



# VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## In Memory of Henry “Heinie” Richardson

It is with great sadness that we inform our membership of the passing of retired Line Superintendent Heinie Richardson.

Heinie started with Vigilante Electric Cooperative as a lineman in 1961, and finished his career as line superintendent. People who knew Heinie will tell you that we lost “a good one.” Heinie will be remembered for many things; for many of us, he will most be remembered as a gifted story teller. Heinie had the ability to keep his listeners engaged and often laughing. The following is the loving tribute by his family:

Henry “Heinie” Kenneth Richardson, 87, was one of 10 children born to Walter and Marie Richardson in Bannack, Montana, on May 16, 1931. Heinie passed away on July 1, 2018, with his family by his side.

Heinie was proud of his roots growing up in Bannack, and jokingly referred to himself as an “SOB” — Son of Bannack. He attended grade school in Bannack, and high



school in Dillon, graduating from Beaverhead County High School. He enlisted in the Navy, where he served four years on the U.S.S. Estes during the Korean War.

After the war, Heinie returned to Dillon and enrolled in Western Montana College, where he earned his secondary education degree in history. During this time, he met Rosalee Bastian. They were married and later divorced. Coming from this union were two children, Michael Walter and Kim Lorraine. Heinie worked at Hofferber’s Tire Shop during their early years of marriage. He later went to work for Vigilante Electric Cooperative where he served as a lineman and retired from there as line superintendent after 32 years, in 1993. He also was a member of the Dillon Volunteer Fire Department for 27 years.

Heinie enjoyed fishing, hunting, going to Jackpot, hosting backyard barbecues, watching the New York Yankees, and telling countless stories and jokes. Heinie had a heart of gold, and would do anything for anyone in need.

Heinie was preceded in death by his parents; brother Donald; sister Janet; sister Ruth; brother Charlie; brother Swede and grandson Kyle Salmonsens.

Heinie’s first love was his family. He leaves behind his son, Mike (Candi) Richardson of Dillon, and daughter Kim (Jim) Salmonsens of Butte, as well as grandchildren Brady and Kadi Richardson, Casey Schilling (Shalyssa Leggett) and great-grand-daughter Karey Ann Salmonsens.

Heinie’s surviving siblings are Norah (Don) Elliott, Barbara (Neil) Benson, Patti (Russell) Peterson, Donna (Don) Rude and sisters-in-law Jackie Richardson and Liz Richardson.

Memorials can be made in Heinie’s name to the Dillon Volunteer Fire Department or Dillon Cubs Baseball.

### Working against the current



*Pictured is Journeyman Lineman Austyn Paulsen. Austyn was part of a crew of linemen who worked to restore power on a section of line crossing the Jefferson River. Due to high river conditions, the bank eroded, taking one of our power poles into the water.*

VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

# Vigilante Safety Roundup

## *The Work Continues*

In our service territory, many of the volunteer organizations we depend on in emergency situations rely heavily on donations from businesses such as Vigilante Electric Cooperative. Donations are needed to fund items that cannot be purchased because of budgetary constraints. That is why, in December 2016, we launched Vigilante Safety Roundup.

Year in and year out, Vigilante Electric gives back to our communities. On our website, there is a list of organizations we have contributed to, which includes 15 volunteer fire departments. The scope of funding needed for creating safer communities, however, is vast. While we do what we can, we think that with the Vigilante Safety Roundup program we can do better.

Vigilante Safety Roundup is a voluntary program modeled after successful programs across the country. Any nonprofit organization within our service territory in need of safety-related funding will be eligible. Funding will not be allocated based on the type of organization, but rather what the funding is needed for.

To join our roundup team, members have three options: (1) have their bill rounded up to the next dollar (from experience, the average roundup amount is about \$6 per year, and the most it could be is \$11.88 per year); (2) add a

monthly dollar value of their choice; or (3) make a one-time donation.

Regardless of how you donate, 100 percent of the money will be presented to worthy organizations through grants. Grants will be awarded through an application process, and will be reviewed by the Vigilante Electric Board of Trustees. When funding levels allow, an application period will be announced.

We know that in today's world everyone's budget is tight and every penny counts — this is why Vigilante Safety Roundup is such a fantastic way to make your pennies work to benefit others. Individually, pennies don't go far, but when we add up all the donations, we can help many organizations.

To apply, simply call our Dillon office at (800)221-8271 or 683-2327, or you can find more details about this program and an application on our website at [www.vec.coop](http://www.vec.coop).



### Vigilante Safety Roundup Tracker

Participating members: 115  
Total Contributions: \$1,132.08

To apply contact our office at (800) 221-8271 or 683-7377. An online application is available at [www.vec.coop](http://www.vec.coop).

## The Latest and Greatest in Smart Home Technologies

*By Tom Tate*

Today's smart home has blossomed to near Jetsonesque capabilities. The applications for home automation are racing ahead, fueled by the near ubiquitous availability of wireless technology and the growth of the Internet of Things.

The actual smart home gadgets and technologies continue to evolve, but the mobile app seems to be taking the lead. Let's catch up with the advances in some key areas.

Smart thermostats deserve top billing as they were truly the first smart device to become mainstream. Product choices abound with smart options for baseboard electric being developed, while the focus remains solidly on convenience, energy savings and peace of mind.

Geofencing is one of the best enhancements in this category. Link your smart thermostat to your smart phone, set a radius around your domicile and whenever you cross that boundary your thermostat goes into away or return mode, depending on which way you are heading.

Smart security is surging. Smart door locks were the first entrants in this category. More recently, video doorbells have entered the fray, where you can see who is at the door from anywhere in the world. Very slick.

Wireless cameras have dropped in price, allowing you to canvas your home and property to keep an eye on things anywhere. Get an alert? Open the app and find out what's going on at home.

Smart smoke and carbon monoxide sensors are key in the safety sector, with the capability of sending alerts to your phone, allowing remote status checks and silencing

alarms from the app — all without sacrificing that awful, ear-splitting alert we have come to love.

Smart appliances are slowly grinding forward. Refrigerators with cameras allow you to check for needed items while at the grocery store, and dryers sense when electric use is highest and turn off — talk about demand response! Even heating and cooling systems, including window air conditioners, are sporting mobile apps these days.

There is not a huge amount of automation for stoves and cooktops. Controlling this appliance remotely seems too dangerous, unless the feature is to turn it off. In that case, chalk up another one for peace of mind by resolving that nagging vacation worry, "Did I turn the stove off?"

Smart lighting seems to have become a convergence of mood, efficiency, convenience and security. This is where a smart hub and its software might make sense. Setting up a coordinated lighting schedule is easier from a single interface. Create "scenes" for individual rooms or for the whole house. For security, grab a scene that gives your castle a lived-in look.

Perhaps the coolest new entrants are the voice-controlled assistants. These are receiving a lot of attention and, depending on the capabilities they are given, they have the potential to command everything via voice, freeing you from the tedium of opening an app to control something.

The smart home circa 2018 is a lot closer to the cartoon vision of the Jetsons. With the ease of installation, programming and use enabled by wireless technology and smart phone apps, anyone not already engaged with smart home tech should at least consider dipping a toe in the water.

# The federal government must invest in rural America

By Dan Riedinger

Here's a simple fact that we at Vigilante Electric Cooperative know all too well: The 21st Century economy runs the risk of leaving much of rural America behind. It's a concern shared by electric co-ops all across the country because their strong community ties give them a bird's-eye view of the quality of life of the members they serve.

Rural America grows most of the food, generates much of the power and manufactures many of the goods that are used throughout the country. When the modern economy threatens to leave much of the country on the wrong side of the ledger, that's bad news regardless of where you live and work.

Today, fewer than 15 percent of U.S. businesses are located in rural areas and small towns. Bank loans for amounts less than \$1 million, primarily to family owned

small businesses and farms, have dropped by nearly half since 2005. These are warning signs for the basic building blocks of the economy that serve as the foundation of America's economic stability.

The solution isn't simple, but it's within reach. It will take a concerted, long-term commitment from Congress and the administration to reverse this trend.

The Trump Administration and Congress already have taken significant steps to jump-start programs that bolster the rural economy. That's helping turn the tide in many communities. But reversing this trend requires a sustained focus across the executive branch and Capitol Hill.

The omnibus budget bill that Congress approved earlier this year is providing key resources and tools to foster development of energy, telecommunications and other essential services in rural America, including \$600 million for high-speed Internet access in underserved regions.

Other sections of the omnibus bill fully fund low-interest government loans or enhance the efficiency of permitting for rural electric programs to improve grid reliability.

These are positive steps, but there's more work to do.

As local businesses built by the consumers we serve, electric cooperatives have meaningful ties to America's rural communities. And they are making strategic infrastructure investments to give communities the flexibility to adapt to tomorrow's energy needs, investing \$12 billion annually in the areas they serve.

That's why co-ops have launched community microgrids, lead the nation in the deployment of community solar facilities and have invested in new XPRIZE carbon-capture research.

But it takes more than smart energy infrastructure to rejuvenate rural communities. Co-ops also leverage public-private partnerships to enhance the quality of life.

Over the last two decades, co-ops partnered with community stakeholders through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural economic development programs on hundreds of projects to construct essential infrastructure, renovate hospitals, build libraries and expand businesses. Co-ops also use the Rural Energy Savings Program to work with consumers on energy-efficiency solutions to their homes to save money on their energy bills.

There's a major piece of legislation moving in Congress that offers an opportunity to bolster these important public-private programs while giving rural America an additional boost: the Farm Bill.

As Congress continues discussing the Farm Bill, it should support a stronger rural America and enhance key rural development programs by including:

- Additional funding for rural broadband grants and loans. A reliable, modern grid and vibrant rural communities depend on a robust communications infrastructure.
- Ample support for proven rural economic development programs.
- A focus on accelerating energy innovation to build new renewable energy resources and modernize the electric grid.
- Continued funding for rural electrification programs.

The need to invest in rural America is real for all of us. So too are the opportunities for our leaders to make a meaningful difference in its trajectory.

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com



# Capital Credits Refund

Vigilante Electric Cooperative is currently trying to locate the following individuals for payment of capital credits.

If you have any information regarding names on this list, please contact us at 800-221-8271 or 683-2327, or by email at [contact@vec.coop](mailto:contact@vec.coop).

*Capital Credits Continued from last month*

RATHIE, RANDY ENNIS MT	SANDERS, ANDREA HENDERSON, NV	SWANSON, JEFF/KATHY LIVINGSTON, MT	WOOD, STACY BUTTE, MT
READ, JOHN WAKEFIELD, KS	SEXTON, TERRY/ MARY IDAHO CITY, ID	TAYNOR, ADRIENNE LANGLEY, WA	YAHRAES, TOM/ CHERI JIMENO DILLON, MT
RENS, EMILY JACKSON, MT	SHEFFIELD, ARRON/ KELLY LIVINGSTON, MT	TEPPO, KEVIN/ QUESTA CELESTE, TX	YOUNG, JO/KAREN DILLON, MT
RESTONE, ASHTON/ JUSTIN OLIND OMAHA, NE	SHELDON, DON/ROSE CONWAY, MO	THOMPSON, LINDA M WHITEHALL, MT	ZADOW, BILL DILLON, MT
REYNOLDS, VERONICA HELENA, MT	SIEMINSKI, DAVID/ KATHY HELENA, MT	TVETEN, ROBERT/ CONNIE WOLF POINT, MT	ZINGER, LARRY/ DORIS BOZEMAN, MT
RICHARDS, SHERRI BUTTE, MT	SINCLAIR, ANDREW GREENFIELD, IN	UHLER, CAROL DILLON, MT	ZINK, GEORGE/JANE WHITEHALL, MT
RICHMOND, GLORY DILLON, MT	SLAVEN, MICA DILLON, MT	VALENTINE, JACK/ LYNN BIG SANDY, MT	
RIDER, CHRIS/ PAMELA BOZEMAN, MT	SMITH, CASSI DEER LODGE, MT	WAHL, LISA BELGRADE, MT	
RIVER HOUSE RSTRANT c/o TERRY/DANA SAMPSON SILVER STAR, MT	SMITH, ROCKY/JANET DILLON, MT	WALKER, JOANN DILLON, MT	
ROBARE, STEVE GULLY, MN	SPATZIERATH, DUSTIN EAST HELENA, MT	WALLINDER, SONJA GREAT FALLS, MT	
ROBB, ERICH DAYTON, IA	STANTON, JOHN/ RACHEL SHEPHERD, MT	WARD, MIKE CLINTON, MT	
ROBERTS, RAY DILLON, MT	STENSON, JENNIFER DILLON, MT	WEISE, DENNIS L HELENA, MT	
ROBINSON, LEWIS/ LYNN WOFFORD HEIGHTS, CA	STEVENSON, JIM HELENA, MT	WESSLER, REBECCA/ NICHOL DILLON, MT	
ROGERS, GENE/LINDA SCOTSDALE, GA	STROUD, MARTI JONES, OK	WHITE, NELSON SAN ANTONIO, TX	
ROSS, ROBERT/ALMA WHEELWRIGHT, CT	TUDDERT, CHRIS AMERICAN FORK, UT	WILKINSON, WILLIAM D WHITEHALL, MT	
RUSHFORD, BOB HELENA, MT	SUAREZ, ARTURO/ CAROLYN DILLON, MT	WILLIAMS, PAUL/ SAMANTHA HELENA, MT	
RUSSELL, DAN/DIANE SILVER STAR, MT			

## Prescription Discount Tracker



Total Paid Claims .....641

Total Savings ..... \$24,645.66

Total Savings Percentage .....43.04%

June Paid Claims .....5

June Savings.... \$141.09

June Savings Percentage .....43.52%