

See local Lego building skills at Feb. 26 challenge

By Jennifer Colton
Go! Magazine

HERMISTON — Lego builders will demonstrate their skills at two challenges this month thanks to the JB Brick Company and Hermiston Public Library.

"We've wanted to do something like for a long time," organizer Julie Lara said. "We haven't had an outlet like this locally, especially with Lego, for people to have fun and show off."

Lara is the owner of JB Brick Company, a Hermiston Lego store that is partnering with the Hermiston Public Library to offer the first Lego Build Challenge on Feb. 26, noon-3 p.m. The event has two separate competitions: Speed Build and Build at Home.

Registration is full for both contests, but spectators are welcome to see the contests.



www.facebook.com/jbbrickco

"We are excited," Lara said. "We will see how it goes, but we will maybe need a bigger venue next year!"

In the Speed Build, each pre-

LEGO BUILD CHALLENGE

Saturday, Feb. 26
Hermiston Public Library
235 E. Gladys Ave.

Schedule

Noon: doors open to the public

1-2 p.m.: Speed Build competition

2:30-3 p.m.: awards ceremony

registered participant will have 100 random Lego bricks and 45 minutes to create a build at the library, 235 E. Gladys Ave. Lara said the format makes the competition accessible.

"It gives kids who may not have a lot of extra bricks to build something — or may not have any at all — a chance to compete. We supply the bricks, and they bring their creativity," she said.

Fitting with the library location, the theme of the Build at Home challenge is "a scene from my favorite book." Participants will build their scene at home and bring it in to the library the day of the competition along with a notecard listing the title of the book and a description of the scene. Builds must be an original work and must be smaller than 12 inches by 12 inches — and not taller than 24 inches.

Build at Home will have three age categories: young builders ages 9 and younger; intermediate for ages 10-17; and adult.

In both competitions, the builds will be judged by a panel of Lego enthusiasts, and prizes will be awarded by age category.

Hermiston Librarian Mark Rose said working with Lego bricks gives people a chance to explore their creativity.

"It's amazing what you can do with Lego," Rose said. "Whatever your imagination can do, Lego can help you do it."

For those competing, Lara encourages builders to focus on creativity and using unique parts.

"Try to think as far out of the box as possible," she said. "I always think it's really cool how kids will take something that I think of as a mailbox, and they'll say, 'It's a safe,' and they'll think of a new way to use it in a really cool way."

At the Feb. 26 Lego Build Challenge, there will be Lego vendors on site, and the event is open to the public.

For more information, visit www.jbbrickcompany.com, visit JB Brick Company, 295 E. Main St. in Hermiston, or call 209-756-9898.

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