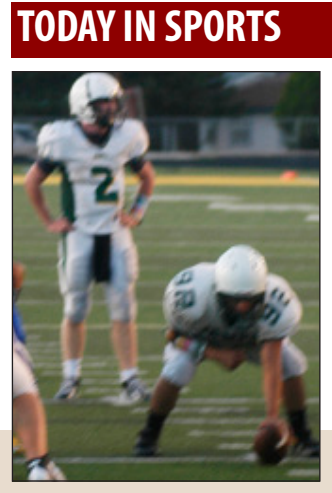


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Harvesters ready for season
 Ryan Smith and team host the Childress Bobcats | **pB1**

Gayden Hays: Harvesters start strong in scrimmage

A "BLUE ZONE"
 COLUMN BY
GAYDEN HAYS
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Friday Night, the Harvesters opened their 2012 football season with an organized scrimmage against the Childress Bobcats. It started with both teams running 10 plays on offence then switching

Attack the day
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to 10 plays on defense. Coach Heath Parker ran offensive and defensive plays with both his first and second strings squads. Both teams then played a mock game consisting of 12-minute halves. Senior quarterback Ryan Smith led the Harvesters to a lone touchdown.

On the opening drive, the defense was also heard with points of their own, forcing a fumble that rolled out of the Bobcat endzone. Afterward, Parker said his team "was playing good run defense," and trying to "establish a line of scrimmage." Senior quarterback Smith also noted that the offensive line was really doing a good job.

HARVESTERS cont. on page B1



PRESSING AHEAD



A Harvester varsity running back gains good yardage Friday evening during a scoring drive in the scrimmage against the Childress Bobcats at Harvester Stadium. The season opens against Iowa Park at 7:30 p.m. this next Friday at Harvester Stadium.

Wanted: Pampa host families for some great kids

GAYDEN HAYS
ghays@thepampanews.com

PAMPA — There are ten exchange students out there right now who really need host families. Hosting an exchange student can be both an affordable and enriching proposition. Many of these children arrive with their own money and health insurance, minimizing any expenses a host family would face, officials say. Students stay with the host families for between five and ten months and they attend the local high school.

Robin Abshire, a resident of Pampa, is the area manager for the International Student Exchange non-profit organization. She said she began her interest in the student exchange program early — having two such students in her school when she was younger. A friend who works for the ISE and got her involved in the process.

ISE, which has been operating in every state since its inception in 1982, places 3,000 students a year on average, a total of 90,000 since the organization was founded, said Regional director Ashley Lemoine.

The program caters to students between 15 and 18 years old. They hail from a total of 55 different countries. By definition, "host families" are volunteers whose help allows these students to go to school in the United States and learn American principles.

But it's not just a one-way street when it comes to what can be learned from this experience. The host families come away with a wealth of information about the visiting culture as well.

But we're talking about culture, not politics. Students, for instance, cook at one time or another for the host family, allowing them to sample the cuisine of other countries.

Abshire said families get great fulfillment helping these wonderful children. And again, expenses occurred by the host family is very small — just a place to sleep and study.

And everyone from every walk of life is welcome to participate. As far as host families are concerned, Lemoine said, "There is no discrimination as far as marital status or race."

To inquire about becoming a host family contact Robin Abshire at 337-296-7052 or by e-mail, robin.isedelta@gmail.com.

Local recycling is a breath of fresh air

MOLLIE BRYANT
mbryant@thepampanews.com

With Pampa's recycling center in full swing, area offices and businesses are setting up recycling programs. The city does not offer recycling pick-up, but the 31st District Attorney's office, Lovett Memorial Library and El Ranchito restaurant have taken the initiative to bring their paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminum to the recycling center, which is located at the entrance to Pampa's landfill.

"It's something that feels good to do, and it's not that inconvenient for me," said library director Misty Guy, who takes the library's plastic and aluminum to the recycling center herself. The library is also a drop-off spot during Keep Pampa Beautiful's phone recycling campaign.

"We told staff that if they rinsed out their cans and took the tabs off, we could recycle them," she said. "We send the tabs to the Ronald McDonald House to fund cancer research."

At El Ranchito, employees fill a trailer with cardboard to take to the recycling center.

"We had too much cardboard, and it felt bad to throw it away," said Beatriz Soto, owner of El Ranchito. "It feels better to recycle."

"We don't always do a lot for the environment, but it helps a little to recycle," she added.

31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer got the idea to start recycling in her office after hearing a program on the recycling center at Kiwanis Club.

"We shred so much paper, and I thought it went to the recycling center, but it doesn't," she said. "You have to take it yourself."

Now the office has a green bin for recyclables, which an intern takes to the center.

For Switzer, the recycling is rewarding.

"It feels like you're doing a good thing, and I think it's important to become more aware of the environment and recycle, because in the long run, it's what we have to do," she said. "While it might be a slight inconvenience, it's worth it."

So, who's THIS guy?

This is **NIGHT OWL**

NIGHT OWL IS the hero of a comic book created five years ago by a 17-year-old Pampa High School senior. The "NIGHT OWL" comic strip will be an occasional feature in the Pampa News starting next week. Watch the skies!

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