

LEGO

From A1

After enjoying the display, visitors can let their own imaginations run wild.

“We wanted to create a space where history isn’t just something you look at, but something you can build yourself,” said Scott Eastman, Durham director of marketing and public relations. “Partnering with LOLUG allows us to showcase incredible local talent while giving our visitors the tools to become creators themselves.”

One of Eastman’s favorites in the exhibit is Union Station.

Flood, a 56-year-old from Lincoln, might not spend a lot of time on planning, but his structures are highly detailed.

Union Station, which he made two years ago, has the same ticket booths, benches, tiled floors and iconic soda fountain of the original. It’s over 6 feet in length, but is built in three pieces so it can be transported.

“I wanted to have a detailed interior. I wanted it to be lit,” Flood said. “It’s such a beautiful building. I wanted to do it right.”

When not on display, it sits in his basement. He finds it hard to part with a structure once it’s done and an understanding wife and family, he said, have watched his collection spill out from its original one room to several more.

He also built Carhenge, Nebraska’s homage to Stonehenge in England, and one of the locomotives in this display. Carhenge took a month and was somewhat

IF YOU GO

Durham Museum hours:

Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$15, seniors and military \$12, children ages 3-12 \$8 and children 2 and under free.

tedious, he said, because of the number of similar cars involved. It won’t be saved, he said.

His favorite in the exhibition is the state of Nebraska map done by Scott Pachunka.

“It displays love for our state and all the iconic areas of what we offer, and it’s all built out of Lego,” Flood said.

Flood and Pachunka are part of the 70 or so active members of LOLUG, which each year puts on Brick Days in Lincoln and Council Bluffs.

This spring’s show, April 25 and 26 at the Mid-America Center, will include 200 builders and hundreds of custom creations.

Members of LOLUG are working on adding a massive zoo to their train layout, which was on display at the Durham a few years ago. Each of the people involved is building a habitat, and there will be lions, tigers and bears.

Builders’ imaginations are only limited by the Lego resources available. Flood buys bricks at the Lego Store at Nebraska Crossing or trades with others in LOLUG. If a specific brick or color isn’t available, he’ll table an idea for a few years.

Flood is hoping that the Durham



CHRIS MACHIAN PHOTOS, THE WORLD-HERALD

Kristen Rowley, left, and Haiden Nelson place bricks onto tables so guests can build their own creations.



A map of Nebraska made out of Lego bricks. It displays a love of the state, said Nate Flood, co-founder of the Lincoln Omaha Lego User Group.

exhibit inspires future builders. It’s a hobby he’s done most of his life, he said, with the exception of a break for sports, cars and girls. He got back into it in 2002 and co-

founded LOLUG in 2012.

He’s met some of his best friends in the group and says it’s a lot of fun.

“It’s just an escape from the

stresses of life,” he said. “You can kind of get lost building.”

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Nuclear

From A1

Russian and U.S. negotiators discussed future nuclear arms control in the United Arab Emirates, where Russian, Ukrainian and U.S. delegations held two days of talks on a peace settlement in Ukraine, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday.

“There is an understanding, and they talked about it in Abu Dhabi, that both parties will take responsible positions and both parties realize the need to start talks on the issue as soon as possible,” he said.

Asked to comment on a report by Axios claiming Russian and U.S. negotiators discussed a possible informal deal to observe the pact’s limits for at least six months, Peskov responded that any such extension could only be formal.

“It’s hard to imagine any informal extension in this sphere,” he said.

Meanwhile in Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the performance of the air force in parts of the country as “unsatisfactory” on Friday and said steps are being taken to improve the response to large-scale Russian drone barrages of civilian areas.

The repeated Russian aerial assaults in recent months focused on Ukraine’s power grid, causing blackouts and disrupting the heating and water supply for families during a bitterly cold winter.

With the war about to enter its fifth year this month after Russia’s all-out invasion of its neighbor, there is no sign of a breakthrough in U.S.-led peace efforts following the latest talks this week. Further U.S.-brokered meetings between Russian and Ukrainian delegations

are planned “in the near future, likely in the United States,” Zelenskyy said.

Russia fired 328 drones and seven missiles at Ukraine overnight and in the early morning, the air force said, claiming air defenses shot down 297 drones.

One person was killed and two others were injured in an overnight Russian attack using drones and powerful glide bombs on the central Dnipropetrovsk region, according to the head of the regional military administration, Oleksandr Hanzha.

A Russian aerial attack on the southern Zaporizhzhia region during early daylight hours injured eight people and damaged 18 apartment blocks, according to regional military administration head Ivan Fedorov.

A dog shelter in the regional capital was also struck, killing 13 dogs, Zaporizhzhia City Council Secretary Rehina Kharchenko said.

Some dogs were rushed to a veterinary clinic, but they could not be saved, she said. Seven other animals were injured and were receiving treatment.

Weapons limits

Trump indicated he would like to keep limits on nuclear weapons but wants to involve China in a potential new treaty.

In his first term, Trump tried and failed to push for a three-way nuclear pact involving China. Beijing has balked at any restrictions on its smaller but growing nuclear arsenal, while urging the U.S. to resume nuclear talks with Russia.

Rubio said the U.S. was “pursuing all avenues” to fulfill Trump’s “desire for a world with fewer of these awful weapons” but insisted Washington would not stand still while Russia and China expand their nuclear forces.

New START, signed in 2010 by

then-President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, was the last of a long series of agreements between Moscow and Washington to limit their nuclear arsenals, starting with SALT I in 1972.

New START restricted each side to no more than 1,550 nuclear warheads on no more than 700 missiles and bombers deployed and ready for use. It was originally set to expire in 2021 but was extended for five years.

Even as New START expired, the U.S. and Russia agreed Thursday to reestablish high-level, military-to-military dialogue following a meeting between senior officials from both sides in Abu Dhabi, the U.S. military command in Europe said. The link was suspended in 2021 as relations grew increasingly strained before Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

DACA

From A1

The ACLU said Angel-Becerril is one of thousands of immigrants nationwide affected by the Trump administration’s immigration policy, claiming nearly all detained immigrants must remain in custody.

A federal judge ruled in a class-action lawsuit that the mandatory detention practice was unlawful, but the country’s top immigration court official has instructed immigration judges to disregard those federal court orders, Friedman said.

The lawsuit requests Angel-Becerril’s immediate release or a bond hearing within seven days, arguing ICE is violating federal immigration law and court orders, the ACLU said. The petition was not yet available for review on the federal court database.

“ICE cannot opt out of follow-



NIKOS FRAZIER, THE WORLD-HERALD
Angel Angel-Becerril, 22, talks about his brother Joel Angel-Becerril in Omaha on Friday.

ing federal law and court orders,” Friedman said. “Our client is as

much a Nebraskan and American as any of us, and he has both protection from being deported and work authorization. He also has a right to a bond hearing under federal immigration law.”

Friday morning, a federal judge ordered the federal government to explain the basis for Angel-Becerril’s detention, which is standard procedure in a case like this, Friedman said.

Friedman said Angel-Becerril has no prior interaction with immigration enforcement and has never been convicted of a crime.

According to Nebraska court records, he was charged with felony assault by strangulation or suffocation in July. The case was bound over to District Court, but the District Court record is sealed.

Friedman said the case was dismissed, and the charge was dropped. When Angel-Becerril was released from criminal custody, ICE immediately detained him, Friedman said.

Angel-Becerril came to the U.S.

from Mexico as a young child and has lived nearly his entire life in Omaha, graduating from Burke High School before he started working two jobs.

“I hold on to hope of being released from detention and being reunited with my family,” he said. “Nebraska is my home.”

Angel-Becerril’s brother, Angel Angel-Becerril, a 22-year-old U.S. citizen, said his brother’s absence has caused emotional and financial harm to their family, which relies on Joel Angel-Becerril’s income.

Angel Angel-Becerril’s job stocking merchandise helped, but he broke his leg four days after his brother was detained, adding to the family’s financial woes, he said.

Joel Angel-Becerril is the oldest of five siblings, including a toddler.

“It impacted me a lot mentally, because ever since he was detained, the house feels more empty, and me and my little

brothers don’t have anyone else to look up to,” Angel Angel-Becerril said.

In 2023, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reported an estimated 2,620 DACA recipients living in Nebraska, with 1,340 living in Omaha and Council Bluffs.

Friedman said he doesn’t think this case indicates a new risk to Nebraska DACA recipients but rather speaks to the alarming trend of ICE ignoring people’s immigration history, status and documentation.

“I thought he would be safe,” Angel Angel-Becerril said of his older brother. “I thought DACA was supposed to protect him from being detained by ICE. It’s what I thought personally, but I believe I was wrong.”

This marks the ACLU of Nebraska’s third immigration-related lawsuit in two weeks. The organization previously filed two lawsuits on behalf of men held in the immigrant detention center in McCook.

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