

July 2026

Horizons

A Golden West Customer Newsletter
& Award-Winning Publication

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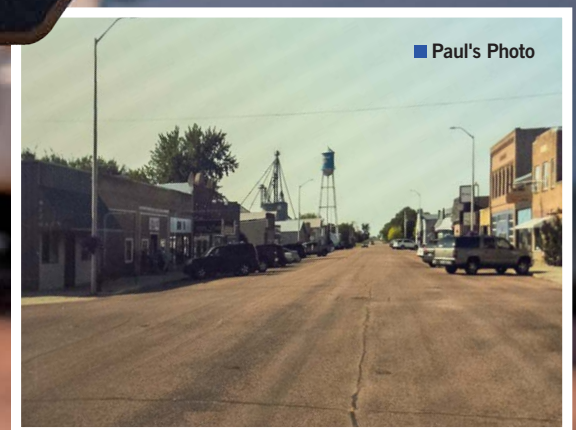
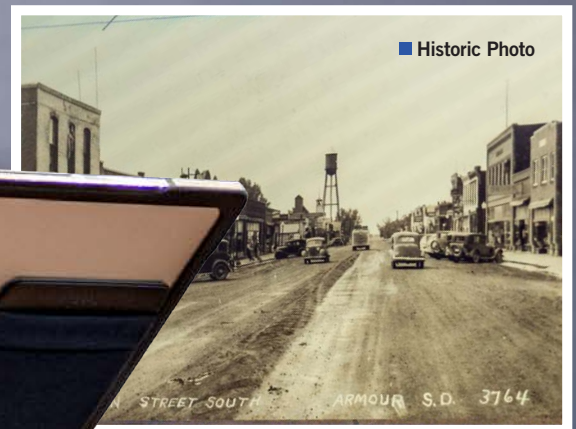
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Recapturing centuries of history

Couple pairs modern images with historic scenes.

Recapturing centuries of history

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Custer couple Paul Horsted and Camille Riner have published five books featuring comparison photos like those above of Main Street in Armour.

Growing up, Paul Horsted didn't realize picking up his father's 1950s Voigtlander 35mm camera would turn into a lifetime photography career for him and include publishing with his future wife, Camille Riner. Over the decades, they have collaborated and recaptured history while making a bit of their own.

Paul and Camille have published five photography books including *The Black Hills Yesterday & Today* and *Exploring with Custer*, with their sixth title, *South Dakota Yesterday & Today*, releasing in August. The books include historic photographs generally taken a century or so ago alongside carefully composed photos taken by Paul of those exact spots today.

"Sometimes you end up being in the middle of the street or on a mountainside," Paul says. "Finding the sites for the repeat photography starts with matching the background and then triangulating up to the foreground. There was a lot of hiking, sometimes fruitless searching as well, but I can do a lot of front-end research now thanks to internet resources."

Paul and Camille live just outside Custer, each with a home office serving as their creative studios. Camille designs the books, and their friend, Ernie Grafe, edits them. Their publishing process begins with months of preparation, notetaking, and exploring photo archives before taking road trips to locations across the state.

While Paul travels for photos, Camille designs backgrounds and textures for the book that reflect the landscapes.



She also uses her typography skills and adds touches to make the images pop.

"I collaborate with him," Camille says. "I made templates for the photos on this last project, which was a little different. The approach changes based on the overarching themes and context of the photos."

Along with designing books, Camille teaches mindfulness and art classes locally and online for participants around the world. She sells patterns on Etsy for her artist's books, supported by step-by-step tutorials on her YouTube channel.

Golden West brought a fiber-optic connection to Paul and Camille in 2025. The couple regularly puts their connection to the test, including uploading two terabytes of data across



The couple's sixth and largest book, *South Dakota Yesterday & Today*, can be preordered today and will be distributed in August.

the ocean to send their latest book to their printer and creating art communities online with people in Africa and Europe.

"Once the fiber-optics came in, we haven't had to worry about the internet even if we are both doing Zoom calls," Paul says. "Everything I do relies on the internet. From finding and downloading archived photos all the way to publication, it all needs a good connection since the files are so large."

Paul grew up East river, while Camille landed in the Black Hills in high school after moving to various locations as her father served in the Air Force. Paul worked for the Argus Leader newspaper in Sioux Falls before earning a degree from South Dakota State University.

Camille attended the University of



South Dakota and went to Wisconsin for her master's degree in graphic design and printmaking. They married in 1987 and moved to Michigan where Camille taught college art, before returning to their roots in the Black Hills in 1998.

"We moved here wanting to be more of lone eagles in our projects," says Camille. "We decided we can do this and chose Custer as our place to be."

The couple is accepting preorders at paulhorsted.com and will start packing and mailing their *South Dakota Yesterday & Today* photography books in August. In the meantime, Paul looks forward to sharing more history with people across the state at museums and conventions, and Camille is excited to continue making art and teaching classes.



Director Election Bios

Members* of the Golden West cooperative will elect four members to the Board of Directors.

Directors elected for each district will serve four-year terms. Districts I and VIII have only one candidate running, both incumbents. Districts II and V have contested elections, where two candidates are running, including each incumbent.



Lincoln Smith – District II
District II - Incumbent

My name is Lincoln Smith. 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 received a bachelor's degree in both 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 14 years.

Over that period, I have held a position on several boards including the local Farm Bureau Board, the Haakon County Weed and Pest Board, the Haakon County Board of Commissioners, and the Golden West Telecommunications Board of Directors. Ella and I have four beautiful children, and we love raising them 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, because growing up in this area, I know the key role Golden West has had over the years keeping my family and everyone I know connected. Through phone service, internet, and television, it is hard to imagine families and businesses without Golden West's services. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the members of this great cooperative and help it move into the future on the Board of Directors.



Mark Patterson – District II
Candidate

Mark Patterson grew up working on the family farm north of Wall. After graduating from Wall High School, he attended Black Hills State University in Spearfish, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in wellness management.

Mark and his wife, Jenny, have two children, Nathan and Meghan, whom they raised in the Wall area. Nathan and his wife, Jordan, live in Phoenix, Arizona, and Meghan currently lives in Rapid City.

For the last 21 years, Mark has worked as a safety director for Golden West Telecommunications and loss control manager for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. This time spent in the cooperative utility world has taught him the importance of what it means to be a cooperative owner/member, a cooperative employee and the importance of having Board of Directors that understand and lead with the cooperative principles.

As a member of the Board of Directors for Golden West Telecommunication, Mark will bring his rural farm/ranch morals and beliefs along with his vast experience of utility cooperative experience – always understanding that the decisions made in the boardroom are for the member/owner's benefit, growth of the employees, benefit of the community and growth of Golden West Telecommunications.

With your vote, Mark looks forward to being your next member of the Board of Directors at Golden West Telecommunications.



Penny Svenkeson – District V
Incumbent

Penny Svenkeson has been a Golden West Telecommunications member for over 25 years and has been on the Golden West Telecommunications Board of Directors for the past four years.

Penny is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, where she holds a degree in computer science and a minor in electrical engineering. A veteran of the computer and technology industry, Penny worked at Unisys for 42 years, serving in the role of lead platform architect prior to retiring.

Unisys is a leading global technology solutions company, and Penny designed large-scale enterprise computer servers used by domestic and international corporations and governments. Her team was located around the world, and Penny served as the technical interface to oversee design and collaboration. A trusted expert, Penny was the technical

liaison with supporting partner companies.

Penny and her husband, Paul, have owned and operated a ranch west of Hot Springs for 33 years. They raise Scottish Highland and Red Angus cattle.

Penny retired in 2021 and enjoys volunteering in the community. She is a member and the secretary/treasurer of the Minnekahta Fire Protection District. She also enjoys donating her time to deliver food for the Meals on Wheels program and providing information technology (IT) and computer technical support for the Hot Springs Public Library.

Penny recognizes the critical role the cooperative plays in supporting its members and ensuring access to affordable broadband. She believes she can contribute unique experiences and perspectives to support the continued success of Golden West Telecommunications.



Tom Ritterbush – District V
Candidate

My name is Tom Ritterbush, and I would like to represent District V on the Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative Board of Directors.

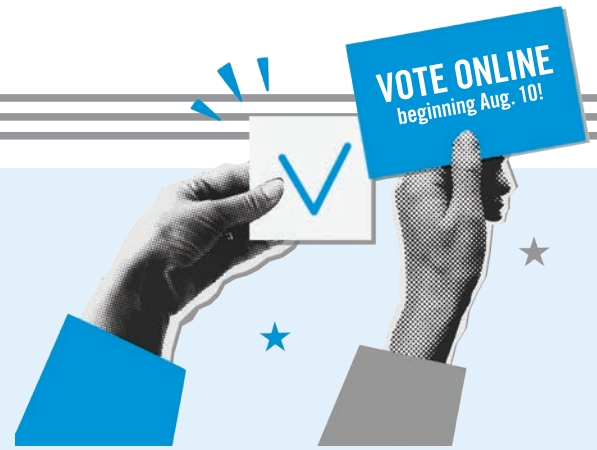
I graduated high school from Cozad, Nebraska, went to the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and received a teaching degree in business. I went on to teach for 18 years in schools in O'Neill, Rushville, and Chadron in Nebraska, and in Hot Springs. I taught business and vocational education and was a successful coach in boys and girls basketball, football, and track. I also received a master's degree in business from Chadron State College.

Then, my wife, Sharon, and I started many businesses in Hot Springs, including a full-line department store, Hallmark store, Subway, and a screen-printing company. All these businesses taught me how to organize successfully, manage employees, control costs, and engage in customer service. I was also a stockbroker for Edward Jones and helped clients with investing and retirement plans.

I was also the president of the board of directors of the Country Club Estates HOA and was the chairman of the retail committee for the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. These positions gave me the insight of working with other committee members.

I am now retired, and I have always wondered how large businesses operate and wanted to be on a board of directors; then this opportunity came up. I believe with all my experiences in business, teaching, and coaching, I would be a valuable asset to the Golden West Cooperative team.

Unopposed Incumbents on next page ▶



Vote for directors and cooperative bylaw changes

All Golden West members* have the option to vote in the Board of Directors election and on proposed changes to the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Voting can be done in advance online or by mail or in person at the annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, at 10 a.m. at the community center in Wall. To vote online, members must have previously shared tax identification numbers with Golden West.

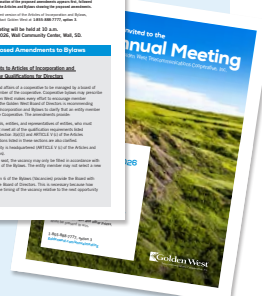
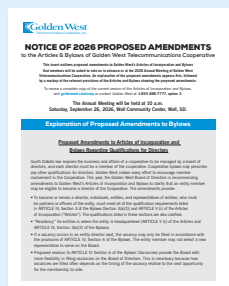
Proposed changes to articles and bylaws

The Golden West Board of Directors passed amendments to the articles and bylaws which now go to a vote of the membership. The proposed changes:

- Clarify that an entity member may be eligible to become a director of the cooperative to align with state law.
- Clarify the qualification requirements listed to become or remain a director.
- Specify the qualification requirements for entity representation on the board.
- Provide the board with more flexibility in filling board vacancies.

Voting online or by mail will begin mid-August. See the information to the left and on the following page for details on the Board of Directors election.

For more information about the annual meeting, voting, or the proposed changes to the articles and bylaws, refer to the Notice of 2026 Proposed Amendments enclosed with this newsletter or visit goldenwest.com/annualmeeting.





Angela Simons – District I
Unopposed Incumbent

My name is Angela Simons, and I have deep roots throughout District I. I moved to the Faith area when I was 3 years old and later lived in the Maurine area for about six years before and during high school. For the past 21 years, I have lived in the Enning/Union Center area on my husband's family ranch. Because of these experiences, I have lived and worked in several communities across District I and understand the needs and values of our members.

I have proudly served on the Golden West Board for the past four years and the CBH Co-op Board for six years. In addition to these roles, I have been actively involved in community projects and organizations.

Some of my community involvement includes:

- Serving on the committee responsible for restoring and improving the Union Center softball fields.
- Serving as president of the committee that led the construction of the new Enning Fire Hall.
- Organizing a community haying project for a local resident facing serious health issues, coordinating equipment volunteers to harvest about 400 acres in just two days.
- Assisting with planning and organizing the Union Center Centennial celebration held this summer.

Keeping things local and supporting our communities has always been important to me. I enjoy bringing new ideas to the board and helping keep Golden West connected to our members through quality services, opportunities, and open communication. I am approachable, accessible, and committed to serving our members and communities.



Randy Koerner – District VIII
Unopposed Incumbent

My name is Randy Koerner and I am running for the Golden West board representing District VIII. I am currently serving and have served as a board member since 2010. I am a graduate of Freeman High School, and the University of South Dakota.

My wife LeeAnn and I live in Freeman, SD, where I have been a general contractor for the past 47 years. LeeAnn is retired from a career in health care, and I am slowly winding down my contracting business. We are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, where I have served in various offices over the past 40 years.

We like to keep busy with yard work, gardening, and hopefully do some traveling in the future.

I have served for the Freeman Ambulance, Freeman Fire Department, City Planning and Zoning Commission, and Freeman Development Corporation.

I am running for the board because I feel I have a common-sense approach to solving issues, and I feel it is good to be able to give something back to a company that has done a great job of taking care of its patrons for the past many years.

Stronger email passwords

To help keep email accounts secure, the current Golden West password policy says that email passwords must:

- **be at least** 16 characters long and no longer than 128 characters.
- **contain at least** one letter and one number and can use special characters, including spaces.
- **not contain** the email address (forward or backward).
- **not contain** the word "password."
- **not use** a prior compromised password.



Anytime you change your password, it must meet these requirements. For ease of memory, choose a passphrase for your password or use a password manager, such as Bitwarden or iCloud Keychain.

Share the view from your corner of Golden West territory

Don't forget to enter the 2026 Golden West photo contest in either the adult or teen division before entries close on Friday, July 31.

Your photo could earn you a FREE GoPro camera or gift card and will be considered for use by Golden West.

SCAN TO SUBMIT!



All entries will be shared on the Golden West Facebook page (@GoldenWestTelecom) where customers will vote for the winners. Teen division voting will occur first from Aug. 3-19, followed by the adult division voting from Aug. 19-Sept. 1.

For more information on submission rules and to upload your best photo, visit theexchangesd.com/photo-entry.



Golden West joins fight against trafficking

Golden West is joining the collective efforts of internet service providers (ISPs) across the nation to fight against human trafficking by joining Operation IFAST – Internet Service Providers Fight Against Sex Trafficking.

“The devastating crime of human trafficking exploits the most vulnerable, and Golden West looks forward to joining Operation IFAST to stand up, raise awareness, and be part of the solution,” says CEO and General Manager Nick Rogness. “Our employees have greater exposure to the local customers and communities through interactions in their day-to-day work.”

First Golden West will become IFAST certified, which involves determining how best to train various team members. The company will work with the Guardian Group, IFAST's founding nonprofit organization. ISPs like Golden West form the foundation of Operation IFAST by going above and beyond to fight sex trafficking.

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ENTER TO WIN 2 PASSES

to your choice of the
SIOUX EMPIRE or
CENTRAL STATES FAIR!



SCAN TO ENTER!

Win Passes to Sioux Empire or Central States Fair!

Golden West proudly supports county fairs across the service territory every year. For the fourth straight year, the cooperative is giving four members two passes each to either the Sioux Empire or Central States fairs.

- **The Sioux Empire Fair** will be held July 31-Aug. 8 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. 21-29 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!

 **Golden West**
Connecting you to what matters most.

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 8 a.m. Monday, July 27.



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