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Horizons

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From Harvest to Home

Family promotes homesteading with
heart, heritage, and hands-on help.

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Family promotes homesteading with heart, heritage, and hands-on help.

In a time when convenience often comes first, Jeremy and Carrie Isaac are helping people reconnect with their gardens and embrace sustainable practices through their store, Harvey's Homestead Supply in Hot Springs.

"Our overall goal is to help people grow their own food and learn new skills," says Carrie. "We see it as a progression, too. You're going to grow your own food, raise livestock or garden, and then once you have an amazing harvest, you need to cook it or preserve it."

Hometown support

Harvey's Homestead Supply is filled with resources such as books and how-to guides, as well as materials for cooking, gardening, preserving, raising livestock, and more. For Carrie and her family, their business isn't about selling things but about giving people the knowledge and supplies to produce their own food for self-sufficiency.

Harvey's sources many products from farms in the area and neighbors. Carrie explains that supporting other local people and businesses connects them to new customers and allows them to support fellow South Dakotans.

"We carry honey from New Underwood, get milk from Ethan, and are getting ready to sell eggs from our own customers in the area," says Carrie. "It's a way to support local folks who buy feed from us. Now we can turn around and help by selling their products, too."





Carrie and Jeremy help people grow more of their own food and build community connections at Harvey's Homestead Supply.



Family led local connections

Carrie and Jeremy work together and take turns being at the store, working from home, caring for their own homesteading activities, and spending time with their teenage daughters who also help with the household and family business.

Occasionally on Saturday mornings, Harvey's hosts free classes to share knowledge with community members. Topics include an introduction to canning and preserving, how to start making sourdough bread, and more.

"We love being involved with the town and getting to know our customers," says Carrie. "We like connecting with people and helping them learn new skills. They know they are supported, and the community supports us back."

Heading to a place called home

The Isaacs moved to South Dakota from Colorado, where Jeremy worked as a real estate broker, not long after the pandemic began to shut down businesses. The couple realized they depended on stores for almost everything.

Carrie and Jeremy wanted to be more self-sufficient, so they moved their family to South Dakota where Jeremy's grandfather and business namesake, Harvey, originally lived. Carrie recalls Harvey saying the land immediately became more beautiful when entering South Dakota, which factored into her family settling in Hot Springs.

"South Dakota was calling us," says Carrie. "My husband and I grew up in Kansas and spent time in Colorado, but we wanted to relocate to a smaller town. We are the sixth generation to live here, and we call ourselves South Dakotans even though we weren't born here."

Keeping history alive

Since the store opened in September 2024, members of the Isaac family have honed their many homesteading skills, learning more along the way. Part of the process involved giving new life to the historic 1905 building which houses Harvey's Homestead Supply.

The Isaac family hosts guests in rentable rooms above the store called the Evanston Suites. Each suite is named after a past occupant of the building. Guests can experience a bit of the Evanston building's history by staying in suites like the Linnie Hawkins, named for a nurse, or the Ben Potts, who was the clerk of a dry goods store, and more. The building is in a picturesque downtown location, right across the street from the visitor center and the meandering Fall River.

Reliable access, rural connection

Evanston Suites relies on its website to share information and book rooms. Harvey's also uses a website for customers to buy some products and to learn more about the store. Carrie publishes a blog, as well, where she shares recipes and extra how-to guides.

Golden West services allow the Isaacs to run their store with their point-of-sale system, social media, and more. Both the store and the upstairs rentable rooms run on the internet services from Golden West.

"We do a lot of work from the store and some from home, so it's super helpful having everything synced and connected," says Carrie. "It lets us stay on top of things without always needing to be in one place."



After 24 years at Golden West ...

Nick Rogness becomes CEO

For the first time in 17 years, Golden West has a new chief executive officer and general manager after Nick Rogness stepped into the position on May 12.

“Golden West is a great organization that significantly impacts the communities it serves through its products and services, local career opportunities, and community sponsorships and donations,” says Rogness.

Over the 24 years Rogness has been with Golden West, he has served as engineering manager, director of broadband services, director of engineering and operations, and chief technology officer. Rogness helped coordinate efforts to bring fiber-optic technology to more members faster.

Most recently he led Golden West’s technology and business product efforts and facilitated many of its IT, engineering, and cybersecurity functions.

The Board of Directors selected Rogness for the role following a thorough search. When announcing the appointment, Board President Randy Koerner touted his “extensive company and industry experience.”

“Nick Rogness has demonstrated exceptional leadership, deep knowledge of our business, and a strong commitment to our members, mission, and team,” says

Koerner. “We are confident that under his guidance, Golden West will continue to grow and serve its members.”

Rogness has a bachelor’s degree in computer science and a master’s in technology management, both from South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. He and his wife, Stephanie, have a school-aged daughter.

“Golden West has nearly finished bringing fiber-optic broadband to all members,” says Rogness. “The cooperative has a 100-year history of success connecting members to what matters most. I look forward to building upon that success and working with the Golden West team to position the cooperative for the future.”

Remember to enter the photo contest!

If you have an eye for landscapes, portraits, or anything in between, make sure to enter this year’s Golden West Photo Contest!

Photos from the Golden West service territory could earn you a FREE GoPro camera or a Visa gift card and maybe even a spot in our 2026 calendar!

Members 18 and older can submit a photo at theexchangesd.com/photo-entry by Sunday, Aug. 10. All entries will be posted on the Golden West Facebook page, where members will vote for their favorites Aug. 15-31.





How to vote for directors

All Golden West members have the option to vote in the Board of Director's election in advance by mail or in person at the annual meeting. Members who have shared tax identification numbers with Golden West may choose to vote online instead.

Residential member voting instructions

Residential members include both single and joint memberships.

Here's how to vote starting mid-August:

- **Online.** A letter will be mailed to you the week of Aug. 11 with instructions for voting. To vote electronically, members will be authenticated by entering the last four digits of the primary account holder's social security number. The primary account holder is the person whose name appears first in the member name. The social security number must be already on file with Golden West to vote online.
- **By Mail.** Contact Golden West between Aug. 11 and Sept. 9, 2025, to have a paper ballot mailed to you. Complete the ballot and return it in the postage paid envelope provided early enough to be received by Sept. 23.
- **In Person.** Any residential member who has not voted in advance may cast a ballot at the annual meeting. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27, at the community center in Wall.

All ballots cast in advance either electronically or by mail must be received by Tuesday, Sept. 23, to be counted.

Non-individual entity voting instructions

Non-individual entities include businesses, churches, school districts, towns, etc.

Non-individual members may vote in advance by mail or online, or in person at the annual meeting. The methods available to you depend on what information Golden West has on file for your organization. Golden West will mail a letter to each entity the week of Aug. 11 with further voting instructions.

Non-individual entity members who vote must also complete and return an affidavit designating a voting representative. This is also known as an Authorization to Vote form. The voting representative must be an officer, an LLC member, or other senior official with the organization. To vote in person, the representative must bring a photo ID to the annual meeting.

Handling advanced voting

Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS) is again managing voting ahead of this year's meeting. SBS provides dependable and secure voting systems for many types of organizations, including cooperatives.

For more information about voting and the annual meeting, visit goldenwest.com/annualmeeting.



Electing 5 directors



Members of the Golden West Cooperative will elect five members to the Board of Directors. Directors elected for Districts I, IV, VI, and VII will serve four-year terms. Just one year of the term remains in District II, which was left vacant by John Knutson's passing.

Most districts have just one candidate running. The only contested election this year is in District IV, where two candidates are running, including the incumbent.



Jade Hlavka

District I, Unopposed Incumbent

Jade Hlavka is a business owner and helps operate the family ranch near Howes. He has served on the Golden West Board of Directors since 2013. Jade graduated from Faith High School and received his degree in diesel technology from Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City.

Jade and his wife, Annie, own and operate H & H Repair. They have three boys who keep them on their toes. Jade is also a volunteer firefighter for the Enning Fire Department. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and spending time with his family.



Lincoln Smith

District II, Unopposed Candidate

I grew up on a ranch between Philip and Wall. I graduated from Philip High School in 2008 and attended Northern State University in Aberdeen, where I played four years of football and earned two bachelor's degrees in business management and marketing in 2012.

I returned to the Philip area with my wife, Ella, where I have ranched and farmed for the last 13 years. Over that period, I have held a position on several boards including the local Farm Bureau Board, Haakon County Weed and Pest Board, and Haakon County Board of Commissioners. Ella and I love raising three beautiful children in our rural community. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, working on the ranch, and golfing.

I am running for the Golden West District II Director position. John Knutson introduced me to the importance of Golden West and their board. Through phone, internet, and television, it is hard to imagine families and businesses without Golden West's services. Golden West has been a key factor in keeping my family and everyone I know connected in our area.

I would be honored to be elected to join the Board of Directors and serve the members of this great cooperative. I am excited to see what the future of Golden West brings to our community.

The 73rd Golden West Telecommunications Annual Meeting takes place on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 10 a.m. MT in Wall, where members can vote for candidates in person. Members may also vote in advance starting mid-August. Flip to the previous page for more information on your voting options.

ctors to the board



Dave Assman
District IV, Incumbent

I am from Mission. My family is involved in ranching, organic crop production, and we own Assman Implement. My lovely bride, Diana, and I are greatly blessed in the family department with four kids we raised to become the parents of 15 grandkids so far.

South Dakota is a great place to raise families, because people stay involved in its operations. To keep anything in good shape, people have to be involved to help do the work or help guide things in the right direction.

As board members for Golden West, it is our job to ask questions, get answers, and direct management in the direction our members/owners want their co-op to go.

If re-elected I will continue to be a strong voice for us, the co-op members that make up Golden West.

There are so many big things happening in the technology and communication world. We will need a strong, focused, dependable, and trustworthy team going ahead.



Craig Lafferty
District IV, Candidate

Craig Lafferty is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, a business owner, and resident of Golden West District IV. Craig graduated from Todd County High School and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in radiologic technology to later become the director of radiology at Rosebud IHS Hospital. Currently, Craig is the chairman of Dakota Plains Legal Services and works for Native American Development Corporation (NADC) as a procurement specialist.



Murdock Arthur
District VI, Unopposed Incumbent

Murdock Arthur grew up on a ranch in Milesville. He graduated from Philip High School and received his degree in telecommunications from Mitchell Technical College. After graduating, he moved to Wyoming and began a career with RT Communications. Murdock moved to South Dakota in 2013 and worked for Golden West as a plant technician and eventually as a supervisor before exploring other opportunities.

Murdock and his wife, Brittany, live at Cactus Flat, where he is pursuing his love for ranching. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family.



Jason Birkeland
District VII, Unopposed Candidate

I grew up in Dewey County on the Cheyenne River Reservation. I graduated from Timber Lake High School in 1992, then went on to Western Dakota Vo-Tech to study automotive technology.

I moved to Gregory in 1994, where I pursued my profession and met my wife, Michelle. We were married in August 1999. We eventually started our own NAPA Auto Care Center in July of 2005, which is Dakota Auto Care. We have one daughter, Jaelyn.

I am a member of the First Southern Baptist Church in Gregory. I am an avid golfer and served on the local golf course board for seven years and ran the men's golf league for 14 years.

In the automotive world, technology is the key, and obtaining that information is the biggest struggle. I have committed to my community by building an 11,520-square-foot shop in Gregory, and I want to see this area prosper. Golden West will play a major role in that happening, as in all the communities the cooperative serves.

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Community education classes coming to Martin!

Customers in or near Martin can attend **FREE** community education classes covering everything from email security to online gaming to be held at the Martin Library Community Room.

- **THURSDAY, AUG. 14, FROM 3 TO 5 P.M.** – Online Power: Explore More While Staying Safe Online. Learn how to make the most of your internet service while staying safe online.
- **THURSDAY, AUG. 21, FROM 3 TO 5 P.M.** – Your Guide to Home Entertainment. Learn about cable TV, online streaming options, and more.

For details or to register, visit goldenwest.com/classes.

ENTER TO WIN 2 PASSES

to your choice of the
CENTRAL STATES or
SIOUX EMPIRE FAIR



Win Passes to Central States or Sioux Empire Fair!

Golden West proudly supports county fairs across the service territory every year. For the fourth year in a row, we're giving four members two passes each to either the Sioux Empire or Central States fairs.

- **The Sioux Empire Fair will be held Aug. 1-9 in Sioux Falls.** The Siouxper Pass includes fair admission, most (but not all) grandstand entertainment, and unlimited carnival rides every day of the fair.
- **The Central States Fair & Rodeo will be held Aug. 15-23 in Rapid City.** The Premier Pass includes fairgrounds admission, special parking through the Cambell Street entrance, a tailgate party, and premier early seating access for all grandstand events including concerts, rodeos, and motorsports.

Visit theexchangesd.com/win, pick your preferred pass, and **enter to win!**



Must be a Golden West customer and be at least 18 years of age to enter. No purchase necessary and only one entry per household. Winners will be contacted and announced online on The Exchange, Golden West's website, and Facebook page. **ENTER BY SUNDAY, JULY 27. DRAWING WILL BE HELD EARLY MONDAY, JULY 28.**



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