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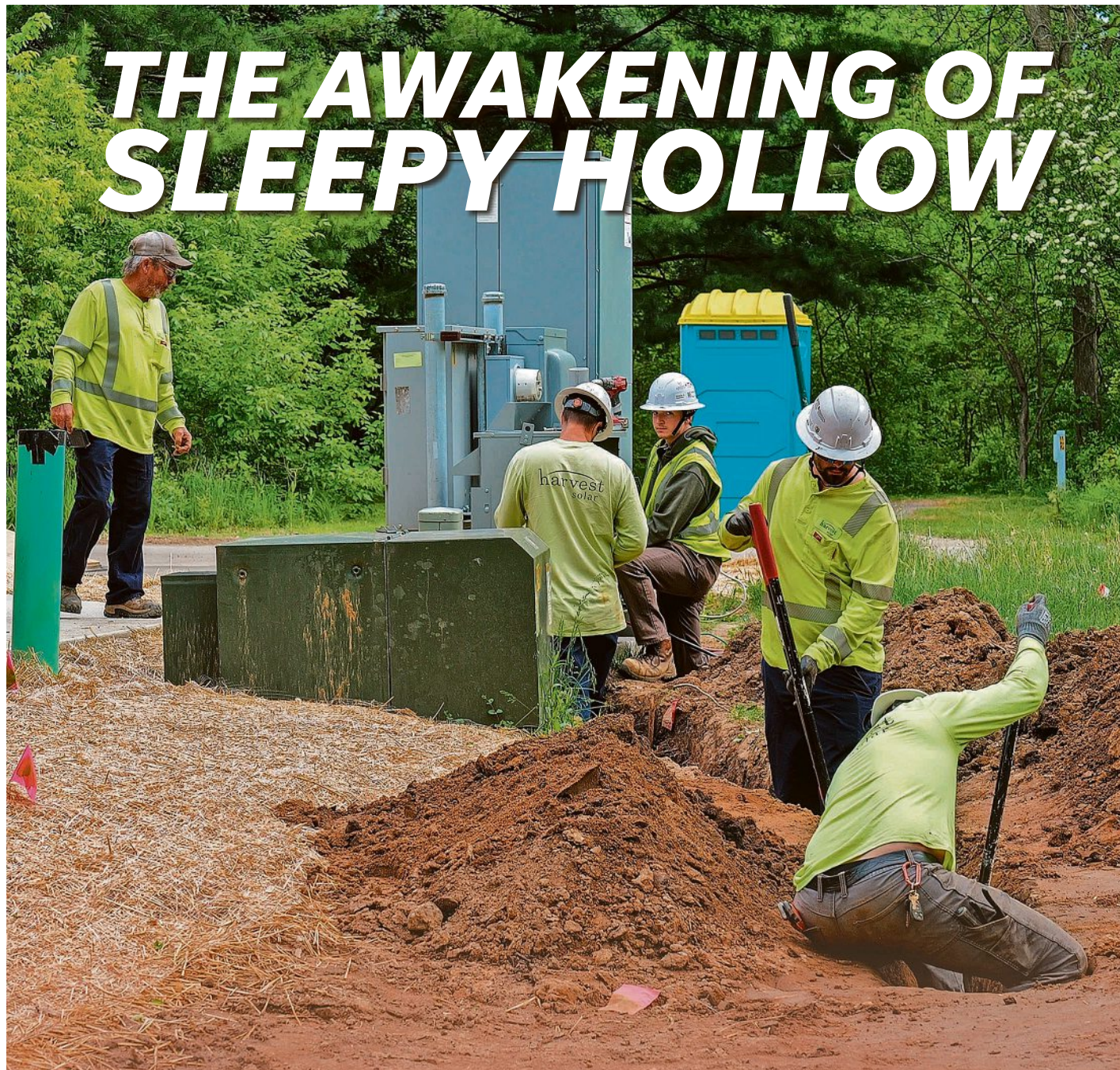


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THE AWAKENING OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

Modern campground at state park reopens after major renovations

Ken Palmer | Lansing State Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On a cool, sunny morning in mid-May, Sleepy Hollow State Park was living up to its name. • It was quiet enough that a wild turkey skittered across the road as a reporter and photographer walked in the area of the modern campgrounds. A few minutes earlier, a cottontail rabbit foraged in the north campground and a chipmunk scampered across an open area on its daily rounds. • The usual throngs of warm-weather campers at the picturesque, 2,600-acre park northwest of Laingsburg weren't there. A couple of work crews were still in the park, finishing tasks from improvement projects that prompted the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to close the modern campground for all of 2025 and the first part of this year. **See SLEEPY HOLLOW, Page 2A**



ABOVE AND TOP: Construction by Harvest Solar is ongoing to implement an auxiliary solar array for the new restroom and shower facility at Sleepy Hollow State Park. PHOTOS BY ROBERT KILLIPS/LANSING STATE JOURNAL



Sleepy Hollow State Park in Clinton County was closed last year for renovations.

Consumers Energy wants \$456 million electric rate hike

Arpan Lobo
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jackson-based Consumers Energy is seeking a \$456 million increase to its electric rate base in Michigan, a move that has drawn the scorn of Attorney General Dana Nessel and energy affordability advocates who believe ratepayers already pay too much for electricity.

In a filing submitted to the Michigan Public Service Commission on Tuesday, June 2, Consumers officials wrote they are seeking the increase to invest in electrical infrastructure and improve grid reliability, which "is challenged by increasingly severe weather and deterioration of the system. In the face of these challenges ... the Company is continuing on its comprehensive and prudent strategy for improving reliability through investments in and maintenance of core traditional infrastructure such as poles, wires, and substations, as well as enabling the transition to cleaner energy resources and increasing automation of the system."

If approved, the rate increase would not take place until spring 2027, according to the filing.

The typical rate case takes about 10 months between the initial application and approval. The MPSC approved a \$276.6 million hike to the utility's electric rates in late March. Usually, commissioners approve a lower rate increase than a utility originally sought.

Nessel, whose office frequently intervenes on behalf of ratepayers in utility rate hike cases, criticized Consumers for seeking another increase.

"My office will intervene in this case as we always do, but we already know the predictable pattern likely to play out: Consumers Energy loads its rate hike request with completely unsupported, inflated costs, and the MPSC simply splits the difference," Nessel said in a statement. "Michiganders are facing an affordability crisis, and our utility companies are recording record profits."

Audits have found both Consumers and Michigan's other large utility, Detroit-based DTE Energy, perform worse than their peers when it comes to getting the power back on after outages. Both utilities have said they are

See RATE HIKE, Page 2A

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