

Local

Local handicapped youths to benefit

Elephant Bowl to be 2 p.m. Sunday

By DENISE RICHTER
Battalion Reporter
The Army and Navy will battle the Air Force and Aggie Band at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kyle Field, but the winner of the battle already has been chosen.

The battle is the 10th annual Elephant Bowl, a charity football game based on inter-service rivalry within the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University.

The winners will be the children who attend Camp Fun and Frolic, a day-camp sponsored by the Bryan-College Station Jaycees for handicapped children. The Elephant Bowl is co-sponsored this year by the Jaycees and by Wings and Sabers, a service organization for contract-scholarship cadets.

Even though this year's game is only the 10th official Elephant Bowl, the game has been played by senior Corps members for a lot

longer than that. "A football game between Corps seniors has been played off and on since the 1950s," said David Lewis, president of Wings and Sabers, "but it was never a consistent event until 1971. Then Wings and Sabers started sponsoring it, named it 'Elephant Bowl,' and it has been around ever since."

Players have to pay insurance and try out just like they would for any football team, Lewis said.

The 35-man teams practice 1½ hours a day during the week and twice daily on the weekends. With all of these practice sessions, why do seniors want to play in the Elephant Bowl?

"Most of these guys were football players in high school and didn't have the time, talent, desire or size needed to play college ball," Lewis said. "This is their last chance to play regulation football

the way they used to. With practice every day, they're making some sacrifices. They're giving a lot but it's their final fling before they lay it down for good."

Senior cadets may be the only people who actually play in the Elephant Bowl, but others participate as well.

Senior football players serve as head coaches for the teams. James Zachry will coach this year's Army-Navy team, and the Air Force-Band team will be coached by Arlis James.

The Fish Drill Team will perform at half time and the Diamond Darlings will work at the gates and serve as water girls.

Freshmen cadets will serve as Officers of the Day and as yell leaders for the Elephant Bowl.

During the regular football season, Officers of the Day stand on the sidelines and act as a security force to keep any Texas A&M fan

from bothering the opponent's equipment.

But for the Elephant Bowl the officers stand on the sidelines for ceremonial purposes only and are chosen by lottery, Lewis said.

Freshmen who want to be yell leaders for the Elephant Bowl have tryouts judged by the junior yell leaders, he said.

Although the Elephant Bowl has always been played for charity, Lewis said this is the first year that the charity has been a local one.

"In the past, Elephant Bowl was strictly a Corps event," he said. "Now we're trying to get the community involved, make it a public event. That's why we're supporting Camp Fun and Frolic — it's a local charity that people around here can relate to."

Camp Fun and Frolic is held at the Allen Academy in Bryan during the last week of June. Any handicapped child from the area

can attend, Jaycees President Joe Holliman said. Last year, approximately 90 children from the area attended the camp.

Tickets are \$1 and can be purchased at the Memorial Student Center or from any Corps member.

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Students keep 'Charlie' going

By BARBIE SMITH

A three-foot tall chocolate ice cream cone is painted on the store window beneath a faded maroon wooden sign that reads, "CHARLIE'S GROCERIES."

Through the window, a heavy, gray-haired man in suspenders usually works the cash register, or behind an ice cream bar, packing cones with mounds of ice cream that hang over the edges.

He is J.F. Robbins, 56, who has been the owner of the small 70-

year-old grocery store for 17 years. The store is sandwiched into the Northgate area across from Texas A&M University.

He is also known as "Charlie" by the many students who have become regular customers of the store.

The students are "what keeps us young," said Robbins in an interview with his wife, Mildred, 55, stood nearby. "Now there's an example of a young lady who has been coming here for four years," Robbins said, pointing out a customer.

"We've become a 'Mom & Pop' figure to the kids," Robbins said. "We listen to them and try to help them out whenever they get a little down-in-the-dumps."

Robbins said it is not unusual for a former student of 12 years ago to walk into the store with a wife and two or three kids. "Course I get a kick out of their receding hairlines and everything," he added.

Although Robbins did not

attend Texas A&M, he said he considers himself an Aggie and is a loyal football fan. "Who else is there?" he said with a smile.

When Robbins isn't watching football games or working in the store, he said he does woodwork or farms his 39-acres in the Tabor community.

"We only have four or five cows out there. And—oh yeah—three dogs. We can't forget the pups, can we?" he said.

Robbins was raised on a farm in Grayson County and moved to Sherman at 14. He met his wife in high school, they dated for a year, and then they married six months before Robbins was drafted to serve in World War II. He was 17, she was 16.

After the war, Robbins was a salesman for 14 years and then got his grocery business.

"I really enjoy the grocery business. It's just something you get in your blood," Robbins said.

He was transferred to College

Station in 1960, and in 1964 he purchased Charlie's Groceries from Mary Opersteyn, the widow of Charlie Opersteyn, the original Charlie.

"Mrs. Opersteyn is an angel," Robbins said. "If you ever see a lady walking around with wings on, it'll be her."

Robbins said that he and his wife are happy with the purchase of the store. "We love it right where we're at," he said. "Everything's just real, real nice."

Low stamp supply hits B-CS area

Three-cent stamps have been in short supply in College Station and Bryan post offices as a result of the postage increase this week, and postal officials aren't sure if the remaining supply will last until the next shipment.

"We ran completely out of everything Tuesday," said James Nix, window technician at the main Bryan Post Office.

Nix said the post office then received a shipment of 10,000 one-cent stamps and 50,000 three-cent stamps on the same day but will be out of one-cent stamps again soon.

"Of our stock of 130,000 three-cent stamps, a few were sold last week and we have sold at least 100,000 in the past three days," he said. "We only have about 5,000 in stock now."

"There is no way to anticipate the run on these things. All I can do is recommend that people buy the purple 'B' stamps and hold onto those 15-cent stamps until more three-cent stamps are available."

"Hopefully most have bought the amount they want," he said.

Nix said he doesn't expect the next bulk order from Washington, D.C., for another week.

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