

LEGO exhibit features art of Tom Hiebert

BY WENDY NUGENT
HUTCHINSON TRIBUNE

GOESSEL—Tom Hiebert of Goessel used to put mowers together before retiring from Excel Industries in Hesston a few years ago.

Now, he puts larger machinery together, although they're in smaller, LEGO sizes.

Most of the collection of LEGO pieces Hiebert constructed is on display at the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum in Goessel and will be there through the summer.

Some are vehicles, some are scenes and all are LEGOs for adults. They're more complicated and have more details than LEGOs for children.

Hiebert's been collecting LEGOs since 2000, when he started building kits.

"I build them off and on," he said.

Hiebert and Museum Director Fern Bartel know each other since Hiebert is on the museum mowing crew. Hiebert said Bartel called him and asked to meet at the museum. She asked Hiebert to display his LEGO collection, since he had shown her pieces he had built.

When Hiebert grew up, there were no LEGOs, the 68-year-old said. At the time, there were white plastic bricks.

"I could build little houses," he said, adding he also had Tinker Toys and Lincoln Logs, which were what he built with.

His LEGO interest was piqued decades later.

"Believe it or not, it was back in 2000," he said. "I bought a 100-piece set from Dillons."

It was a three-in-one set, where the builder had to tear down one vehicle to create the next one.

"I said, 'I like this,'" Hiebert said.

So, off to Walmart he went and purchased a 200- to 300-piece LEGO vehicle kit. He put that together.

"I liked that so much I went for a bigger set," he said.

That one was 750 pieces, and it took him a month to build because he still was working, and



PHOTOS BY WENDY NUGENT/
HUTCHINSON TRIBUNE

Above: Tom Hiebert of Goessel enjoys looking over some of his LEGOs he built.

Left: This is a LEGO hospital Tom Hiebert put together.

it was his first one that size. That one was a fire station.

"My collection just kept getting bigger and bigger," he said, adding he still has a stack of 30 more kits in his basement to complete.

He's glad he bought them a while back.

"Now they're terrible expensive," he said.

He's built 16 sets so far, he said, and those include a train, Ferris wheel, hospital, police station, donut shop and a Shelby Cobra. The largest is the train on the tracks, which runs, but the entire track isn't set up at the museum. With that, the train was 984 pieces, which took a month to build, and then the cargo train was 888 pieces, which also took a month to put together, so it was two months to build the entire train.

Hiebert has no idea how many LEGO pieces he has, and his items usually are on display at his home.

Bartel calls the display a

LEGO Art Show. She said she's had other displays just for the summers in the past. She thinks LEGOs will be a good draw for children and adults alike.

Hiebert enjoys his hobby.

"It keeps me doing something," he said. "Keeps my mind going."

He had with him a notebook containing information about which kits he completed, how long they took to make and how many pieces are in them. For instance, the Shelby Cobra has 1,241 pieces, and it took Hiebert a month to create. A Ford Bronco also took a month to build and has 943 pieces. The hospital, which is complete with an MRI and a patient to slide in there, took him three weeks to build, and it has 816 pieces. Hiebert counts the pieces himself.

"When I build these, I take my time," Hiebert said.

Andale/Garden Plain baseball goes 1-1

BY DYLAN SHERWOOD
AD ASTRA RADIO

AUGUSTA—The Andale/Garden Plain baseball team opened its season on Thursday in the Air Capital Classic, facing Augusta and Cheney.

Andale/Garden Plain dropped the season opener to Augusta, 10-5, and then bounced back with a 12-7 victory over Cheney.

Against Augusta, the Orioles jumped out to a 6-0 lead through two innings, thanks to a pair of 3-run innings. Austin Bugner got Andale/Garden Plain on the board in the third with an RBI single. The

Orioles responded with three in the third and one in the fourth. Andale/Garden Plain scored two each in the sixth and seventh innings.

In the sixth, Greyson Winter had an RBI single and Jared Flax had a sacrifice fly. In the seventh, Winter had a sacrifice fly and Easton Rieger had an RBI double. Patrick Keehn took the loss on mound, going 1.2 innings, allowing six runs on three hits and three strikeouts. Bugner went 2-for-3 at the plate.

Against Cheney, the Cardinals jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first before Andale/Garden Plain tied the game in the first with a 2-run

double by Flax.

Andale/Garden Plain scored nine runs in the third and never looked back, highlighted by RBI singles by Weston Stanhope, Nolan Pfannenstiel and Easton Linnens. Stanhope added a sacrifice fly in the fourth.

Cheney added three in the fifth and two in the seventh, but not any closer. Flax earned the win on the mound, allowing two runs on four hits and four strikeouts in three innings. Pfannenstiel, Cruz Kaiser and Stanhope each had two hits.

Andale/Garden Plain (1-1) opened its home schedule on Tuesday in Andale against Winfield.

Andale working to remove city paper

BY SARAH BEAUCHAMP
HUTCHINSON TRIBUNE

ANDALE—The Andale City Council is moving forward with plans to make the city website the official city newspaper.

After briefly considering switching to a different local newspaper, the Times-Sentinel, City Attorney Andrew Marino suggested making the city website the city's newspaper as a way to save money.

This would mean the city would put legal notices up on their website instead of putting them in the paper for distribution.

City Clerk Patty Hein said it would be easier for her but said there might still be some things needed to be sent out.

Chad Smith said he was alright with this decision, because he doesn't read the newspaper.

"It would give us more money for police," Smith said.

He was referring to an earlier request by Police Chief Scott Harris to add an officer, which the council planned to look into more in the future. Based on estimations by Harris and City Administrator Ben Johnson, the requests would require raising the mill levy from about 44 mills to 52 mills.

Marino said he could have a resolution for the council at the next meeting.

The council considered writing a letter opposing data centers but decided to hold off doing so.

In other news, Council Member Hollie Martin said she was working to come up with a historical record of actions taken over the Heiger Addition, which the council considered annexing into Andale last year until receiving significant pushback and abandoning that plan.

Martin said she wanted it all together in one place for future council members to use. She also brought up concerns that the plan to annex had simply been dropped rather than the council passing a resolution that they wouldn't annex the addition. She asked the other council members to consider passing a resolution of non annexation.

Mayor Charlie Martin said that wouldn't be possible, because the council couldn't bind future councils from making decisions.

Martin said she also wanted the document as a resource for future councils to have, because she said she'd had a difficult time finding actions by past councils around the addition.

Leonard Rau said he was concerned about adding this as an official document, because he didn't want to editorialize past meeting minutes.

"I hate to reinvent past minutes," Rau said. "I'm worried about a specific interpretation of the minutes."

The council asked her to present her document once it was complete so that it could be added on to the minutes of that meeting.

The council also approved matching up to \$12,500 with the Andale Community Foundation for the city's 125th anniversary celebration.

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