

Line 3 work has begun in Hubbard, Wadena counties

By Michael Johnson and Shannon Geisen
Forum Communications

Construction has begun all across the 337-mile route of Line 3, including along the Hubbard and Wadena county border in portions of the Shell River and Huntersville State Forest.

Work will continue for roughly nine months, according to Enbridge communications supervisor Juli Kellner.

“Residents of the county should not notice much disruption,” Kellner said by email. “We ask that residents be aware of and careful around any construction equipment they do see as it is being moved to our work sites.”

A virtual kickoff

A virtual construction kickoff was held Thursday, Dec. 10. The video featured elected officials, community leaders, construction companies, union representatives and Enbridge staff all voicing support of the project.

U.S. House Rep. Pete Stauber said, “As you know, this is one of the lengthiest studied projects in the state’s history. We’re finally getting the go-ahead. This is one of those economic drivers that we’ve talked about – good-pay-

ing union jobs. These are the blue-collar jobs that we talk about that we need in Minnesota, and so this project is going to be done right. It’s going to help the economy in all the counties that they go through.”

Stauber said Line 3 will “help energy independence and help in so many ways.”

Butch De La Hunt, president/CEO of the Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, said, “We welcome everyone to Park Rapids as you begin the construction and replacement of Enbridge Line 3. After a fully vetted and lengthy permitting process, construction begins. The community is here to serve all Enbridge workers, contractors and staff as you make Park Rapids your temporary home. The businesses are here to support you, and we welcome the positive impact you’ll have on our community’s economy.”

District 2A State Rep. Matt Grossell (R-Clearbrook) said he was thankful that Line 3 was “finally moving forward.”

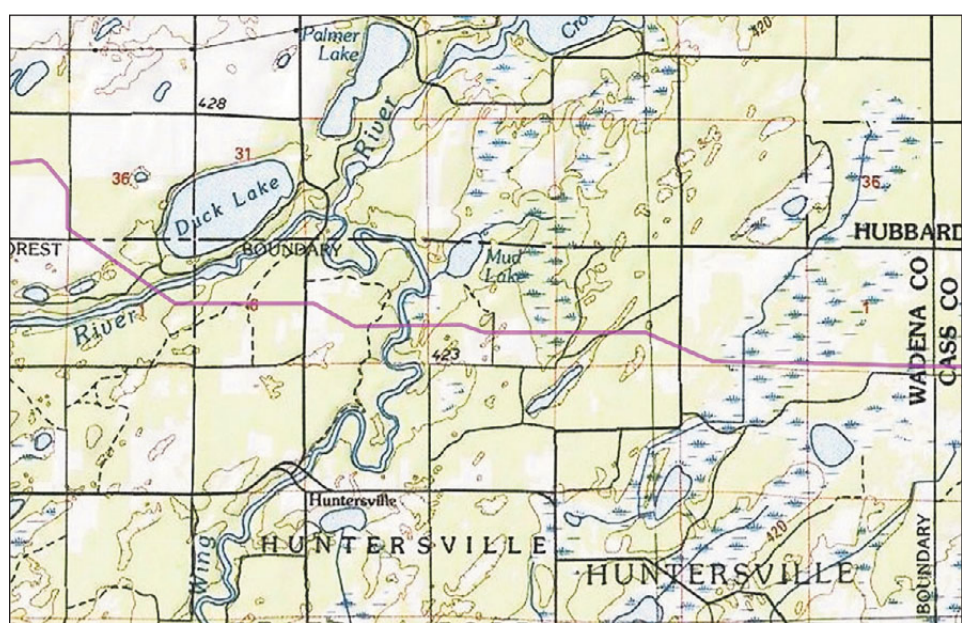
“This \$2.6-billion private investment into our area, into the state of Minnesota, is going to bring jobs that are much needed and put a lot of

families in my district who have been hoping and praying and just chompin’ at the bit to get this project going,” Grossell said, noting that he comes from “pipeline country.” The project crosses his hometown of Clearbrook. “And so many people around there are employed in the construction business, trades, the 49ers, concrete workers, any kind of construction. That’ll put these men and women to work.”

Virtual open house

For the seven miles the pipeline extends into Wadena County, it enters at the Hubbard Line Road, passes south of Duck Lake and under the Shell River, skirts along farm fields on either side of 229th Ave., sinks below the Crow Wing River and across vast forests and swamplands of the Huntersville State Forest, then passes beneath 259th Ave., and more of the forest before entering Cass County. While construction work will be clear to viewers during the duration, Enbridge staff said what will remain once the area is reclaimed is a grassy area as the entire line is underground.

In an open house Wednesday, Dec. 9, staff involved in the proj-



Map courtesy National Geographic Society

The new Line 3 as it passes from Hubbard to Wadena County will pass under two major water ways, the Shell River and Crow Wing River as it crosses Huntersville State Forest.

ect heavily emphasized that workers will follow COVID-19 precautions.

Twenty-person crews will be the norm as work begins to clear access to the new path. Once the access is available, and the way is cleared, a trench will be dug deep enough so the pipeline will be gradually laid to rest in the sandy soils.

This is a small portion of the full route from Alberta, Canada, to Superior, Wisc. While the current line pumps about 340,000 barrels of oil per day across 282 miles in

a 34-inch pipe, the new 36-inch pipe travels over 330 miles and can deliver 760,000 barrels per day. Enbridge said the current pipeline is operating at a lower capacity due to its aging infrastructure, which was installed in the 1960s. Once a new line is activated, the old will be deactivated and largely left in the ground after it’s cleaned.

This investment in Minnesota’s energy infrastructure will bring immediate construction-related spending to communities and ongo-

ing benefits in additional taxes paid to counties, Kellner said. The tax benefit will begin once the pipeline comes into service, which is estimated to happen in the fourth quarter of 2021.

For those who have further questions about the construction of the pipeline, Enbridge has a virtual open house available at <https://enbridge-openhouse.com/line3/>. You can also call the Enbridge Replacement Line 3 Project phone number at 855-788-7812.

LeComte sews reusable feminine hygiene products

By Rebecca Mitchell
rmitchell@wadenapj.com

As community members have sewn face coverings this year, Wadena-Deer Creek senior and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter president Angela LeComte is joining with a cause to sew reusable feminine hygiene products for girls and women around the world. She’ll be relearning to sew to make Days for Girls kits.

“It’s important because a lot of people don’t talk about this topic because they probably feel that they’re uncomfortable talking about girls on their period,” LeComte said.

The Days for Girls organization started in 2008 with a learning experience in Nairobi, Kenya where girls in an orphanage just sat on cardboard until their periods were over. They might not get food and they certainly weren’t able to go to school—one of the aspects the organization hopes to change by offering the reusable period products. In 2018-19, 23% of girls attending school in Nigeria missed school within the last year due to their period, according to the World Health Organization and Unicef. Forty-eight percent of menstruating students in Scotland said there was a lack of availability



Wadena-Deer Creek senior and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter president Angela LeComte works with a serger to make reusable feminine hygiene products for girls and women around the world. She hopes to make 20 Days for Girls kits.

Photo courtesy of Cindi Koll

for free period products.

LeComte’s introduction to the organization began at the virtual FCCLA national conference over the summer where she learned about students’ work in New Jersey. The kits include 8 reusable pads, 2 pairs of undergarments, 2 undergarment shields, a washcloth, soap and a bag, according to LeComte and WDC FCCLA advisor Cindi Koll. She hopes to make 20 kits.

“It’s kind of cool to see that even in this situation (the pandemic) that students can be motivated and they can learn, and now this will have some long-term benefits for her as we work on this project,” Koll said.

Days for Girls has clubs throughout the area, including Vern-dale, Menahga and Bax-

ter. Verndale club leader Carol Osborn met with LeComte and provided a serger as well as fabric. The pads and waterproof shields are meant to last 6-7 years with durable flannel. The shields are placed in the undergarment and liners are placed into the shield.

“It’s never talked about that it’s an issue for girls who don’t have the proper access to menstrual products pretty much around the world,” LeComte said.

The lack of access is in the developing world and developed countries, including the United States. In a 2019 Obstetrics & Gynecology study, 64% of 183 women surveyed in St. Louis, Missouri said they could not afford period products in the

previous year.

The kits will eventually be personally delivered by the organization rather than sent in the mail to avoid corrupt government officials from selling the kits, as Koll said. Kits go to Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, Europe and Australia.

LeComte will also focus on educating fellow students more about menstrual health. Twenty-seven percent of schoolgirls in Bhutan said teachers are their main resource on menstruation information, according to WHO and Unicef. Local leaders in various countries are also part of the organization teaching community members about menstrual health and starting a business to

sell the products.

The project comes as part of FCCLA’s new program “StandUp,” which replaces the “Stop the Violence” program since not all issues students can advocate for include violence, according to Koll. Each StandUp project will assess a need, involve education for the student and others and advocacy for the issue.

“She’s (LeComte) learning a whole lot about not just sewing and feminine hygiene products but political issues, environmental issues, cultural issues, and many of these countries don’t have waste disposal systems and so it has to be reusable for them,” Koll said.

The reusability factor of the feminine hygiene products could also become more popular in America, as Koll said.

“Because our younger generation is more in tune with what’s going on with our environment, because they have a long time to be here, I think it’s something that may catch on,” Koll said. The project could also create additional conversations on health issues such as sales tax on feminine hygiene products, as Koll said. The “tampon tax” has become a highly discussed issue in recent years as states consider removing the tax; Minnesota does not have a “tampon tax.” In

November 2020, Scotland passed a law for free period products, the first country to do so.

“It’s something that we just probably don’t think of in our day to day existence, we think things are bad for us right here and now but it does help ... keep some perspective,” Koll said about the Days for Girls kits.

FCCLA will also be having a Sock Drive when students return to in-person or hybrid learning; the socks go to the Eagle’s Healing Nest in Sauk Centre, which supports veterans.

More information

Visit the Days for Girls website to learn more about the organization and the lack of access to menstrual products for girls and women around the world.

The full “Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools” 2020 report is available on the Unicef website.

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Christmas Eve Worship
Join us via Facebook or YouTube at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

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For more information, visit us at: www.Wadentalmanuel.org

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve
at St. Helen’s Episcopal Church, Wadena
Corner of Dayton Avenue and 1st Street SW

Christmas Eve Prayer Service
5:00 pm with Christmas Hymns.

ALL ARE WELCOME

No Christmas Day services

St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)
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2020 December Christmas Worship Schedule

December 20 & 27:
Divine Sunday Worship Services - 9:00 am
Sunday School & Bible Study - 10:15 am

Dec. 21 & 28: Divine Monday Worship Services - 6:00 pm

December 24th:
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

E-Mail: stjohnwadena@yahoo.com
Website: www.stjohnwadena.org • Reverend Stephen N. Meltzer