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## New riverfront park to offer entertainment space, nature trails, river views, school learning and more Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park under construction



A view of the new Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park under construction with the Brainerd High School football stadium in the background and part of the amphitheater on the right.

By ANN SCHWARTZ  
A new park along the Mississippi River on East River Road in Brainerd will offer outdoor entertainment spaces, river access, educational space and more.

A committee of local folks worked hard, starting in 2016, to design and establish the park. It is now under the purview of Brainerd Parks and Recreation.

"For all of us who are passionate about Brainerd and the Mississippi, this park/trailhead is a new and fresh

window on the river," said Rod Osterloh, member of the Brainerd Riverfront Committee. "The expansive view and access will delight residents and visitors for decades. Now this park, in combination with the Rotary Riverside Park and Kiwanis Park, will help make the Mississippi a major destination for the area."

A \$2.8 budget gained from a Minnesota Natural Resources Trust Fund grant will allow the park's master plan to come to fruition.

Included on the three-

acre city-owned parcel are paved hiking, biking trails that connect to two state trails, downtown Brainerd and other city trails; hillside improvements with terraced seating, paved promenade with electrical hookups and a park setting with great river views and ample seating for concerts, farmers markets and community events.

A canoe/kayak launch will be sandier (less muddy) and safer for launching canoes and kayaks, featuring a convenient loading zone and a

shorter access trail.

A space for outdoor education will allow nearby students from Brainerd High School and Central Lakes College to experience outside learning venues.

Details include two river overlooks, a trailhead kiosk, benches, a restroom building and interpretive signs.

Rain gardens for stormwater filtration and riverbank habitat restoration will finish off the project.

"All facilities will meet ADA accessibility guidelines," according to the official work plan approved by

the state.

At its last meeting, the Brainerd Park Board approved design standards for park signs. It heard how WSB, the park's designer and engineers, needed to increase their fee to \$269,000 due to the large amount of work the project entailed and change orders were presented.

So much more than a parking lot, this new space will offer boating, recreation, history, nature and the Mighty Mississippi all rolled up into one concept for local residents, students, visitors and tourists to use.



Visitors will be able to take in the view at the hill and river overlooks at the Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park.

Ann Schwartz photos

Cascade United Methodist Church Annual  
**Pumpkin Giveaway**  
Saturday, October 15th  
Pavilion in front of Hallett Library  
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## Volunteers needed for meal help

Community Care 'N Share in Emily (CNS) sends to-go meals to over 100 people in the Crosby area who are seniors, veterans or homebound people. They also supply another 100 to-go meals closer to Emily, Outing and Fifty Lakes. If you need a meal, call 952-240-7936.

CNS needs several more drivers with vehicles to help deliver boxes of to-go meals to addresses in Crosby, Emily or other surrounding destinations on Wednesdays beginning at 2 p.m. for one to two hours. There are sev-

eral routes available. Contact Robyn at 952-240-7936.

CNS also need about 10 volunteers Wednesdays from noon to about 2 p.m. for a variety of tasks like helping prepare and package to-go meals, washing dishes and cleaning up.

The CNS chef could use on or two more people to help on Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to help pre-make some of the menu. If you would like to volunteer, call Lori at 651-246-7292 or LoriNelson@brainerd.net.

CNS is financially support-

ed in part by Essentia Health St Joseph Foundation; Second Harvest North Central Food Bank; Crow Wing Power Round Up; Hallett Foundation and generous individuals. Any amount of financial contributions are appreciated to help cover expenses. Their kitchen is co-located with the Wesleyan Church in Emily on State Highway 6. Donations can be sent to Care N Share, PO Box 354 Emily, MN 56447.

Care N Share is a 501c(3) charity exempt from federal income tax.

## Wild rice harvesters team up



Scott Burns poses with a canoe full of wild rice that he and his ricing partner Paul Heglund of Crosby harvested on Aug. 29.

The pair brought in 289 pounds from an undisclosed location.

Heglund reported that overall the wild rice harvest has been less both last and this year. -Paul Heglund photo

## Opinion — You can't carry electricity in a bucket

by JANE M. ORIENT, M.D.

If you ran out of gas, you used to have to hike to the nearest gas station, buy enough gas to get the car to the station, and carry it in a can back to the car. Now, with the miracle of cell phones, you can telephone your road-side service provider, and someone will bring you some gasoline.

Unless, of course, you have an electric vehicle (EV). From my dad, a building

contractor, I learned Bill Orient's Laws of Contracting. Rule #3: You can't carry electricity in a bucket.

If your EV stalls because its battery is depleted—say the weather is cold, so the range is much less than you thought—you'll have to wait for a rescue vehicle to bring a diesel generator with enough fuel. It will take some time, so let's hope your wife is not in labor, or your son's appendix does not burst. Or

perhaps the Zero Emissions authorities still allow an internal combustion engine (ICE) in ambulances and other emergency vehicles.

The EV is not exactly fuel efficient. Your ICE might get almost 30 miles to the gallon. A charging station hooked up to a 350 kw diesel generator uses 12 gallons of diesel per hour. If it takes three hours to charge your EV, so you can go 200 miles, you are getting 5.6 mpg.

But President Biden has promised half a million charging stations that are presumably connected to the grid, not a diesel generator.

Suppose you are fleeing a hurricane, along with thousands of others, in a huge traffic jam? Maybe you'll be lucky and come upon a roadside charger that doesn't have a long line of waiting

cars.

You understand that there's no electricity stored in the charger. Just as you can't carry electricity in your gas can, you can't store it either. Electricity must be used as it is generated, or else wasted. If high winds and torrential rains have taken down power lines, the charging station is useless.

And what about the grid? During a hurricane or blizzard, wind turbines and solar farms will be generating zero electricity. To save any surplus generated energy for a rainy day, it must be converted to another form of energy; for example, potential energy in pumping water up a hill, or chemical energy in a battery.

In 2017, the total energy capacity of all installed battery systems in the U.S. was less than 1,000 MWh.

A nuclear generating station puts out more than that in an hour. "Renewable" energy (solar and wind) is unreliable and weather-dependent, and adequate battery back-up is impossible.

Floridians evacuating before Hurricane Ian probably own an ICE and had enough warning to fill up their tank. If the EV zealots get their way, next time will be different. And there will be a next time—there will still be hurricanes, just as there were before ICEs.

President Biden wants you to have an EV. If you are a hard-working but low-income person, who can barely manage to keep your old car running, you cannot afford to buy a \$60,000 EV, even with subsidies and price controls. If somebody gave you a used model, you probably couldn't afford to replace the battery when it reached the end of its lifetime. An average 12-year-old used EV on the market is on its third battery.

But say you do scrape up the money. You will probably have to wait for delivery. As demand grows, waits will be longer, as materials are hard to come by. To make one battery requires digging

up between 200,000 and 1,500,000 pounds (or between 90 and 680 tonnes) of the earth's crust. You need the lithium from processing 25,000 pounds of brine; cobalt from 30,000 pounds of ore; nickel from 5,000 pounds of ore; copper from 25,000 pounds of ore; plus graphite, aluminum, and steel. Just getting to the ore requires moving vast amounts of earth.

The bottom line is that if you are not allowed to have an ICE, you are not going to have a private vehicle, or one that can go very far. If there's a wildfire, blizzard, hurricane, or other emergency, you will just have to "shelter in place"—and the place might be under 12 feet of water.

Jane M. Orient, M.D. obtained her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She is the editor of AAPS News, the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness Newsletter, and Civil Defense Perspectives, and is the managing editor of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons.

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# New \$12 to \$15 million care center for elderly planned in Crosby



Daren Rife, senior services administrator

By ANN SCHWARTZ  
Cuyuna Regional Medical Center and Presbyterian

Homes are planning to build \$12 to \$15 million elderly care center on the Heartwood Campus across the street from Crosby's hospital, where the current Care Center is housed.

Daren Rife, senior services administrator, said that he is working with Presbyterian Homes and CRMC staff to coordinate a new 54-bed facility.

It will connect to the assisted living units on the west side of the Heartwood Complex and overlook the pond. The new space will

be divided into three neighborhood pods. Rooms and bathrooms will be much larger than the present Care Center, with no long hallways nor tight spaces.

The Care Center will have centralized dining, therapy, and community services. It will share some services, such as food preparation, with existing Heartwood buildings. But in most cases, the Care Center will be a self-contained unit.

CRMC applied for and was awarded a moratorium exemption from the state, and,

with that approval, comes state funding in an amount yet to be determined. There is presently a moratorium on the development of new nursing home beds in Minnesota.

Next steps include developing plans and specifications and opening bids for the construction.

"We know that construc-

tion costs continue to be high, although they are down some," said Rife. He said that supply chain issues should be mostly solved, but, in the medical care field, certain, specific items are sometimes held up in supply chain limbo for long periods of time.

Rife will be the administrator of the new facility. It will take about 100 folks to staff

the place, some of whom will be shared with the existing Heartwood buildings.

The Heartwood Campus sits on a 14-acre site and the new project will add buildings on the west plus 27 new parking spaces. The new building will be 43,608 square feet along with a link of 1,197 square feet for a total of 44,805 square feet.



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