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A Longtime Aim

The NFAA's Dream To Host A Museum Is Finally About To Be Realized In Yankton

BY DEREK BARTOS

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While the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) is focused on a bright future in Yankton, it is also giving the public an opportunity to take a walk through the sport's past.

The NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Complex is set to open the doors of its new archery museum next week. An official dedication and grand opening will be held during a ceremony Sunday.

"It's a great collection," NFAA President Bruce Cull told the *Press & Dakotan* this week. "If you want to see anything about archery, it's pretty much going to be available to see here. Just seeing some of the old bows is something in itself."

In addition to more than 300 bows, the museum collection includes memorabilia from approximately 70 national outdoor tournaments and 50 indoor tournaments. It also features items from the association's state affiliates, including books, medallions and awards.

Cull said he is unsure which artifact is the oldest, as staff members are still unpacking items. However, he said that there are exhibits that date back to the 1800s.

"It's pretty much everything archery from the beginning and everything NFAA from 1939 to today," he said.

After sifting through a few collections, Cull held up one of the more unusual items in the museum — a bow from several decades ago that had design elements of both recurve and compound bows.

"It didn't catch on," he said. "It really is a crazy-looking thing."

Cull also noted that the archery center houses the Drake 50-pound class flight bow that Harry Drake used to set the professional distance record of 762 yards at the 1977 nationals.

"It's mind-blowing how far an arrow can go," he said.

The idea for the archery center's newest addition began during the 1970s, Cull said, when the NFAA Foundation was created to establish a museum and scholarships.

"It's been our vision to get this museum going for a long time," he said.

However, one of the largest hurdles was the financial battle, Cull said, as museums can be costly to create. The NFAA raised what money it could through fundraising events, he said, but it has relied mostly on donations to accumulate the exhibits.

"We have a lot of people donate items," Cull said. "We had one individual from California who donated his entire collection. He was an archery dealer way back and had a collection of bows that goes back from the beginning to about the 1980s. Now we've got probably one of the best collections of recurve and longbows in the world."

Room was also an issue, the NFAA president said. The association considered creating a separate building for the museum, but ultimately that proved to be unfeasible, he said.

Things changed when the NFAA moved its headquarters to Yankton in 2008.

"When we built our facility here, we dedicated an area for it," Cull said. "It's nice to have everything under one roof."

To prepare for Sunday's opening, staff members have been busy with a variety of duties within the museum, he said. Those have included unpacking materials, sorting



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

A new museum that spotlights the modern history of competitive archery is taking shape at the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) Easton Center in Yankton. NFAA president Bruce Cull (top photo), who was instrumental in bringing the NFAA headquarters to Yankton, said the group has had plans of hosting a museum since the 1970s, but has never really had the room or funding. The museum, which is still being organized will include memorabilia spanning many decades, including some items from the 19th century. It will also include what Cull called "one of the best collections of recurve and longbows in the world (below)."



and arranging items for display.

"We still haven't even gotten through it all — every time I walk in here I see new stuff I haven't seen before," Cull said. "We're just going through it step by step."

One challenge with the process is deciding how to arrange all the items, he said.

"It's our first museum, so it's difficult to know how to display it," Cull said. "But we have a whole staff working on it and I think it shows a pretty good timeline of the organization."

Sunday's dedication will be held at 5 p.m. at the archery center.

The day also includes the award ceremony for the NFAA Outdoor Nationals at 3 p.m., followed by the opening ceremonies for the International Field Archery Association World Field Archery Championships at 4 p.m. The evening will conclude with the NFAA 75th Anniversary Celebration and Archers Appreciation Barbecue at 6:30 p.m.

"Sunday is a big day," Cull said. "It's kind of everything molded into one."

After its grand opening, the museum will be open to the public during regular business hours at the complex. The archery center is open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturdays and noon-7 p.m. on Sundays.

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos. Discuss this story at yankton.net/.

Rising Band Performs In Yankton Tonight



COURTESY PHOTO

Tim Zach & The Whiskey Bent Band will return to Happy Hourz in Yankton for a performance tonight (Friday). The up-and-coming band is making the Yankton stop for the second year in a row while playing other gigs in the Yankton area.

BY KAYLA PRASEK
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An up-and-coming country-rock band will bring its music back to Yankton tonight (Friday).

Tim Zach & The Whiskey Bent Band will play at Happy Hourz starting at 9 p.m.

Zach and his band played at Happy Hourz last summer and enjoyed it so much, they reached out to Neal Anderson, owner of the venue, to book a show again this summer.

"Last year we got a call to play a street dance in Ponca, Nebraska, and some ladies from Yankton, who I've known for years, asked Neal to bring us in," Zach said. "We had so much fun and people were so responsive, we thought we should do it again."

Zach said Happy Hourz is a fun place to play.

"We love the atmosphere there with the outdoor stage," Zach said. "It has a cool vibe, and it's always good to get up to South Dakota."

Anderson said he's excited to have Zach and his band back at Happy Hourz.

"It's not too often a group like this comes to Yankton," Anderson said. "They're bigger now than they were last year, and they just got done recording in Nashville, so we're excited to have them here again."

Zach got his start in country music competing in the Colgate Country Showdown in 2003. After winning the Nebraska state title, he moved onto the regional competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Zach formed the band five years ago and the group has seen steady growth regionally since then, playing shows most every weekend.

Zach and his band released a new record, "That's How We Roll," on July 1, which is already receiving radio play in Nebraska.

The group has played shows with national country artists Collin Raye, Clay Walker, Rodney Atkins, Trent Tomlinson, Justin Moore and Ronnie Milsap, among others.

"We have a passion for good music," Zach said. "We try to put on high-energy shows and bring the party. We don't slow it down."

The Whiskey Bent Band puts on a show with full production every night.

"We have all the lights and smoke machines," Zach said. "We like to have the concert atmosphere, where people get right up to the stage and dance along."

Follow Kayla Prasek on Twitter at twitter.com/kprasek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.