

Vigilante Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

REMEMBERING TIM

Longtime employee and friend will be deeply missed

It is with great sadness that we inform our membership about the passing of our friend and longtime Vigilante Electric Cooperative employee Tim Myllymaki.

Tim came to work for Vigilante Electric in May 1995 as a staking engineer. Tim was one of those people who once you met him, you remembered him, and chances are you liked him. He was blessed with a tremendous sense of humor and a great smile. Regardless of the situation, his presence made those around him feel better.

The following is the loving tribute by his family.

Timothy Lyle Myllymaki passed away on July 2, 2020, of a rare appendix cancer affecting only 1 in 2 million people. He was 60 years old. Tim was born February 17, 1960 in Great Falls to Patricia Knoepke Myllymaki and Lyle Myllymaki.

Tim was raised in Stanford. Tim, along with his older sister Deb and little sister Pam, were raised by their sweet, loving grandmother Esther Knoepke (Nana) after his parents were killed in a plane crash in 1973, when Tim was 13 years old. Tim graduated high school in Stanford in 1978. Following graduation Tim went to Devry Institute of Technology, receiving a degree in electronic technology in 1980.

Tim went to work for Western Geophysical in South America. His first job was in Bogota, Colombia, then Venezuela and lastly Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. While there he became fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and traveled extensively. Before returning to the states he brought his then-girlfriend Whitney to South America to see where all his ventures had taken him, his favorite place being Rio de Janeiro.

Tim returned in 1983 to be with the love of his life and wife of 35 years, Whitney Myers Myllymaki. They married on June 15, 1985, and both attended Montana State University, where their son



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MYLLYMAKI FAMILY.

Brock Otis was born in 1989. Tim always said Brock is a true Bobcat. Tim loved his Bobcats. Tim graduated with an electrical engineering degree, landing his first job at SSR Engineers in Billings. In 1992, his beautiful daughter Katelyn Jordan joined the family. Tim always called her "my baby girl" and she called him "Papa Bear." In April 1995, Tim moved his family to Dil-

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Dangers after the storm

Downed power lines in the aftermath of a severe weather event

Story by **ROD SIRING**
Member Services

REGARDLESS of the time of year or your location, severe storms can wreak havoc and leave a variety of hazards in its wake. In our industry, high winds, wet heavy snow, freezing rain, and flooding (to name a few) can cause widespread outages due to downed power lines, which is inconvenient and extremely dangerous. This point cannot be understated: contacting an energized power line can cause serious injury and even death.

Vigilante Electric Cooperative does not want you to fear electricity, but in the aftermath of a severe weather event, we want you to be aware and prepared for potential dangers. Remember that electrical hazards can remain long after the storm has passed.

First, be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard, so be aware of your surroundings. If you see downed power poles, scan the surrounding areas for damage, but do not go near them.

If you see power lines on the ground following a storm, always treat them as if they are energized and dangerous. Stay away from them, warn others and contact emergency services immediately! Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, making them very dangerous, so stay away from all of them.

Downed power lines can also energize things around it, such as chain link fences and metal culverts.

Another thing to be mindful of is that even if a line is indeed “dead”, it could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of



Downed trees and limbs can bring down power lines and they can hide electrical hazards. If you see a downed power line contact emergency services immediately. | **PHOTO BY TOWNSEND FOREMAN JOHN MOOS**

If you see power lines on the ground following a storm, always treat them as if they are energized and dangerous.

generators.

With severe weather conditions there is also the potential of coming upon a downed power line in a roadway. If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel immediately. Never drive over a downed line or attempt to move it.

If you are in a car that has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle and wait until the utility personnel arrive and de-energize the line. Warn others not to approach the car.

However, if you see fire or smoke, prepare to exit the vehicle immediately. As you begin to exit the vehicle, make sure that you do not touch the ground and vehicle at the same time. Jump from your vehicle and land with both feet together.

Downed power lines are nothing to mess with. Our line crews are highly trained to deal with these situations and have the proper equipment and protective gear to deal with them safely.

Remember, electricity is very unforgiving, and one contact may be the last. **RM**

TRIBUTE

Continued from page 5

lon, going to work for Vigilante Electric. He had 25 years with "Vig" as he called it, and he loved his job. Moving to Dillon was a dream for Tim, where he could hunt and fish to his heart's content, his most favorite pastime besides being a loving, fun and very proud dad to his kids: son, Brock Myllymaki (Bailey and baby girl Frankee Gray), Dillon, daughter Katelyn Myllymaki Keller (Kris), Columbia Falls. Tim only had a few months with his granddaughter, who he loved dearly. She looks like a Finlander and smiles like her grandpa Tim.

Tim loved his Finnish heritage and would tell you so every time there was a need to. The Finnish word "Sisu" was one of his favorites. Tim's smile covered his face and his fun-loving personality kept him busy socializing with

everyone who crossed his path. He never missed a beat, having fun and living life to the fullest. He always told me "Whit-T-ney, I don't want to grow up." That's how he always said my name.

Tim joined his loving Grandma Esther Knoepke (Nana) and his beautiful little sister Pam Hammer. Also preceding him were parents Lyle and Pat Myllymaki, Saima and Ted Myllymaki and many of the ole Finn family.

Tim is survived by his wife Whitney Myllymaki, and children already stated above, in-laws Jim and Lois Myers of Dillon, his loving sister Deb Myllymaki (Brent), Helena, who spent nearly this whole last year with him. Tim relished the attention from his sis. Also surviving him are his half-sister Jean-



ie Collins, Portland, OR, niece Sonja James (David, boys Jet and Jack), brother and sister-in-law Shane Myers (Pattie), Laurel, nephew Cole Myers (April), niece Kiley Anderson (Brandon), niece Kirby Watkins (Reed, babies Harlo and Cosley) Tammi Myers Whitworth (Rex), Dillon, niece Shandi Samson-Hartz (Conor), nephews Adam Ridgeway (kids, Brody, Ryder, Allie Jo), Andrew Ridgeway (Laura, kids Hughie, Riley), niece Heidi Brethorst (JJ, kids Gracie, Lydia, Johnny), niece Britni Hammer, son Hurley, nephew Nick Hammer (Kayla, Bryer).

Celebration of life occurred Sunday at Mac's Last Cast with all of Tim's family and friends. Fly High and Be Free babe, I love you! Whit-T-ney

Tim may have lost his battle with cancer, but he put up one tremendous fight. Driven by his love and commitment to his family, he battled to the very end. Tim left us with many enduring memories and a valuable lesson to live life with humor and courage. He will be deeply missed.

Heat pumps may be the answer to your heating and cooling needs

Story by **ROD SIRING,**
Member Services

When you look at how your home consumes energy, the largest portion of your bill is dedicated to heating and cooling. If you are considering building a new home or remodeling, I strongly encourage you to contact us. Vigilante Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Bonneville Power Administration, has programs that offer incentives on heat-pump technology.

When discussing heat-pump technology with members, there are a few misconceptions. People tend to think that heat pumps are extremely com-

plicated, they're not. They work like a refrigerator, simply displacing heat from one place to another.

Another misconception is that heat pumps are new technology. The scientific concept behind them and the development of the first one dates back to the 1850s. The first ground-source heat pump was built in the 1940s, and the modern era for them is considered to have started in the 1980s.

There are different types of heat pumps. The best one for you depends on the application you want and your budget. The following briefly describes the options available for an incentive through our residential energy effi-

ciency program:

Ductless Heat Pumps

If you want to reduce heating costs and add year-round comfort to a home with permanently installed electric zonal heat, such as electric baseboard, wall heater or ceiling heat, a ductless heat pump is a great option. Ductless heat pumps are a form of air-source heat pump. They are very efficient and provide room-specific heating and cooling. They have built-in air filters to improve air quality. They are quiet, programmable and come with a remote

See HEAT PUMPS, next page

Capital Credit Refunds

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.

CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH

Hogue, Robin East Helena, MT	Kuntzweiller, Douglas Helena, MT	Mehn, Chris Portland, OR
Hoogenboom, Brian & Melissa Soldotna, AK	LaForest, Fred H Escondido, CA	Mengle, Jim & Marleen Mountain Home, AR
Howard, Jerry Helena, MT	Larson, Linda Dillon, MT	Mentzer, Justin & Pamela Dillon, MT
Hubin, Gary Burl, ID	Larson, Wade & Twila Red Lodge, MT	Messerly, Kayla Dillon, MT
Hugelen, Justin Dillon, MT	Latimer, Willard & Steve Maple Valley, WA	Metcalf, Mark Milwaukee, WI
Hunsaker, Tracy Townsend, MT	Lawton, Robert Dillon, MT	Mitchell, Elizabeth Townsend, MT
Huth, Shari Townsend, MT	Lazy CA Inc. Paul Johnson Idaho Falls, ID	Monoco, Alexis Bigfork, MT
Jeka, Lee Crestview, FL	Lee, Gina Sparks, NV	Monroe, Jarret Dillon, MT
Jessen, Jason Colstrip, MT	Levine, Deanna Bozeman, MT	Murphy Feed Lot, Pat Murphy Custer, MT
Johnson, Angela Dillon, MT	Lewis, Deb Harrison, MT	Myers, Brett & Jodi Preston, ID
Johnson, Jennifer Townsend, MT	Lewis, Donald Santee, CA	Nate, Steven & Jamie Ennis, MT
Jones, Ray & Laura Helena, MT	Mahoney, Doug Helena, MT	Neace, John & Rose Branchland, WV
JPS Group LLC Coeur d'Alene, ID	Marion, Virginia Townsend, MT	Nez Pearce Motel, Wayne Challoner Copper Center, AK
Katano, Steve & Meiko St. George, UT	Martin, Larry & Rusty Dillon, MT	Nielson, Roy & Caroline E Helena, MT
Kearns, Andrea Bozeman, MT	Mayn, Melissa Dillon, MT	Odell, Chancey Lemmon, MT
Keele, Michelle Townsend, MT	Mayne, Paul & Ann Delta, CO	O'Dell-Mattox, Kelly Bozeman, MT
Kessler, Kevin Butte, MT	McCormick, Francis Helena, MT	Okрасki, Jane Dillon, MT
Kidwell, Shawn & Elizabeth Whitehall, MT	McMillan, James Clancy, MT	Olson, Dale & Lori Dillon, MT

CAPITAL CREDITS CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

HEAT PUMPS

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control. Installation is relatively easy and unobtrusive because, as the name implies, there is no ductwork.

In our climate, however, as temperatures drop, the efficiency of a ductless heat pump falls off. This is why they are ideal for existing homes with zonal heat. When the ambient air temperature gets too low, you use your home's existing heat system.

Air-Source Heat Pump

Air-source heat pumps are highly efficient and an economical way to heat and cool your home. Incentives are available for new and existing construction, as well as new and existing manufactured housing. These units are ducted systems. They can be standalone units or incorporated into an existing forced-air system. They provide heat when the ambient air temperature is quite low and employ auxiliary heat (or your home's existing ducted heat system) during periods of extreme cold weather.

Geothermal Heat Pumps

Geothermal heat pumps share several qualities with air-source heat pumps. They both provide heating and cooling, and can be used for new construction as well as in existing homes. The main differences are efficiencies and installation costs.

Geothermal heat pumps are the most efficient heating system on the market today. They use the earth to condition your home instead of outside air. This allows them to heat your home efficiently. The downside is they cost more to install because of the trenching and plumbing.

If you are planning to build a new home or are considering changing your existing heating system, take some time to research heat pumps. A lot of valuable information can be found online or by contacting us. If you are considering installing a heat pump, contact us first. There are specific requirements that need to be met before work starts to qualify for an incentive. 



**Vigilante Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Vigilante Safety Roundup Tracker

Participating members: 393
Total Contributions: \$5,442.23

To apply, contact our office at
(800) 221-8271 or 683-2327
An online application is available at www.vec.coop.