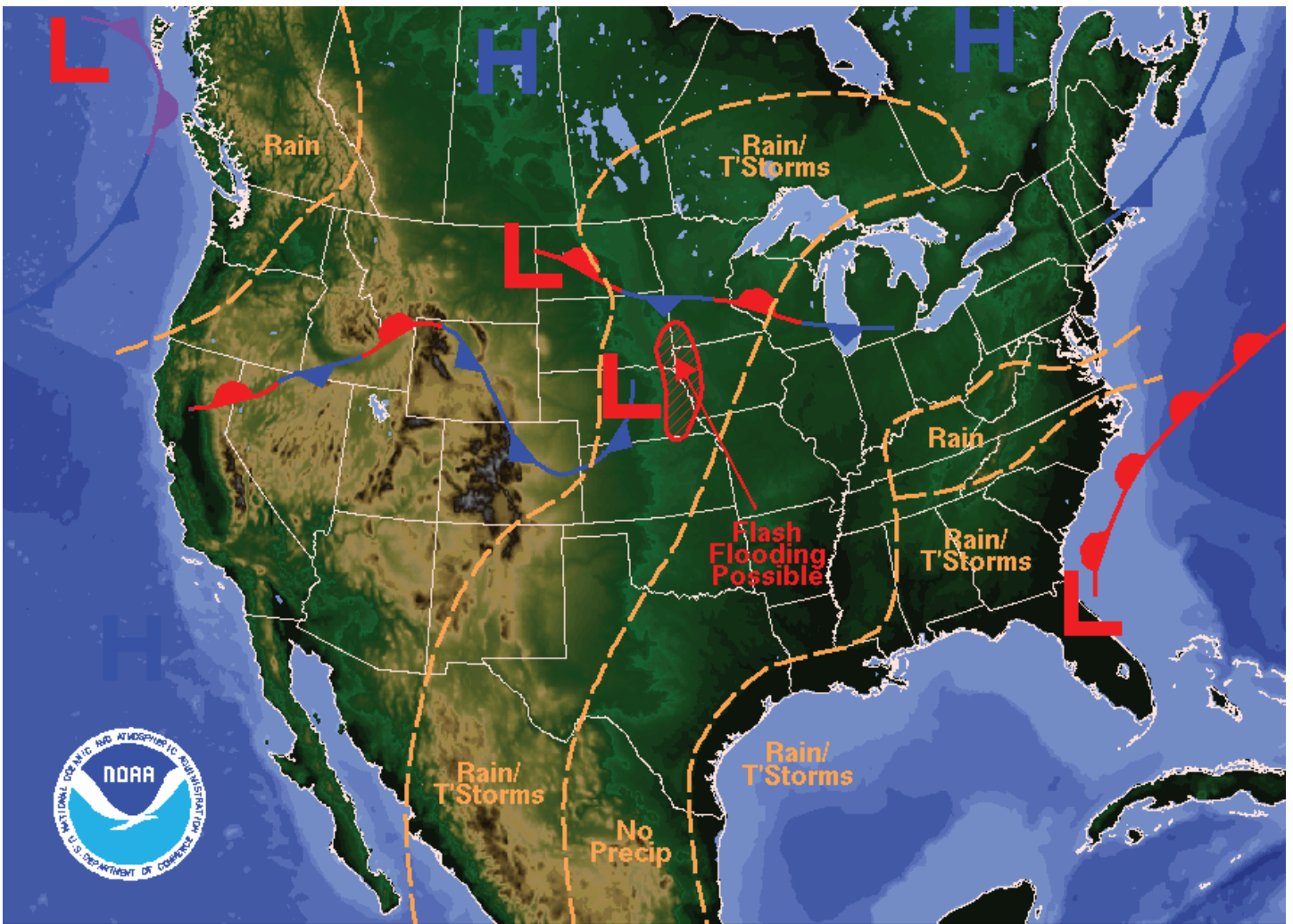
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 75.4
Low: 54.9
High Gust: 14
Precip: 0.19

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1935
Record Low: 23° in 2000
Average High: 68°F
Average Low: 42°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.76
Precip to date in Sept.: 1.32
Average Precip to date: 18.05
Precip Year to Date: 18.12
Sunset Tonight: 7:27 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Sep 24, 2015, issued 4:41 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



USING OUR TALENTS

Years ago a Jewish immigrant from Russia gave his son a violin for his eighth birthday. After months of lessons and hours of practice he became very accomplished.

Years later while performing at a concert he paused and shared a funny story about an experience he had that day. The audience laughed heartily and applauded loudly. He was so delighted and encouraged by their response that he decided to end his career as a violinist and become a comedian. The violinist who became a comedian was Jack Benny and as a result of his decision he brought joy and happiness, honor and hope to countless thousands.

God has something very special for each of us to do. And he wants to do through us what He has not and cannot do through anyone else. Each of us has a special place in God's heart and a unique role for us to play in His world. Scripture plainly says "To every man his work."

We often struggle and strain to discover what God has for us to do. But, if we are open to the nudging of His Spirit and develop the gifts He has given us, He will present many opportunities for us to serve Him.

Prayer: Lord, we ask that You guard us and guide us as we follow the paths You have planned for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

News from the Associated Press

Agriculture Secretary Lentsch names Kyle Holt as deputy

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture has named a deputy secretary for the agency.

Department Secretary Lucas Lentsch announced Wednesday that Kyle Holt will serve in the position.

Holt worked most recently in U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem's office in Rapid City.

Lentsch says the new deputy secretary knows about South Dakota's agricultural industry.

Holt was raised on a family farm around Cresbard and graduated from South Dakota State University. Holt says he's excited to be part of the agency.

Custer State Park auctions cabins to make room for new units

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Custer State Park is auctioning online 12 cabins in order to make room for new, updated units.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department has contracted Utah-based Public Surplus to handle the auction, which runs until 11 a.m. MDT Tuesday.

The cabins are one-room units with a bathroom and can sleep up to four people. Successful bidders will be responsible for removing the cabin and any deck or stairs that the unit may have. Bidders also must clean up any garbage created by the removal process.

The department will allow bidders to remove the cabins between noon Tuesday and Oct. 11.

Probe of South Dakota deaths partly focused on financials

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — State investigators looking into an apparent murder-suicide involving a family of six are focusing in part on financial issues surrounding the husband, South Dakota's attorney general said Wednesday.

Authorities have said they believe Scott Westerhuis shot his wife and four children last week and then set the family home near Platte ablaze before shooting himself.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Wednesday at a news conference that investigators will look into financial issues surrounding a \$4.3 million contract that the state Department of Education told Westerhuis and his company it would not renew the day before the fire.

Jackley said investigators will review an audit of and financial information surrounding the contract. He said typically when state auditors see something of criminal concern, they turn it over to law enforcement. He said there was no criminal investigation of Westerhuis before the fire.

"We are trusting their work, but as part of this process we are verifying," he said.

The bodies of Scott and Nicole Westerhuis and their children Kailey, Jaeci, Connor and Michael were found in the burned ruins of their home the morning of Sept. 17. A passer-by reported the blaze early in the morning, but the fire chief said the home was all but destroyed by the time firefighters arrived.

The deaths have shaken Platte, a community of around 1,200 residents about 110 miles west of Sioux Falls. Kailey was a third-grader, Jaeci a fifth-grader, Connor an eighth-grader and Michael a high school sophomore.

Scott and Nicole Westerhuis worked for Mid-Central Educational Cooperative, a Platte-based education organization that provides speech, language and hearing services to several area school districts. Scott was business manager for 15 or 16 years, and Nicole assistant business manager for about eight years.

The state Education Department decided not to renew the \$4.3 million contract in the wake of a state audit last year that took issue with Mid-Central's documenting of some expenses. The audit found the company owed \$214,000 to the state, which it paid. Tony Venhuizen, chief of staff for Gov. Dennis Daugaard,

said preliminary results of this year's audit showed similar issues.

The \$4.3 million in federal funding was for GEAR UP, a college readiness program for Native American students in South Dakota.

Scott Westerhuis is the registered agent of a handful of companies and nonprofits in South Dakota, according to state records. Internal Revenue Service documents show two of those nonprofits, the American Indian Institute for Innovation and the Oceti Sakowin Education Consortium, have received at least \$2 million between them in GEAR UP funding since 2012.

Mid-Central paid out GEAR UP funds to both organizations, according to cooperative governing board records. Both nonprofits reported to the IRS that they provide services to underrepresented youth in impoverished areas.

The records list Scott Westerhuis as chief financial officer of the American Indian Institute for Innovation and Nicole Westerhuis as business manager of Oceti Sakowin Education Consortium.

Records for the American Indian Institute for Innovation back to 2012 list no compensation for Scott Westerhuis in his role as CFO. Nicole Westerhuis was paid about \$38,500 in 2013 as business manager and an officer of Oceti Sakowin Education Consortium.

Dan Guernicke, superintendent of Mid-Central, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

State auditor Marty Guindon said last year's audit that discovered issues with Mid-Central's documenting of expenses only examined the state's administration of the grant and involvement with the cooperative, and would not have looked at any organizations that received funding from Mid-Central.

When asked if this year's audit would examine funds Mid-Central issued to other organizations, Guindon declined to comment.

Jackley said federal investigators are not involved in the probe of the Westerhuis family deaths. He said several pieces of evidence have been found in the ruins of the home, including a shotgun and some shells.

He couldn't say whether Scott Westerhuis was known to own a shotgun.

A police dog found a potential accelerant in the home's ruins, but investigators are waiting to receive confirmation from tests results, the attorney general said.

19-year-old student found dead at Dakota Wesleyan dorm

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Police in Mitchell say a 19-year-old student has been found dead at a Dakota Wesleyan University dormitory.

Detective Lt. Don Everson says no "obvious" cause of death has been identified, and an autopsy will be conducted within the next 24 hours. Everson says police were called to Dayton Hall about 11 a.m. Wednesday.

Dakota Wesleyan spokeswoman Lori Essig identified the man as freshman athletic training student Beau Keeter. He was also a member of the school's men's basketball team.

The school has scheduled a prayer service for 8 p.m. and has made counseling services available to students.

Cherokee Nation to receive surplus bison for Kenwood ranch

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) — The Cherokee Nation is set to receive a tractor-trailer load of bison to add to the tribe's herd on its 1,000-acre ranch in the unincorporated Kenwood community in northeastern Oklahoma.

The tribe is to receive about 50 bison from a national park in South Dakota on Thursday after acquiring the animals from the InterTribal Buffalo Council. The Cherokee Nation had gone 40 years without raising bison until last year and now has 68 head of bison on its ranch.

The InterTribal Buffalo Council awards its member tribes surplus bison from national parks each year. Badlands National Park has about 400 head of surplus bison annually.

Cherokee Nation Secretary of State Chuck Hoskin Jr. said the bison are a cultural asset that helps the tribe reconnect with its history.

Breaking Keystone silence, Clinton says she opposes pipeline

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Whether it was by coincidence or not, Hillary Rodham Clinton picked a fortuitous time to announce that she opposes the Keystone XL pipeline.

The longstanding criticism of Clinton's reluctance to say where she stands on allowing the pipeline project to go forward was buried in the headlines by arrival of Pope Francis for his first visit to the United States.

The next day, the pope's call to action on climate change fit with Clinton's reasons for opposing the pipeline. And it sets her up well for a few days of fundraising later this week in the San Francisco Bay area, where she was likely to face questions about her dithering among donors who are generally supportive of environmental causes.

The Democratic presidential candidate said Tuesday that she had concluded the ongoing debate over whether the pipeline should be built had hindered a larger effort to curb global warming.

"I think it is imperative that we look at the Keystone pipeline as what I believe it is — a distraction from the important work we have to do to combat climate change," Clinton said in Des Moines, Iowa. "And unfortunately, from my perspective, one that interferes with our ability to move forward to deal with all the other issues. Therefore I oppose it."

Environmentalists have warned that the extraction and transport of oil risks setting back the fight against man-made climate change. Big business argues that the Canada-to-Gulf of Mexico project would create valuable jobs.

On the presidential campaign trail, the debate over the pipeline has turned into a high-stakes fight for support and campaign cash as Clinton battles real and potential challenges. Opposing the pipeline puts her in line with rival Sen. Bernie Sanders, a favorite of the Democratic party's left wing. Clinton's opposition also sets out a marker as Vice President Joe Biden considers challenging her for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Signs quickly surfaced that Clinton's announcement was paying off for her.

Tom Steyer, a California-based environmentalist and top Democratic donor, quickly credited Clinton for joining with "thousands of Americans calling on President Barack Obama to reject the Keystone XL pipeline in favor of building an American economy powered by clean energy."

On Wednesday morning, the pontiff joined Obama at the White House and made an urgent call to address climate change, warning it "can no longer be left to a future generation."

To be certain, Clinton's unwillingness to offer a position had irritated liberals and environmentalists, and many winced when she said at a July town meeting in New Hampshire that if it was still undecided "when I become president, I will answer your question."

Clinton had said in 2010 that she was "inclined" to support the pipeline but had avoided taking a position after leaving the State Department in 2013.

In recent weeks, Clinton expressed impatience over the Obama administration's drawn-out deliberations and said last week in New Hampshire she was putting the White House "on notice" that she would soon announce her decision. Her campaign said the White House was briefed on Clinton's position prior to her comments and she privately made her opposition known in discussions with labor officials in recent weeks.

The announcement could set the boundaries for the environmental debate in next year's presidential election. Republican candidates like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said on Twitter that Clinton's decision proves she "favors environmental extremists over U.S. jobs."

Reince Priebus, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, meanwhile, said Clinton was being "blatantly dishonest" when she said her role at the State Department had prevented her from taking a position and said it was driven by concern about Biden joining the Democratic primary field.

Clinton said in a posting on Medium on Wednesday that she would seek to modernize the U.S.'s energy infrastructure and develop new partnerships with Canada and Mexico to fight climate change in North America. She reiterated interest in creating an infrastructure bank to unleash investments in clean energy and said she would strengthen pipeline safety regulations and work to replace the country's oldest pipes and riskiest train cars.

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"American energy policy is about more than a single pipeline to transport Canada's dirtiest fuel across our country. It's about building our future," Clinton wrote.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. TRAGEDY STRIKES HAJJ PILGRIMAGE

At least 310 people have been killed and hundreds injured in a stampede in a Saudi tent city on the outskirts of the holy city of Mecca.

2. WHERE POPE IS OFF TO NEXT

Francis is bringing his message of humility and hope to Capitol Hill as he becomes the first pontiff in history to speak to a joint meeting of Congress.

3. WHAT MAY HOLD UP BUDGET DEAL

The Senate is preparing to vote on a bill that would keep the government open beyond next week's deadline at a price Democrats are certain to reject — stripping taxpayer funds from Planned Parenthood.

4. WHY COLOMBIA IS CLOSER TO LASTING PEACE

Bogota and leftist rebels pledge to end Latin America's longest-running armed war conflict within six months.

5. REFUGEE CRISIS PITS FORMER BALKAN FOES AGAINST EACH OTHER

Croatia and Serbia, who fought a war in the early 1990s, trade punitive actions and ultimatums over their shared border as the influx of thousands causes a bitter divide to resurface.

6. SEXTING CASE HIGHLIGHTS CHILD PORN LAWS QUANDARY

When authorities discovered that a high school couple in North Carolina had sent each other nude selfies, they plunged the two 16-year-olds into a legal morass with lifetime implications.

7. WHO WON PRISON RIGHTS FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

Neon Brown, a transgender inmate who says she was called "it" and "some kind of animal" by guards, legally forces Maryland's penitentiaries to better train for how to treat transgender people.

8. SCIENTISTS: DROUGHT STRESSING ANCIENT TREES

California's Giant Sequoias are showing signs of distress, with leaves that are much drier and sparser than usual.

9. R&B STAR FACES AUSSIE BAN

A government minister signals that troubled singer Chris Brown won't be allowed to tour Australia in December because of his criminal conviction for assaulting pop star Rihanna.

10. PIRATES CLINCH POSTSEASON AGAIN

Neil Walker had a career-high six RBIs and Pittsburgh clinches its third straight playoff berth by beating Colorado 13-7.

AP News in Brief

Saudi Arabia's civil defense directorate says at least 220 people dead in hajj stampede

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — At least 220 people were killed and hundreds injured in a stampede Thursday at the annual hajj pilgrimage, Saudi authorities said.

The crush happened in Mina, a large valley about five kilometers (three miles) from the holy city of Mecca. Mina houses more than 160,000 tents where pilgrims spend the night during the pilgrimage.

The Saudi civil defense directorate said at least 450 other pilgrims were injured in the stampede.

Photos released by the directorate on its official Twitter account showed rescue workers in orange and yellow vests helping the wounded onto stretchers and loading them onto ambulances near some of the

white tents.

Some 2 million people are taking part in this year's hajj pilgrimage, which began Tuesday.

A look at major hajj-related incidents in Saudi Arabia after 220 killed in stampede

CAIRO (AP) — Every year, millions of Muslims converge on the Saudi holy cities of Mecca and Medina for the annual hajj pilgrimage, with the massive ceremonies representing a major security and logistical challenge for the kingdom's authorities.

On occasion, the hajj and events surrounding it have been marred by accidents and tragedies, such as Thursday's stampede near Mecca that killed at least 220 people.

Here's a look at some deadly hajj-related incidents:

2015: At least 220 people are killed and 450 injured in a stampede in Mina, on the outskirts of the holy city of Mecca. In the lead-up to hajj, at least 111 people are killed and scores wounded when a crane collapses in bad weather, crashing onto the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Islam's holiest site.

Pope prepares for historic address at US Capitol, and dysfunctional Congress pauses to listen

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fresh from enrapturing crowds all over Washington, Pope Francis is bringing his resonant message of humility and hope to Capitol Hill as he becomes the first pontiff in history to speak to a joint meeting of Congress.

Lawmakers of all political backgrounds and religious affiliations have thrilled to the pope's arrival, pledging to pause from the bickering and dysfunction that normally divide them and hear him out Thursday morning. Tens of thousands of spectators will be watching from the West Lawn of the Capitol and many more on TV from around the world as the pope addresses a House chamber packed with Supreme Court justices, Cabinet officials, diplomats, lawmakers and their guests.

After the sergeant at arms announces him by bellowing "Mr. Speaker, the pope of the Holy See," Francis will enter the chamber and climb to the dais where the president delivers the annual State of the Union address and monarchs and heads of state have addressed Congress. Behind him will sit Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, the first and second in line to the presidency, both Catholics.

Ahead of Francis' remarks lawmakers of both parties have busily sought political advantage from his stances, with Democrats in particular delighting in his support for action to overhaul immigration laws and combat global warming and income inequality. One House Republican back-bencher announced plans to boycott the speech over Francis' activist position on climate change, which the pontiff renewed alongside President Barack Obama on Wednesday.

But Boehner, a Republican and a former altar boy who invited the pope to speak after trying unsuccessfully to lure the two previous pontiffs to the Capitol, has dismissed concerns that the politically engaged Francis will stir the controversies of the day.

Democrats to filibuster stopgap funding measure over GOP effort to defund Planned Parenthood

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is preparing to vote on legislation that would keep the government open beyond next Wednesday's deadline at a price Democrats are certain to reject — stripping taxpayer money from Planned Parenthood.

The stopgap spending bill is widely expected to fail Thursday. The next steps aren't set in stone, although Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has promised there won't be a government shutdown. That

suggests he would soon press ahead with a stopgap measure that's free of the Planned Parenthood dispute.

Some of Capitol Hill's most ardent conservatives are unafraid of extending the battle over Planned Parenthood, even if it would result in a partial government shutdown. GOP leaders, on the other hand, are motivated chiefly by a desire to avoid another shutdown like the 2013 episode that hurt the party politically, and McConnell appears to enjoy support from a majority of the Republican rank and file.

"I'd rather it defund Planned Parenthood, but if the votes aren't there I don't see the point of having a standoff," said Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., chairman of the Senate GOP's campaign committee.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who is using his rivalry with GOP leaders in Washington to help define his presidential campaign, responded in an editorial essay in Politico that simply the threat of a shutdown is sending "Republican leadership running for the hills."

The Latest: Hungary considering letting migrants pass through en route for West

BRUSSELS (AP) — The latest developments as European governments struggle to cope with the huge number of people moving across Europe. All times local:

11:10 a.m.

More than 10,000 refugees and other migrants have entered Hungary in a single day, the highest figure this year, as Prime Minister Viktor Orban said he was willing to consider letting people through to Western Europe.

Police said Thursday that 10,046 people arrived in Hungary the day before, surpassing the previous mark of 9,380 set Sept. 14, just before Hungary closed down its border with Serbia.

Dealers, owners feel frustrated and betrayed by Volkswagen emissions scandal, seek answers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bob Rand bought his Volkswagen Passat last year for its clean emissions and high gas mileage. He liked the car so much he convinced his son and a friend to buy one, too.

Now, as Volkswagen comes clean about rigging diesel emissions to pass U.S. tests, Rand is desperately trying to sell the fully loaded model with white leather seats for \$10,000 below what he paid. His sole bite has been from a man who offered \$7,500 on speculation that he could resell it in Mexico.

"Volkswagen was somebody that you could rely on for cutting-edge products and quality and all those things and now you find out that they're not above lying just flat out," said Rand, who plans to join a class-action lawsuit against VW. "That's probably about as bad a thing as a company can do is lie to your face when you're buying a \$35,000 car."

Rand's anger at the world's top-selling car company was echoed Wednesday by private dealers, auto wholesalers and owners across the U.S. as fallout from the smog test trickery mounted.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency first disclosed Friday that stealth software makes VW's 2009-2015 model cars powered by 2.0-liter diesel engines run cleaner during emissions tests than in actual driving. On Wednesday, Volkswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn resigned and took responsibility for the "irregularities" found by U.S. inspectors — a scandal that has wiped out billions in the company's market value and raised the possibility of criminal investigations and billions more in fines.

Xi trades football for hardball political negotiations in Washington, DC

SEATTLE (AP) — With his feel-good tours of Boeing, Microsoft and a local high school complete, Chinese President Xi Jinping departs Washington state Thursday for the other Washington, where tougher discussions on cybersecurity, intellectual property protections and human rights await.

President Barack Obama's administration said this week that he won't paper over disagreements between the two countries on those topics, even as the leaders find ground where they can work together on other issues, including trade and climate change.

Xi struck a gracious tone during his 48-hour stay in Seattle, during which he toured Boeing's plant in Everett, visited Microsoft's campus in Redmond, and received a football jersey with his name on it from high school students in Tacoma.

In his public remarks, at a dinner banquet and at a meeting of top corporate leaders from both nations, Xi stressed the importance of U.S.-China business relations and vowed that his country would work to remove barriers to foreign investment and to improve intellectual property protections.

He also expressed a willingness to work with the U.S. on cybersecurity — a priority for Washington. White House officials have said hacking attacks originating from China are approaching epidemic levels. The administration believes Chinese espionage was behind one of the worst U.S. government data breaches in history, the theft of fingerprint images of those applying for security clearances. On Wednesday, the Office of Personnel Management announced that an estimated 5.6 million images were stolen — not 1.1 million as first thought.

War-weary Colombia nears peace following breakthrough in long-running talks

HAVANA (AP) — President Juan Manuel Santos and leaders of Colombia's largest rebel group vowed to end Latin America's longest-running armed conflict in the coming months after reaching a breakthrough in talks that put the country closer to peace that it has been in half a century.

Speaking in Havana, where talks between the sides had been dragging on for years, Santos announced on Wednesday that government and rebel negotiators, prodded by Pope Francis to not let a historic opportunity for peace slip away, had set a six-month deadline to sign a final agreement. After that, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia would demobilize within 60 days.

"We are on different sides but today we advance in the same direction, in the most noble direction a society can take, which is toward peace," said Santos, minutes before a forced, cold-faced handshake with the military commander of the FARC guerrillas, known by his alias Timochenko.

The U.S. government lauded the breakthrough, with Secretary of State John Kerry saying that "peace is now ever closer for the Colombian people and millions of conflict victims."

In a joint statement, Santos and the FARC rebels said they had overcome the last significant obstacle to a peace deal by settling on a formula to punish human rights abuses committed during about 50 years of bloody, drug-fueled fighting. The formula is designed to demand accountability from belligerents while insulating a deal against possible legal challenges from victims.

Syria and Ebola failures show 21st century shortcomings of UN power structure forged in 1945

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The worsening war in Syria, allegations of child sexual abuse by U.N. peacekeepers and the mishandling of the Ebola epidemic cast a spotlight on the inadequacies of the United Nations in a globalized world, operating with a power structure that hasn't changed since 1945.

With age, the organization has grown bloated, say many who know it well. It is also underfunded and overwhelmed by the tasks it faces.

The world body is trying to deal with almost 60 million global refugees, displaced people and asylum seekers — the greatest number since World War II. It is seeking to provide emergency supplies to keep alive 100 million people but has received less than 30 percent of the \$20 billion it needs this year.

Beyond Syria, where more than 250,000 people have been killed since 2011, conflicts escalate from Yemen and Iraq to South Sudan and Mali, forcing tens of thousands to flee hoping for a better life in Europe.

Since the U.N. was born after World War II, it has grown from 51 members to 193.

Officials: Suicide bombing kills 25 at mosque during Eid prayers in Yemen's capital Sanaa

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A suicide bomber blew himself up during prayers at a mosque for the Eid al-Adha holiday on Thursday, killing 25 people in Yemen's capital Sanaa, security officials said.

Dozens were wounded in the blast at the al-Bolayli mosque, said the officials, who remain neutral in the conflict that has splintered the country. It is located in an area where many people support the Shiite Houthi rebels who control Sanaa.

The security officials said the suicide bomber placed an explosive device in his shoe, causing an initial explosion. As worshippers rushed to the door, he detonated himself in the middle of the crowd.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

There were puddles of blood and debris outside the mosque, whose ornate facade was damaged by the blast. Police and some Houthi fighters came to inspect the aftermath.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, September 24, the 267th day of 2015. There are 98 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 24, 1890, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilford Woodruff, wrote a manifesto renouncing the practice of plural marriage, or polygamy.

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a Judiciary Act establishing America's federal court system and creating the post of attorney general.

In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1929, Lt. James H. Doolittle guided a Consolidated NY-2 Biplane over Mitchel Field in New York in the first all-instrument flight.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1948, Mildred Gillars, accused of being Nazi wartime radio propagandist "Axis Sally," pleaded not guilty in Washington D.C. to charges of treason. (Gillars, later convicted, ended up serving 12 years in prison.)

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Denver.

In 1957, the Los Angeles-bound Brooklyn Dodgers played their last game at Ebbets Field, defeating the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-0.

In 1960, the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was launched at Newport News, Virginia. "The Howdy Doody Show" ended a nearly 13-year run with its final telecast on NBC.

In 1976, former hostage Patricia Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery in San Francisco carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was released after 22 months after receiving clemency from President Jimmy Carter.)

In 1988, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson won the men's 100-meter dash at the Seoul (sohl) Summer Olympics - but he was disqualified three days later for using anabolic steroids. Members of the eastern Massachusetts Episcopal diocese elected Barbara C. Harris the first female bishop in the church's history.

In 1991, kidnappers in Lebanon freed British hostage Jack Mann after holding him captive for more than two years. Children's author Theodor Seuss Geisel (GY'-zul), better known as "Dr. Seuss," died in La Jolla, California, at age 87.

In 1995, Israel and the PLO agreed to sign a pact at the White House ending nearly three decades of Israeli occupation of West Bank cities. Eric Borel, a 16-year-old in Cuers, France, shot and killed 12 people before taking his own life, a day after he'd killed three family members.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Rita struck eastern Texas and the Louisiana coast, causing more flooding

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in New Orleans. Crowds opposed to the war in Iraq surged past the White House, staging the largest anti-war protest in the nation's capital since the U.S. invasion. Vice President Dick Cheney had surgery to repair aneurysms on the back of both knees.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Southeast Asian leaders meeting in New York sent China a firm message over territorial disputes between Beijing and its neighbors, calling for freedom of navigation in seas that China claimed as its own. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg pledged \$100 million over the next five years to Newark, New Jersey, schools a week before the release of the biographical movie "The Social Network." Gennady Yanayev, 73, a leader of the abortive 1991 coup who had briefly declared himself Soviet president, died in Moscow.

One year ago: At the opening of the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for world leaders to join an international campaign to ease the plight of nearly unprecedented numbers of refugees, the displaced and victims of violence in a world wracked by wars and the swift-spreading and deadly Ebola epidemic. President Barack Obama implored the leaders to rally behind his expanded military campaign to stamp out the violent Islamic State group and its "network of death." A visibly upset President Francois Hollande of France announced that an al-Qaida splinter group had beheaded Herve Gourdel, a French mountaineer kidnapped while hiking in Algeria.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Sonny Turner (The Platters) is 76. Singer Barbara Allbut Brown (The Angels) is 75. Singer Phyllis "Jiggs" Allbut Sirico (The Angels) is 73. Singer Gerry Marsden (Gerry and the Pacemakers) is 73. News anchor Lou Dobbs is 70. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Joe Greene is 69. Actor Gordon Clapp is 67. Songwriter Holly Knight is 59. Former U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II, D-Mass., is 63. Actor Kevin Sorbo is 57. Christian/jazz singer Cedric Dent (Take 6) is 53. Actress-writer Nia Vardalos is 53. Rock musician Shawn Crahan (AKA Clown) (Slipknot) is 46. Country musician Marty Mitchell is 46. Actress Megan Ward is 46. Singer-musician Marty Cintron (No Mercy) is 44. Contemporary Christian musician Juan DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 40. Actor Ian Bohen is 39. Actor Justin Bruening is 36. Olympic gold medal gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) is 33. Actor Erik Stocklin is 33. Actor Kyle Sullivan is 27.

Thought for Today: "Do not weep; do not wax indignant. Understand." - Baruch Spinoza, Dutch philosopher (1632-1677).