



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

# STAY BACK AND STAY SAFE



**Chris Tackmann,**  
General Manager  
& CEO

**W**orking with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the United States. That’s why for Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC), safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews’ safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide members with safe, reliable, superior, and competitively priced energy services. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing training, focus, dedication, vigilance—and your help!

### It’s good to see co-op workers on your property.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative employees and contractors also work throughout our service territory inspecting equipment. It’s good to see co-op workers in the rights-of-way and easements, and across your private property and driveways. Our efforts to ensure reliable power for you and

your neighbors mean we must cross your property from time to time.

You may see us:

- Making routine repairs
- Replacing meters
- Trimming trees and brush
- Locating buried utilities for construction and digging projects
- Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers, and equipment
- Inspecting power poles, lines, transformer boxes, and equipment

### Distractions can be deadly.

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team’s safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management, or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews—and you.

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## Stay Back and Stay Safe

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If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize OEC



Line crews installed a new three-phase overhead line. Pictured are: Journeymen Linemen Tommy Liddane and Travis Moser, Construction Foreman Joe Engel, and Temporary Apprentice Lineworker Kyle Aschenbrenner.

employees by their uniforms and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local communities.

### Slow down and move over.

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility

vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.

All field work, except emergency power restoration, is conducted during normal working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Every effort is made to avoid damage and unnecessary intrusion. If you have concerns about our work, contact us at 1-800-241-2468.

# Eliminate Surprises with Electric Usage Alerts

Monitor unusual patterns of electric use **BEFORE** they cause a high bill. Receive a text message or email notification for daily electric usage.

LOG INTO  NOTIFICATIONS  USAGE 



# LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACH NAMED SELFLESS SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Oakdale Electric Cooperative believes in the power of individuals stepping forward and using their talents for the benefit of others. In an effort to thank these outstanding individuals for their selfless service to their community, the co-op is recognizing one nominated individual quarterly for his or her volunteer work with a Selfless Service Award.

Elroy resident Joe Vitcenda has been coaching baseball for over 50 years. On Monday, May 16, Joe's team, Royall High School,

*"Joe has volunteered endless hours to encourage, shape and build up the young men and women of his community." – Marjorie Gerber*

knocked it out of the park with a win against rival New Lisbon High School. To add to the night of celebration, Joe reached the milestone of coaching 1,000 games on his 80th birthday.

Friend Marjorie Gerber stated, "Joe has volunteered endless hours to encourage, shape and build up the young men and women of his community."

She continued, "Joe keeps in contact with numerous former players who

have gone on to pursue careers in teaching and coaching. Joe is always there to make sure his students have the equipment and the financial resources to compete with the other students."

Vitcenda is a staple in his community, and is genuine about improving the lives around him. For 33 years, Joe taught at Royall High School before retiring in 2001. In addition to coaching baseball,

he assisted with the football, wrestling, and cross-country programs. Today he remains an active member of the VFW and is a church leader. You'll also

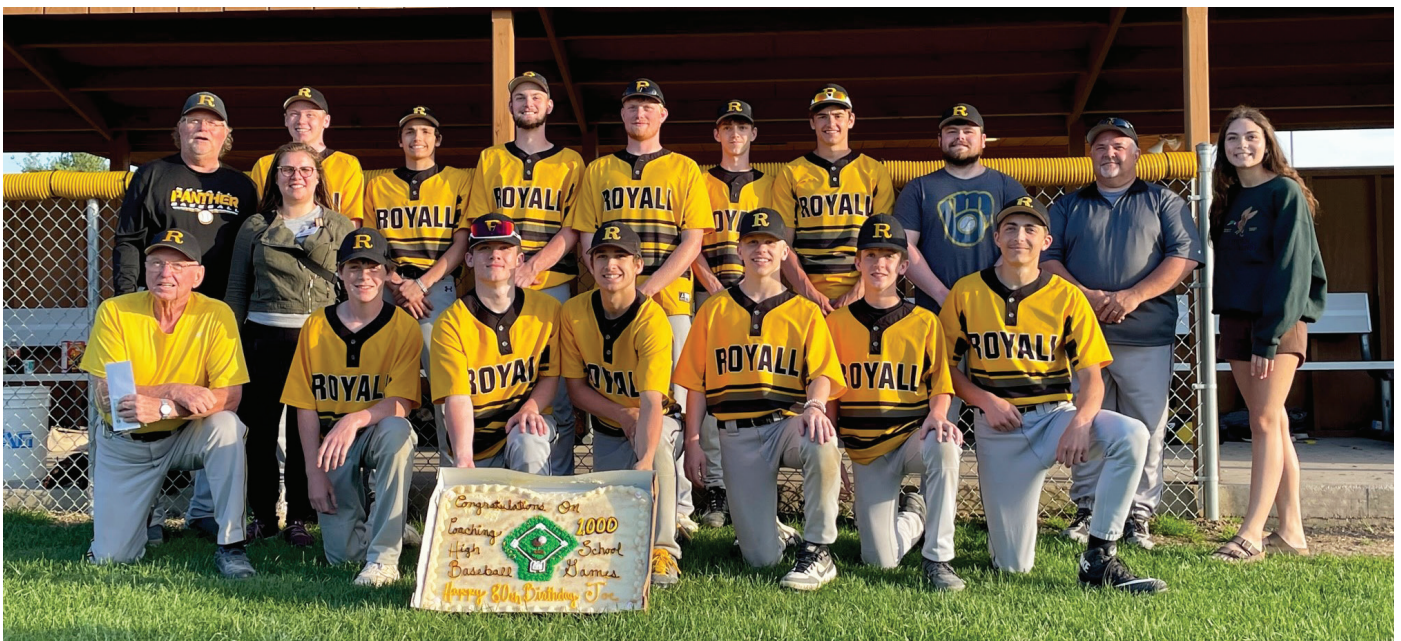
find Joe running the Elroy summer recreation program.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative aims to recognize individuals who strive to improve the quality of life within the surrounding communities, and Joe Vitcenda represents what the Selfless Service Award is all about. Following the baseball game, and surrounded by his team, community, family, and friends, Joe was presented the cooperative's fifth



Selfless Service Award. It was the perfect evening to enjoy some peanuts, popcorn, and Cracker Jack®, while recognizing a cherished community member.

"Joe does not seek recognition for his accomplishments. He truly is an unsung hero in his community, recognition is long overdue for this man," stated Gerber.



Joe Vitcenda and the Royall High School varsity baseball team.

# OAKDALE ELECTRIC WELCOMED TWO NEW TEMPORARY APPRENTICE LINEWORKERS



**Kyle Aschenbrenner** joined OEC on May 23 as a temporary apprentice lineworker. Kyle, originally from Idaho, relocated to Tomah after he completed his Electrical Lineworker Program at Northwest Linemen College – Meridian, Idaho. Kyle stated, “It is a great privilege to work for a great company like Oakdale Electric Co-op and pursue my career as a lineman.”



**Karter Hoag** joined OEC on June 1 as a temporary apprentice lineworker. Karter was born and raised in Tomah and received his Electrical Power Distribution degree from Chippewa Valley Technical College – Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Karter stated, “I really like the area. Oakdale Electric Co-op is a great place to work, with a great group of people. I’m very excited to be here.”



In observance of Independence Day, our office will be closed on Monday, July 4.

**Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO**


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**Jackie McGlin, Editor**



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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE

