



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: September 21, 2018

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Crow Wing County Historical Museum is Open During Restoration Project

The outside of the Crow Wing County Historical Museum is under construction but the museum remains open during its regular hours. The restoration work will update and restore the more than 100-year-old building. The Historical Museum was awarded a \$224,557 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society.

Exterior work will include repairs to the roof, concrete and mortar repairs to the steps and brick as well as fixing the drainage system. Aluminum windows will be replaced with double hung windows to bring back the original look of the building. Original wood windows will be repaired.

Interior work will consist of updating building code compliance and ADA accessibility, renovating 3 bathrooms and an attic walkway. The largest part of work inside will be upgrading the existing HVAC system to improve the conditions of the environment within the building envelope.

“The windows may be boarded up but the museum remains open to everyone. This work will ensure the protection and preservation of the historical artifacts displayed in the building. It will also allow for a solid and comfortable building that will be visited and enjoyed by residents for years to come.” said Rachel Breun, Crow Wing County Facilities Coordinator.

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$419,856. The remaining cost will be matched from a Crow Wing County Capital Improvement Fund which is funded by levy, county program aid, lease payments and tax forfeited settlement dollars.

The Crow Wing County Historical Society Museum and Research Library are housed in the former Crow Wing County Jail and Sheriff’s residence built in 1917. The building, located at 320 Laurel Street in Brainerd, is owned and maintained by Crow Wing County and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Historical Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

A Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage grant was given to Crow Wing County in 2017 for its “Preserving History: Crow Wing County Historical Museum and Research Library” project. The grant for the project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.

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