

# THE Groton Independent

South Dakota  
Growing Families & Opportunities

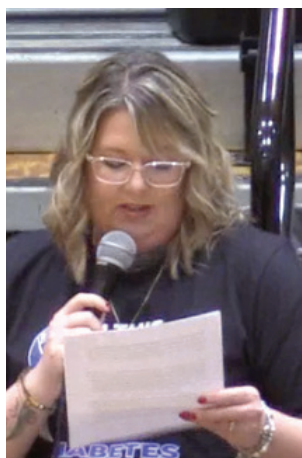
Vol. 137 No. 25 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Feb 19, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889



Rylee Dunker, McKenna Tietz and Brodyn DeHoet were recognized as Groton Area students who have been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. (Above Courtesy Photo from Lindsey Tietz' Facebook Page. Photo below lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The boys basketball team gathered for a photo after the Mobridge-Pollock game. The afternoon was designated as Lights Out on Diabetes. (Photo Courtesy Lindsey Tietz' Facebook Page)



Natalie Casanova also helped with the Lights Out on Diabetes event. She talked first hand about Type 1 Diabetes. The video of the event can be found at the end of the Girls Basketball Game with Mobridge-Pollock under the video archives of 397news.com. Her speech can be found on the back page. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Coach Brian Dolan hands Brodyn DeHoet the 1000th point ball after the game. DeHoet scored his 1000th career point with 41 seconds left in the game with a free throw. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Rylee Dunker, Brodyn DeHoet and McKenna Tietz were recognized as Groton Area Students who have to deal with Type 1 Diabetes. (Photo Courtesy Lindsey Tietz' Facebook Page)



Above: Lindsey Tietz, Lindsey DeHoet and Tasha Dunker helped to organize the Lights Out on Diabetes event at the Mobridge-Pollock game. (Photo Courtesy Lindsey Tietz' Facebook Page)



DVDs of the basketball games that have been recorded through GDILIVE.COM will be available this year. \$10 for each game. You can pick and choose which games. Call 605/397-6397 to place your order.

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**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST and/or Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.**

Northwest Area Schools in Isabel, South Dakota, is seeking a Speech and Language Pathologist and/or a Speech and Language Pathology Assistant. South Dakota licensure is required. NWAS offers competitive salary, benefits, transportation and SD Retirement. Position is open until filled. Contact Quinn Lenk, Director, at 605-466-2206, or email quinn.lenk@k12.sd.us

IMMEDIATE OPENING for a Full Time Deputy Sheriff. High school diploma or GED. SD LEO Cert. preferred. Location Timber Lake, SD. Salary DOE. Call Dewey County Sheriff's Office at 605-865-3330.

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**Fredrick School**  
**February 12,**  
**2020**

**Meeting Minutes**

OFFICIAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS  
FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2  
FEBRUARY 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order on February 12, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Dan Nickelson, Jon Ellwein, Richard Achen and Alex Hart. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kusters and Business Manager Janel Wagner.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members of the public were allowed three minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members wishing to speak, the board moved on with their remaining agenda items.

Action 19-064 Motion by Achen, second by Nickelson to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, carried.

Action 19-065 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve consent agenda which included the following items as presented: minutes of meeting held January 13, 2020; January 2020 financial report, agency accounts and investments; District bills and January 2020 payroll. All aye, carried.

Ending January 31, 2020	Capital Outlay Fund	Special Education Fund	Pension Fund	Food Service Fund	Driver's Ed Fund	Trust & Agency
.....General Fund						
Revenue:						
Taxes.....	\$3,952.92	\$2,641.38				
Local Sources.....	\$10.00		\$6,404.40		\$5,387.01	
Intermediate Sources.....						
Interest .....					\$1.88	
Federal & State .....		\$475.90	\$2,527.03			
Total Revenue .....	\$3,962.92	\$3,117.28	\$8,931.43	\$0.00	\$5,388.89	
Disbursements .....						
Bills.....	\$9,130.56	\$201.60	\$4,084.18		\$3,038.87	
Payroll.....	\$134,679.26	\$15,270.15	\$3,204.24			
Total Disbursements .....	\$155,013.87	\$15,471.75	\$7,288.42	\$0.00	\$3,038.87	
Total checking balance.....	\$146,185.62	\$230,102.30	\$185,322.02	\$669.82	\$45,468.33	
Beginning investment balance.....	\$443,412.13	\$1,783,634.20	\$1,246,175.05			
Interest .....	\$1,913.55					
Total investment balance.....	\$445,325.68	\$1,783,634.20	\$1,246,175.05			
Ending Balance.....	\$591,511.30	\$2,013,736.50	\$1,431,497.07	\$9,732.12	\$669.82	

**Groton School**  
**Mower**  
**Bid Notice**

BID ADVERTISEMENT  
FOR SCHOOL TRACTOR  
MOWER

The Board of Education of Groton Area School District No. 06-6 of Brown County, State of South Dakota requests sealed bids on a tractor/mower combination.

Specifications and bid forms are on file in the business office. All bids must be made on the specified form. For more information contact Head Custodian, Mike Nehls, at 397-2351.

Bids must be received by Monday, March 9, 2020, at 2:00pm, in the school superintendent's office. Bids will be reviewed at the regular board meeting that evening at 7:00pm.

All bidders shall understand that payment will not be made until the start of the new fiscal year, July 15, 2020. The school board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Address bids to Business Manager, Groton Area High School, P.O. Box 410, Groton, SD 57445. Mark envelopes: "Mower Bid".  
(2t. Feb 10 & Feb 17, 2020)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$20.90. 18623

**Brown County**  
**Milling/Reclaim**  
**Bid Notice**

NOTICE TO MILLING/RECLAIMING CONTRACTORS  
Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:55am on February 25, 2020. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing Full Operation Milling/Reclaiming Equipment for construction and maintenance repairs on Brown County Road Projects for the year 2020. Successful bidders will be working along with Brown County Highway Department Forces.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bond will be required at time of bid opening.  
Performance Bond: Brown

Claims approved: January 2020 Payroll - General Fund salaries 78,993.35; Special Education salaries 9,948.28; Food Service salaries 2,617.66. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 25,554.00; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 917.74; American Funds, retirement 1,265.02; Delta Dental, insurance 1,693.50; Express Collections, garnishment 569.11; AMI, garnishment 989.22; The Standard, life insurance 267.47; Security Benefits, retirement 1,000.26; VSP, vision insurance 276.03; Wellmark, health insurance 15,843.00; SD Retirement 12,753.75; SD Retirement Supplemental, 465.26.

General Fund: Agtegra, gasoline 1,386.88; Amazon Capital Services, supplies 34.95; ASBSD, training fee 60.00; Cole Papers Inc, supplies 647.07; Crawford Trucks & Equipment Inc, repairs 540.60; CWD, FFVP 434.12; Dumire, James, repairs 105.00; Eide Bailly LLP, audit 4,134.58; Farnam's Genuine Parts Inc, repairs 136.01; First Book, supplies 56.68; Flinn Scientific Inc, supplies 56.75; Foreman Sales & Service, repairs 102.88; GDI News, publishing 203.37; James Valley Telecommunications, telephone 271.84; JM Electric Inc, repairs 337.49; Jostens Inc, diploma covers 136.04; Leola School District 44-2, football reconciliation 966.69; Mac's Inc, repairs 1.38; Menards, repairs/supplies 148.51; Merchant Services, online lunch fees 88.58; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co, electricity 4,484.35; North Central Special Educa-

tion Cooperative, local share 5,500.00; OfficeMax, supplies 14.99; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 227.57; Pizza Ranch, MathCounts 98.01; School Specialty, supplies 61.86; Sumption, Sarah, education reimbursement 80.00; Town of Frederick, utilities 281.20; United States Postal Service, postage 82.03; USA Clean, supplies 85.20. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions, managed print 649.56; Amazon Capital Services, library books 343.39. Special Education Fund: Anliker, Jennifer, mileage 50.40; Avera St Luke's, occupational/physical therapy 3,013.80; North Central Special Education Cooperative, local share 9,063.58; United States Postal Service, postage 19.68. Food Service Fund: Child & Adult Nutrition, food 141.92; CWD, food/supplies 3,680.06; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 48.32.

The following reports were presented:  
A. Jeff Kusters - Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director

Action 19-066 Motion by Nickelson, second by Achen to adopt the 2020-2021 school calendar as presented. All aye, carried.

Action 19-067 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to approve the Employee Contract for Faye Gunther at \$18.45/hour. All aye, carried.  
Action 19-068 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to approve the amendment of the Drama Club Advisor Contract salary for Jessica Ringgenberg

from \$1,265.90 to \$600.00. All aye, carried.  
Action 19-069 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to approve Troy Podoll as a volunteer coach for Boys Basketball. All aye, carried.  
Action 19-070 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to enter into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 (1) for employee matters at 6:55 p.m. All aye, carried.  
President Schlosser declared Board out of Executive Session at 7:23 p.m.

Action 19-071 Motion by Ellwein, second by Nickelson on intent to renew 2020-2021 Administrative contracts. All aye, carried.  
The School Board would like to congratulate the MathCounts team of Tristan Sumption, Olivia Morlock, Sofi Losure and Levi Little for placing second; and individual place winners of Sofi Losure-second, Olivia Morlock-sixth, Levi Little-seventh and Morgan Sumption-eighth at the Eureka competition in January.

The Administration would like to thank the Frederick Area School Board members for their dedication in celebrating National School Board Recognition Month.

Action 19-072 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. All aye, carried.  
Rich Schlosser, President  
Janel Wagner, Business Manager

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$114.03. 18648

Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his/her proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County, South Dakota. The successful bidder shall also furnish proper certificates of insurance required by Brown County.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Brown County Courthouse, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "BID ON 2020 WOOD WASTE GRINDING FOR THE BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL". To be opened on Tuesday, 8:47 A.M., February 25, 2020. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.  
Specifications and notice to bidders are on file in the Brown County Auditor's Office and at the Brown County Landfill and may be obtained at no charge.  
ATTEST:  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0212.0219)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$35.85. 18625

Contract for Rental Equipment shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one year from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.  
Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS FOR MILLING/RECLAIMING" to be opened February 25, 2020 at 8:55am. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.  
Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0212.0219)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$43.49. 18624

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.  
Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0212.0219)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$43.49. 18624

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.  
Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0212.0219)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$43.49. 18624

**Brown County**  
**Wood Grinding**  
**Bid Notice**

SEALING BID  
WOOD WASTE GRINDING  
BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL  
Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 until the hour of 8:47 AM. Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners regarding 2020 WOOD WASTE GRINDING for the Brown County Landfill.

**Friendly Fellows**  
**& Daisies**  
**November**  
**Meeting**

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H club met November 10, 2019 at the United Methodist Church in Claremont. The meeting was called to order by President Hanna Miller. The American Flag pledge was led by Ashlynn Warrington, and Braden Boe led the 4-H pledge. The roll call topic was your

favorite movie. The communications report was given by Andrew Marzahn, in which he read thank yous for premiums. The treasurer's report was presented by Colin Frey. There were no additions or improvements to the treasurer's report, and it was approved by Ashlynn Warrington and seconded by Natalia Warrington. The secretary's report was given by Malory Miller. The secretary's report was approved by Logan Warrington and seconded by Axel Warrington. The old business was the Recognition Event held in Aberdeen. Old business was closed by Logan Warrington and seconded by Ashlynn Warrington. New business was the Newshound, and the new business was closed by Andrew Marzahn and seconded by Novalea Warrington. The meeting was adjourned by Braden Boe and seconded by Isaiah Scepanskiak. There were three talks and demonstrations presented. The first demonstration was by Natalia Warrington and was about how to put together a clarinet and how to play clarinet scales. The second demonstration was by Jordan Zoellner about Dairy Show Day. The last demonstration was by Riley Zoellner, and his demonstration was about how to get a cow ready to lead for the fair. Lunch was served by Ashlynn and Logan Warrington.  
--Submitted by Axel Warrington, Club Reporter.

# Varsity squads post wins over Warner, DeHoet joins 1000 point club

It was a double-header night at the Warner Gym as both varsity squads posted wins over Warner in basketball action. The girls won their game, 46-29 and the boys won their game, 48-38.

The junior varsity teams split their games with the girls winning their game and the boys losing a close one.

All of the games were carried live on GDILIVE.COM. The girls JV game was sponsored by Larry and Kathy Harry, the boys JV game was sponsored by Julie and Carson Larson, the girls varsity was sponsored by Locke Electric and the South Dakota Army National Guard and the boys varsity was sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center. Make sure you tell these sponsors "Thank You" and if they have business, make sure you patronize them as well.

Brodyn DeHoet scored his 1000th career point with 41 seconds left in the game with a free throw and it was free throws that gave the Tigers the win over Warner. In the fourth quarter, Groton Area made 12 of 15 free throws while making only one of eight shots. Warner made more field goals in the fourth quarter than it did the first three quarters. Coach Brian Dolan said in a GDILIVE.COM interview after the game that the boys got a little tired in the fourth quarter after holding Warner to just 21 points in the first three quarters. The Monarchs were just six points short of doubling its score in the fourth quarter.

The Tigers came out firing on all cylinders to take a 15-2 lead at the end of the first quarter. Groton Area made six of 10 field goals for 60 percent and Warner was one of 12 for 8 percent. The Tigers had a 12-point run in the first half and that was followed up by a nine-point run by Warner as the Tigers led at a half time, 23-13. In the second quarter, Groton Area made three of eight field goals for 38 percent and Warner was two of eight for 25 percent. The Monarchs also had six turnovers in the second quarter.

Both teams struggled to score baskets in the third quarter with Groton Area making three of 12 for 25 percent and Warner four of 14 for 29 percent. It was 32-21 in favor of the Tigers at the end of the third quarter.

Brodyn DeHoet had a double-double night with 17 points, 16 rebounds, three steals and one block shot. Jonathan Doeden fouled out with 3:18 left in the game and had 10 points, two rebounds, two assists, two steals, three blocked shots and a dunk. Kaden Kurtz had 10 points, three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Cade Guthmiller added six points, had two rebounds, one assist, one steal and a blocked shot. Tristan Traphagen had three points, five rebounds and three blocked shots. Jayden Zak had two points and two rebounds. Isaac Smith had a steal and Chandler Larson had a rebound.

Groton Area made 11 of 24 field goals for 46 percent, two of 12 three-pointers for 17 percent, made 20 of 27 free throws for 74 percent off of Warner's 22 team fouls, had 31 rebounds, 10 turnovers, five assists, nine steals, 13 fouls and a season high eight blocked shots.

Warner was led by Landon Leidholt with 14 points followed by Peyton Jung with eight, Alex Braun had seven, Spencer Ketterling five and Ben Fischbach had four points. The Monarchs were 15 of 50 in field goals shooting for 30 percent and made seven of 13 free throws off of Groton Area's 16 team fouls. Warner had 10 turnovers.

The Lady Tigers had a 26-2 run in the first half to cruise to a 46-29 win. The lead changed hands four times and the game was tied once in the early part of the game before Groton Area went on its run. The Tigers trailed at the end of the first quarter, 11-7, but took the lead at half time, 23-14, and led, 38-18, at the end of the third quarter.

Alyssa Thaler made three-three-points and led the Tigers in scoring with 13 points, she had three rebounds, three assists and two steals. Brooke Gengerke had 10 points, seven rebounds and three assists. Gracie Traphagen had nine points and one rebound. Allyssa Locke had four points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals. Kaycie Hawkins had four fourth-quarter points, had four rebounds and three steals. Trista Keith had two points, six rebounds and two assists. Maddie Bjerke had two points Madeline Flihs had two points, four rebounds, one assist and two steals.

Groton Area made 12 of 30 field goals for 40 percent, made six of 18 three-pointers for 33 percent, made four of 11 free throws for 36 percent off of Warner's nine team fouls, had 29 rebounds, 13 turnovers, 12 assists and 10 steals.

Kamryn Anderson led the Monarchs with 10 points while Jennifer Aman had nine, Kendyl



**Coach Brian Dolan and Brodyn DeHoet.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The team gathered around for a photo with Brodyn DeHoet who got his 1000th point Friday night in Warner.** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Anderson had six, Summer Scepaniak had two and Peyton Fischer and Savannah Green each had one free throw. The Monarchs made 10 of 45 shots for 22 percent and was five of 10 from the line off of Groton Area's 16 team fouls. Warner had 16 turnovers.

Ten players scored for Groton Area as the Lady Tigers won the junior varsity game, 43-19. Scoring for Groton Area: Nathalia Garcia 7 Maddie Bjerke 6, Carly Guthmiller 5, Emma Schinkel 5, Shallyn Foertsch 5, Aspen Johnson 4, Trista Keith 4, Anna Fjeldheim 3, Madeline Flihs 2 and Marlee Tollifson 2.

Hailee Lesnar led the Monarchs with 10 points while Jennifer Aman had four, Morgan Haselhorst three and Lauren Marcuson two.

Chandler Larson made a three-pointer with 15 seconds left to tie the game in the boys junior varsity game, but the Monarchs would score the winning basket with three seconds left pull out a 36-34 win. Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 15 points while Chandler Larson had eight, Tristan Traphagen six and Isaac Smith had five. Traphagen, who had three blocked shots in the varsity game, also had three blocked shots in the junior varsity game.

Carstyn Vetter led the Monarchs with 11 points while Hunter Cramer had eight, Ty Cramer seven, and Chase Braun and Peyton Jung each had five points

Groton Area made 14 of 36 shots for 39 percent and Warner made 12 of 36 shots for 33 percent. Groton Area did not attempt a free throw. Warner was five of eight from the line for 63 percent. Groton Area had eight turnovers and Warner had 11.

- Paul

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## Friendly Fellows & Daisies December Meeting

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H club met on December 1, 2019, at the Claremont United Methodist Church for its annual Christmas party. Members and their families present included Diane and Leo Warrington; Jason, Robyn, Logan, Aslynn, and Greyson Warrington; Neil, Amy, Axel, Natalia, Novalea, Ayce, and Aschar Warrington; Al and Sharon Grau; Darin, Walker, and Parker Zoellner; Troy Zoellner, Kristi and Rylen Ekern; Logan and Mike Ringgenberg; Ken and Janet Frey; Colin, Mike, and Sara Frey; Karen Boe; Mandy and Braden Boe; Renee, Wade, Nicole, and Andrew Marzahn; Eric, Melissa, Hanna, Mallory, and Tucker Miller; Carla and Kella Tracy; LeeAnn and Royal Tople; and Brad, Michelle, Blake, and Hailey Pauli; Colin, Emily, Hudson, Arthur, Paxton, and Briggs Eichler; and Stacey Anderson.

While at the party, members played card Bingo with the guests with prizes awarded. Piano solos were performed by Novalea Warrington, Axel Warrington, Natalia Warrington, and Ashlynn Warrington. Christmas carols were also sung by the 4-H members and provided gifts to the guests.

The club gathered baby supplies and food that was donated to Child Protection Services for their Community Service Project.

Each member introduced themselves and shared what project areas they completed projects in for the Brown County and State Fair. They also watched a slideshow of activities the club participated in from the past year, as well as highlighting individual and club accomplishments.

The Christmas party ended with a potluck meal and desserts. The next meeting will be held at the Jungle Lanes in Groton.

--Submitted by Axel Warrington, Club Reporter

# California energy firm will turn S.D. farm wastes into usable natural gas

By: Nick Lowrey

A new industry launching in South Dakota will use manure from dairy farms to generate usable natural gas, creating a new income stream for some South Dakota farmers and reducing greenhouse gas emissions along the way.

California-based renewable energy company Brightmark Energy announced plans on Feb. 5 to capture, refine and sell methane gas rising off the decaying manure produced at three dairy farms in Minnehaha County near Sioux Falls. The project could be the first of many renewable natural gas projects built at South Dakota dairy and hog farms and is being driven by rising demand for cleaner, more sustainable energy, experts say.

The Brightmark Energy project will collect manure from nearly 12,000 dairy cows at the Boadwine, Pioneer and Moody County dairy farms. The manure will be placed in large, oxygen-free tanks and, essentially, left to rot. One of the byproducts of rotting manure is methane gas, a major component of the natural gas already piped to thousands of South Dakota homes. Brightmark expects to harvest enough of the gas each year to cover the annual average energy needs of more than 2,400 homes, based on average energy consumption as reported by the Energy Information Administration.

"Basically what we're doing is, we're taking the manure and putting it in a process that is highly efficient and environmentally friendly ... so we can use (methane) for heating, cooking, powering cars, etcetera that otherwise would just end up not being utilized and create a greenhouse gas impact," said Bob Powell, CEO of Brightmark Energy.

Methane gas traps heat in the earth's atmosphere at a far greater rate than carbon dioxide, making it a significant contributor to global warming.

Capturing methane and burning it to heat homes or to fuel trucks can significantly reduce the impact that concentrated animal feeding operations and landfills can have on climate change, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Once filtered, the manure-derived methane is essentially the same gas that is already used as fuel at homes and businesses across South Dakota. Brightmark's plan is to pump the gas collected from the dairies directly into an existing interstate natural gas pipeline system located near the farms.

Exactly how Brightmark will inject its gas into the pipeline hasn't been worked out yet, Powell said. The project is still at least 18 months away from producing any gas but there are really only two options: connecting a pipeline from the collection sites to the interstate pipeline or loading the gas into pressurized tanks and trucking it to a pipeline terminal.

For Lynn Boadwine, majority owner of the Boadwine, Pioneer and Moody County dairies, the chance to turn a small profit from a potentially harmful animal byproduct was an opportunity he did not want to miss. But just as important, he said, is the potential to produce a cleaner fertilizer that can be used to help grow food for his dairy cows.

Part of the methane harvesting process keeps manure under heat for long periods of time which can kill harmful bacteria. There is also a chance that keeping the manure contained in closed tanks while it decomposes will help reduce the odors generated by each dairy, Boadwine said.



**Brightmark Energy, a California-based company specializing in repurposing waste products, is hoping to use anaerobic digesters to harvest natural gas from the manure generated by these and other cows at the Boadwine Dairy in South Dakota. Demand for gas derived from renewable sources such as cow manure has surged over the past decade thanks to federal and state regulations aimed at promoting cleaner fuels.** Photo: Submitted

"We have done a lot of things around sustainability and environmental stewardship just in an effort to survive," Boadwine said. "We're just trying to do the right thing, whether it's from working on things with soils to proper nutrient management. So this, for us, is the next step."

## Turning wastes into energy

Manure is a natural byproduct of livestock operations that must be handled with care as it carries the potential for environmental damage but also serves as a valuable form of fertilizer for crops.

The three dairy farms operated by Boadwine produce roughly 55.6 million gallons of waste combined each year.

The manure is pumped from the barns into large holding lagoons before it is distributed as fertilizer onto nearby farm fields once or twice a year. The process is regulated and monitored by the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources. But one of the problems with the system is that as the manure sits in the storage lagoons, it creates methane that escapes into the atmosphere.



**Jason Hancock, executive director of the South Dakota Legislative Research Council, is shown in his office in Pierre. Hancock spearheaded the creation of the state legislature's new, online system for drafting, co-sponsoring and amending legislation. He said the new system was necessary to make the legislature's work more efficient.** Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

In the spring or summer of 2020, Brightmark Energy will begin building a set of large covered tanks known as anaerobic digesters at Boadwine's farms. Manure will be pumped into the digesters, which are kept as oxygen-free as possible. The result is an ideal environment for microorganisms called methanogens to become active.

As the name suggests, methanogens produce methane as a byproduct of digestion of organic material. Methanogens actually play a key role in the decomposition of almost all organic material. Because they produce so much methane, methanogens are a big reason why landfills and animal agriculture are considered contributors to climate change.

In the closed environment of an anaerobic digester, methane can be captured before it escapes into the atmosphere. Brightmark expects to collect around 217,000 million British Thermal Units worth of renewable gas each year from the digesters on Boadwine's farms, or roughly enough energy to power 2,411 average U.S. households for a year. The final step in the gas collection process includes filtering and pressurizing the gas to meet pipeline specifications, Powell said.

Boadwine's farms, meanwhile, get what amounts to royalty payments for hosting the digesters and for providing the raw material needed to create the gas. Neither Boadwine nor Powell was willing to discuss how much the farms would be paid for the use of their manure, though Boadwine noted the financial incentive was only a small part of his decision to work with Brightmark.

The farms also get to keep the nutrient-rich solids left in the digesters after the methanogens have finished their work. Those solids will then be used as fertilizer to grow crops used to feed each dairy's cattle, Boadwine said.

"It's a huge circular value to us," Boadwine said of the gas project. "It's another way of extracting and using a byproduct out of our waste stream."

South Dakota's massive agricultural industry could prove fertile ground for the renewable gas industry. As of October 2019, the state was home to 452 permitted CAFOs, or concentrated animal feeding operations, that were allowed to house up to 9.6 million animals. Of those CAFOs, 47 were dairies housing about 145,000 cows and 142 were hog farms housing about 750,000 animals.

## Renewable gases a growing industry

Collecting usable gas from manure or even food waste isn't a new idea. European countries in particular have taken a keen interest in what has been dubbed "renewable natural gas," a market driven by high natural gas prices and the need to avoid importing gas from countries such as Russia. There are more than 4,000 renewable gas capture facilities in Germany, according to the USDA.

Cities in the U.S. have found several ways to profit from harvesting methane from landfills and wastewater treatment facilities. Sioux Falls, for example, has received more than \$17 million from a deal to sell methane generated by the city landfill to a POET Biorefining ethanol plant in Chancellor, S.D.

Still, renewable natural gas collection has been slow to catch on in the U.S., in part because natural gas mined thousands of feet below the earth's surface is cheap and easy to get domestically. The equipment needed to collect and process methane from animal and food waste, meanwhile, can be expensive. Large landfill gas collection projects can cost

Continues on next page

tens of millions of dollars, said David Cox, director of operations for the national Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas, which advocates for the expansion of renewable gas production.



**Lynn Boadwine, majority owner of Boadwine, Pioneer and Moody County dairies**

Powell wouldn't provide an estimate for what Brightmark expects to spend on the gas collection systems at Boadwine's farms. Such systems can cost anywhere from \$500,000 to \$5 million, depending on the operation's size, according to the USDA national Cooperative Extension Service.

Demand for renewable gas skyrocketed in 2014. That year, the EPA included renewable natural gas on its list of cellulosic biofuels that can be used to meet the federal Renewable Fuel Standard. In 2020, the RFS is set to require that about 20 billion gallons of the nation's transportation fuel come from renewable sources such as corn ethanol. Renewable natural gas can be used to fuel vehicles such as buses and garbage trucks, Cox said. Today, as much as 95% of the 590-million-gallon cellulosic biofuel production standard is provided by renewable natural gas, Cox said.

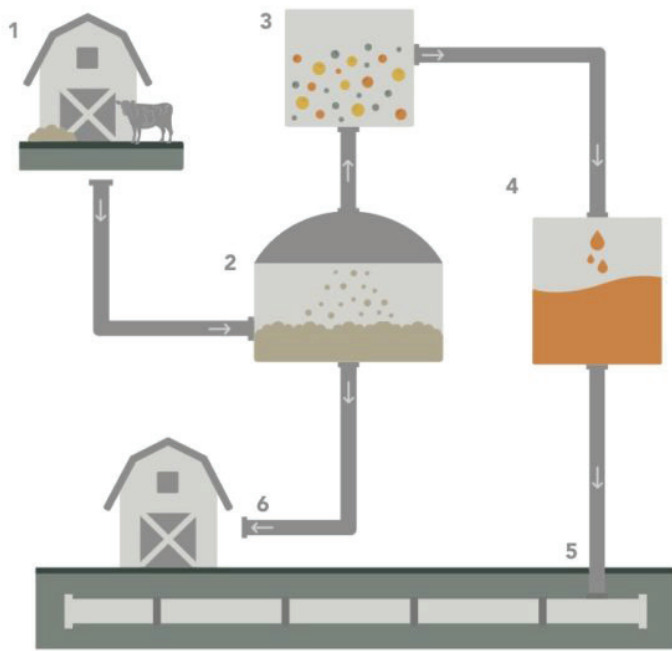
State-level efforts to address climate change, such as California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard, are starting to play a bigger role in renewable gas development, Cox said. Under the California law, utilities and businesses can buy credits from renewable gas producers, such as Brightmark, as long as the gas they produce is injected into an interstate pipeline system that eventually connects to California, Powell said.

California is Brightmark's biggest market for renewable gas. Customers in California can either pay Brightmark directly for gas out of a pipeline or they can buy credits from Brightmark that will pay for renewable gas production in far flung places such as South Dakota as a way to offset the consumer's use of fossil-based gas. Brightmark also takes advantage of federal renewable energy tax credits in order to make a profit, Powell said.

One of the biggest advantages of renewable natural gas is that it doesn't need expensive new infrastructure to be sold to consumers, said Emily O'Connell, director of energy market policy for the American Gas Association. The utility companies that own existing natural gas pipelines actually are looking forward to being able to sell renewable gas to interested customers at a higher rate than traditional natural gas, she said.

Growing demand for renewable gas has left Brightmark and other companies hopeful of expanding their renewable gas footprint in South Dakota. Brightmark is already working with operators of several other dairy and hog CAFOs in an effort to capture more gas, Powell said.

"You have the opportunity to have a project in South Dakota and have folks in the state of California help support farming communities because they value renewable natural gas more than regular natural gas," Powell said.



**BME** Brightmark Energy

brightmarkenergy.com

**How Renewable Natural Gas is Made**

- 1 Dairy, food, animal and other organic waste are collected from the farm.
- 2 Dairy waste is processed by the digester which releases biogas/methane.
- 3 Biogas is captured in the digester.
- 4 Biogas is then processed into Renewable Natural Gas.
- 5 The Renewable Natural Gas is injected into interstate pipelines.
- 6 Remaining digestate (90% of original product) is turned into commercial fertilizer or given back to the farm.

**This diagram provided by Brightmark Energy shows the basics of how methane generated by cow manure and other organic waste can be harvested and sold as a clean, renewable fuel source.**



**Anaerobic digesters, such as those pictured here, provide an ideal environment for microorganisms called methanogens to digest manure and produce methane that can be harvested, filtered and sold as natural gas. Three Sioux Falls-area dairy farms will become home to similar digesters within the next two years.** Photo: Submitted

## Big plays propel Tigers to win over Aberdeen Roncalli

It was a night of big plays that propelled the Tigers to a 63-59 win over Aberdeen Roncalli Monday night in Groton.

The fourth quarter featured Cade Guthmiller making two big baskets inside the paint and Kaden Kurtz stealing the ball twice and going in for the layup.

The game featured 10 lead changes with most of them coming late in the third quarter and early in the fourth quarter. The Cavaliers held an 11-point advantage with 4:52 to go in the second quarter, 27-16. Roncalli led at the end of the first quarter, 21-14, and at half time, 34-26. Groton Area took a 47-46 lead into the fourth quarter.

Brodyn DeHoet, who scored all of his points in the first three quarters, finished with a double-double with 24 points, 10 rebounds and one steal. Jonathan Doeden had 12 points, one rebound, three assists, four steals and one block shot. Cade Guthmiller had 13 points, one assist, three steals and one block shot. Kaden Kurtz finished with 11 points, three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Austin Jones had two points and one assist. Jayden Zak had one point and two rebounds. Isaac Smith had one rebound, two assists and one steal. Lane Tietz had one steal and Tristan Traphagen had one assist.

Groton Area made 20 of 35 field goals for 59 percent, two of 17 three-pointers for 12 percent, 17 of 22 free throws for 77 percent off of Roncalli's 19 team fouls, had only five turnovers compared to 16 for Roncalli, the Tigers had 10 assists, 12 steals and two block shots.

Gray Impery led the Cavaliers with 28 points. Dawson Hoellein made four three-pointers in the first quarter and finished with 23 points. Brian Holmstrom had five and Zeezroom Mouna had two points.

The Cavaliers made 21 of 32 field goals for 66 percent and was nine of 13 from the line off of Groton Area's 14 team fouls.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 40-19. Scoring for Groton Area: Lane Tietz 10, Wyatt Hearnen 9, Jayden Zak 9, Chandler Larson 6, Isaac Smith 3, Tristan Traphagen 2 and Jackson Cogley 1.

The Tigers made it a clean sweep with a 49-26 C game win. Scoring for Groton Area: Tate Larson 16, Cole Simon 11, Ethan Gengerke 8, Jacob Zak 5, Wyatt Hearnen 4 and Kaleb Hanten 3.

Groton Area is now 13-3 on the season and the Cavaliers drop to 0-18.

All three games were carried live on GDILIVE.COM. The C game was sponsored by Sperry Stump Removal. The junior varsity game was sponsored by Ronayne Law Office and the Varsity game was sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals,, Blocker Construction, Groton Dairy Queen, Jark Real Estate, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises and Tyson DeHoet Trucking.

- Paul Kosel

**ABOUT NICK LOWREY**

Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.



# Groton Area boys pull out thriller win over Moberidge-Pollock

Groton Area overcame a game-long deficit and rallied at the end from the free throw to line to edge past Moberidge-Pollock in boys' basketball action, 57-54. It was part of a double header played in Groton on Saturday.

Moberidge-Pollock jumped out to a 4-0 lead and held a 14-point advantage at one point at 25-22. Moberidge-Pollock led at the end of the first quarter, 16-6. Groton Area closed to within three at halftime, 29-26, but Moberidge-Pollock would regain a 10-point lead, 39-29. Moberidge-Pollock led at the end of the third quarter, 42-35. Groton Area rallied to tie the game at 43 with 5:40 left in the game and then took its first lead with 3:22 left at 44-43. A minute later, Moberidge-Pollock was back on top, 47-44. Groton Area took the lead with 1:29 left, 49-47. Groton Area had a four-point lead, 54-50, but Caden Halsey of Moberidge-Pollock was fouled while attempting a three-pointer, he made all three free throws and it was 54-53 with 10 seconds left in the game. Moberidge-Pollock would foul and Groton Area made just enough free throws for the win, 57-54.

In the fourth quarter, Groton Area was 12 of 17 from the free throw line and Moberidge-Pollock was eight of 15.

Brodyn DeHoet led the Tigers with 21 points, 14 rebounds, three assists and three seals. Kaden Kurtz had 14 points and two assists. Cade Guthmiller had eight points, three rebounds, three assists, one steal and one block. Jonathan Doeden had six points, four rebounds and one assist. Lane Tietz had five points and one steal. Isaac Smith made a three-pointer, Austin Jones had two rebounds and one steal, Tristan Traphagen had one assist and Jayden Zak had one block.

Groton Area made nine of 17 field goals, six of 17 three-pointers and 21 of 32 free throws off of Moberidge-Pollock's 24 team fouls, had 23 rebounds, 12 turnovers, 10 assists, six steals and two block shots.

Moberidge-Pollock made 19 of 39 field goals for 49 percent and was 13 of 20 from the line for 65 percent off of Groton Area's 16 team fouls. Zane Reinert led Moberidge-Pollock with 13 points followed by Caden Halsey with 11, Cayden Eise-mann 10, Reese Cerney six, Bryston Geohring six, Trace Cerney five and Braden Geohring three.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 38-30. Scoring for Groton Area: Chandler Larson 9, Lane Tietz 8, Isaac Smith 6, Tate Larson 4, Wyatt Hearnen 3, Jayden Zak 3, Tristan Traphagen 3, Lucas Simons 2.

Scoring for Moberidge-Pollock: Uriah Sitting Dog 12, Gavin Reinert 5, Brady Bauer 4, Ashton Pfitzer 4, Caelan McCollam 4, Kobe Good Shield 1.

The Lady Tigers lost a hard fought game that was near the opposite of the boy's game. Groton Area led for most of the game and held a 14-point lead at one point,

24-10. Groton Area led after the first quarter, 12-8, and at half time at 28-17. The game was tied at 34 at the end of the third quarter. Groton Area had a 39-37 lead, but then could not score any more points and Moberidge-Pollock the last nine points of the game for the win, 46-39.

Alyssa Thaler led Groton Area with nine points, four rebounds, three assists and two steals. Allyssa Locke had six points, three rebounds, two assists and one steal. Kaycie Hawkins had six points, five rebounds, one assist and one steal. Madeline Flihs had six points, three rebounds, one assist and one steal. Gracie Traphagen had five points, 11 rebounds, one assist and one block. Trista Keith had four points, three rebounds and two assists. Brooke Gengerke had three points, three rebounds and one assist. Maddie Bjerke had one rebound.

Groton Area made 11 of 27 field goals for 41 percent, four of 25 three-pointers for 16 percent and was five of eight from the line for 63 percent off of Moberidge-Pollock's seven team fouls. Groton Area had 33 rebounds, 14 turnovers, 11 assists, five steals, 17 team fouls and one block shot.

Moberidge-Pollock made 16 of 41 field goals for 39 percent and was nine of 14 from the line and had 14 turnovers.

Megan Zahn led Moberidge-Pollock with 13 points followed by Landyn Henderson with eight, Mariah Goehring and Maya Nobles each had six, Heidi Olson five, Emily Hatzenbuhler three and Emma Keller and Keena DeMarrias each had two points.

Moberidge-Pollock won the junior varsity game, 32-13. Maddie Bjerke had six points for Groton Area while Carly Guthmiller, Madeline Flihs and Marlee Tollifson each had two and Trista Keith had one.

Moberidge-Pollock was led by Mariah Goehring with nine points followed by Maya Nobles with five, Brooklynn Vogel and Keena DeMarrias with four each, Draeya Halsey three, Katy Kemnitz, Madison Ross and Emma Keller each had two points and Heidi Olson added a free throw.

All four games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM.

The two varsity games were sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals, Blocker Construction, Groton Dairy Queen, Jark Real Estate, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises and Tyson DeHoet Trucking.

The boys junior varsity game was sponsored by Olson Development and the girls junior varsity game was sponsored by Ronayne Law Office.

The boys will be hosting Aberdeen Roncalli on Monday with a C game starting at 5:15 p.m. The girls will travel to Webster Area on Tuesday with the junior varsity game starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Lady Tigers fall to 6-11 on the season while Moberidge-Pollock goes to 8-7. The Groton Area boys got to 13-3 while Moberidge-Pollock falls to 11-4.

- Paul Kosel

## The World of Type 1 Diabetes

by Natalie Casanova

Natalie wrote on her Facebook Page: "When given the opportunity to educate on T1, we take it. When we can help out fellow T1 families, we do it. If we help just one person, we succeeded."

"Groton is a fantastic community that I am proud to say I was raised in. The way they come together to support one another is second to none."

"I hope 'Lights Out on Type 1 Diabetes' tonight was a huge success and I'm so honored to have been part of it."

### The following is the transcript read by Natalie at the Moberidge-Pollock Lights Out on Diabetes event

Let me introduce three Type 1 Diabetic WARRIORS who are currently enrolled in the Groton Area School District

Rylee Dunker (1/19/15) \* McKenna Tietz (10/23/17) \* Brody DeHoet (5/11/18)

I'm going to get back to these three in a minute ....

I am Natalie Casanova and fellow 1998 Groton High School Graduate. I want to thank Lindsey, Lindsey and Tasha for asking me to be here tonight to give you a brief overview on Type 1 Diabetes. I have two children who are both diabetics. Trey was diagnosed in March of 2016 at age 4. Delanie was diagnosed December 2018 at age 10.

So What is Type 1 Diabetes? Type 1 occurs when the pancreas stops producing insulin which is a hormone that regulates blood sugar. There is no known cause, but illness and genetics are thought to play a part. I also want to mention that insulin is the ONLY thing that keeps a diabetic alive. A person with Type 1 Diabetes must inject insulin multiple times a day. Insulin is NOT a cure, but without insulin, they die.

Some quick T1D Facts: Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease; it is NOT caused by eating too much sugar or from lack of exercise; over 80 people are diagnosed every day with 40 of those being children; anyone of any age can be diagnosed; you do not outgrow type 1 diabetes; there is no way to prevent it and it is not contagious; there is no cure/it doesn't go away ... it's for life; Type 1 diabetics can do anything and can eat anything; and last Type 1 diabetes is not the same as Type 2.

The most common question I get is "how did you know" so here are some warning signs to look for: unquenchable thirst; frequent urination; sudden bed-wetting; unexplained weight loss; hungry all the time; fruity smelling breath; blurry vision; stomach pains; fatigue; nausea/vomiting and sometimes rapid breathing. If your child is showing any signs like I just mentioned, please ask your family doctor to do a simple urine test and finger poke to check their blood sugar to rule out diabetes. T1D is often mis-diagnosed as the stomach flu, UTI or Strep Throat.

How do you manage Type 1?? Living with T1D is a full-time job. It's 24/7/365. No days off. One must check blood sugar levels several times a day either via a finger poke or some wear a Continuous Glucose Monitor. It's carefully calculating the insulin dosage based on your foods/activity/stress/health and injecting with a needle or by an insulin pump. No two days are the same and no two diabetics are the same. It's hard work and those living with T1D are what we call ... warriors.

So getting back to these three warriors ... despite living with an incurable disease, they all participate in activities that they excel at. From football, volleyball, soccer, track, basketball and more - they don't let T1D hold them back. They have had to learn to be diligent in their diabetic care on top of everything else their sport demands of them. You might see them grabbing sugar or even injecting some insulin on the bench, but make no mistake, those are not signs of weakness ... those are signs of strength. To fight the fight every day and never give up makes them heroes. As a T1D parent myself, I would be remiss if I didn't ask for a round of applause for the moms/dads/siblings of these three kids because I know what it takes to be a T1D parent and the toll it takes on the entire family. Your children are blessed to have such a great support system not only at home, but within the Groton Community.

If anyone has any questions or would like to discuss T1D further, I would love to visit with you.

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