

Blackhawk leads program to recycle foam

By Tom Davidson
tdavidson@chippewatwp.com

CHIPPEWA TWP. — Got foam? Looking to get rid of it?

Enter the Foaminator. He's the mascot of a recycling program that started at Blackhawk Intermediate School in November, which county recycling officials hope to expand to other schools soon.

The program gives people a place to recycle the polystyrene foam used to package electronic equipment and other items. The foam is bulky and takes up valuable space in landfills.

Holly Nicely, director of the Beaver County Department of Waste Management, said the program was started in partnership with Nova Chemicals and the Pennsylvania Resources Council.

"We hope it makes people think there's something more (they) can do with this foam," Nicely said. The program doesn't accept foam

plates or packing peanuts, but it gives people a place to recycle the odd-shaped packing foam that protects televisions, computers and other electronic equipment.

It's stuff that builds up at a school, which is why Blackhawk was picked to pilot the program, Nicely said.

Once "densified," the material can be reused to make bicycle helmets, glue, and baseboard and trim for home construction, she said.

The school has collected more than 225 pounds of the virtually weightless stuff since November.

Nova Chemicals, based in Potter Township, supplies the bins and painted the Foaminator character on them.

"It's really a partnered effort," said Brian Fedor of Nova. "It's been an outstanding success.

They (Blackhawk) should really be applauded for their effort."

"I think it's important; a lot of people don't know



TOM DAVIDSON/THE TIMES

More than 225 pounds of recyclable foam has been collected since November in these bins at Blackhawk Intermediate School. Nova Chemicals, in Potter Township, supplied the bins, and painted the Foaminator character on them.

that foam is recyclable," Fedor said. It's also given the school a chance to incorporate the program into its lesson plans, he

said. Plans are to add bins outside the other buildings in the district and then expand the program

to other parts of the county, Nicely said. "Schools do have a lot of recyclable waste," she said.

probably didn't know the impact on the town they made with their successful season. It galvanized the community, bringing together all neighborhood areas of the town, and ethnic, racial and religious groups. They followed the team to section games in New Castle, Butler, Sharon, Farrell, Beaver Falls and Ambridge. They followed the team through the playoffs and the WPIAL championship win over Homestead at the old Pitt Pavilion in the basement of Pitt Stadium. And they followed the team to the PIAA playoffs, where Alquippa soundly beating York in the state championship game in Philadelphia's Convention Hall.

Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. was as enthused as the fans and arranged and changed schedules to give many employees the opportunity to see that title game. The Times reported that there were about 2,000 local residents who made the trip to Philadelphia. The band and fans went on a 15-coach special train, while others went in a chartered plane, chartered buses, trucks and private

GINO, PAGE C3