

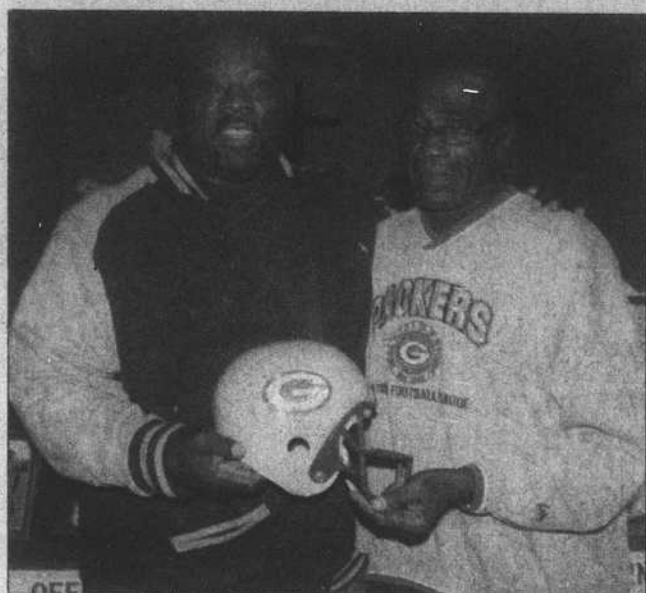
Brown: Too many teens angry about absent dad

Former NFL lineman speaks at church

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Former NFL defensive lineman Robert Brown's roots in Chowan County run deep. So when his cousin, Willie Mae Stallings, asked him to speak at her church on Saturday morning, he quickly agreed.

Brown, who spent 11 seasons as a defensive end for the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League, spoke at Ryan's Grove Missionary Baptist Church about the importance of motivation and



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Former NFL lineman Robert Brown, left, was the guest speaker at a program on motivation and character Saturday morning at Ryan's Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Here, Brown, an Edenton native who played 11 seasons as a defensive end with the Green Bay Packers, signed a team helmet for fan Wallace Elliott.

young people in the audience, his life lessons apply to everyone.

Brown recalled growing up near Wildcat Road, where the church is located. He said he grew up in a family-oriented environ-

ment with a love for sports. He played for the Edenton Aces from 1974-78 earning All-Conference and All-All-American recognition as a tight end.

"At the end of my senior year in high school, I had to make a decision about where I wanted to go in my life," Brown said.

Brown was offered a football scholarship by Chowan College (now Chowan University) in Murfreesboro. Brown said he knew his parents could not afford to send him to college, and figured going to a small junior college would give him more of an opportunity to work on his academic studies as well.

"I was the first person in my immediate family to graduate from college," Brown said. "If you get a chance to further your education, definitely take advantage of it."

Brown spent two years at Chowan, again excelling in football. Brown was inducted into the Chowan University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996.

Brown transferred to Virginia Tech in 1980 on a full athletic scholarship. While there he earned numerous honors and played in the Hula Bowl in 1982. In 1998, Brown was inducted into the Virginia Tech

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Trick OR Treat



(Bottom photo) Lynn Holmes, with candy bowl, and Katie Ferebee, right, hand out candy from their perch at a Halloween Slumber Party on Monday night. Destination Downtown Edenton sponsored Trick or Treat Night. (Top photo) Showing off their Halloween finery are Naja'h Gaskins, 8 (l-r); Tatyana Armstead, 7; Jamyah Phelps, 4; Jayla Phelps, 4, as they trick or treat in downtown.

STAFF PHOTOS BY REBECCA BUNCH

PERSON OF THE MONTH

Girl writes to aid animals

Emma Brentjens, 12, volunteers at Shelter

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

For 12 year-old Emma Brentjens, giving back to the community isn't something she thinks about a great deal. It's just something that she does.

Over the past few years, her efforts have focused on improving the lives of animals at the Tri-County Animal Shelter where she adopted her cat, Lucy.

Emma started three years ago with a simple idea. She was playing around on her computer and began writing about the adventures of her cat. Those tales about Lucy morphed into an entire newsletter named Lucy Life.

Soon Emma decided that the funny stories she shared in the newsletter about her cat's antics — like how the mean cats in the neighborhood were no longer a problem in her family's yard once Lucy showed them who was boss — might be appreciated by a broader audience.

So she took some copies of the newsletter — along with a collection jar for donations to benefit the animal shelter — to local businesses to see if she might put up a little display. All of them — the Soda Shoppe, Urban Village, the



Emma Brentjens

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Edenton Farmers Market to run through Nov. 19

Attendance has been down

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

On a typical Saturday morning about 100 people seek fresh vegetables and baked goods at the Edenton Farmers Market.

But in recent weeks attendance has been down, organizers say. They are concerned that because fall has arrived people may

think they have closed for the season. But that's not the case.

"We want everyone to know that we are still here," said Dr. Vero Brentjens, who coordinates the market, now in its second year.

Brentjens said the market would remain open through Nov. 19, the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Brentjens said that the difficult economy might have left people with less money to spend. And the uncooperative weather

during the growing season has been a challenge for those who sell there.

"But we do still have many wonderful things people can find here," Brentjens said. She added that new vendors continue to set up at the market.

For instance, Gaspare Misseri began bringing his baked goods to the market for the first time this spring. He said that he has been pleased with the response.

"It's been wonderful,"

said Misseri, who also owns and operates Luigi's Gourmet Pizza in Edenton. "It's meant more work but it's been more fun than it has work because of all the great people I've met there."

Misseri said his baked goods have developed a following among those who make shopping at the farmers market part of their Saturday morning routine.

"I have a customer base now that loves the cinnamon rolls," Misseri said.

"That's probably my best seller."

Misseri said that other popular items he provides are cheese bread, French and Italian breads, and a sesame bread that he said is good for making sandwiches.

"I try to change up, and not have the same thing every Saturday," Misseri said. "That keeps it kind of interesting for the people who come."

Among the regulars who frequent the market is

Frances Inglis of Edenton.

"It's a fun thing to do on Saturday morning," said Inglis. "And the vegetables they have are delicious. I think it's just a wonderful community enterprise. And I hope more people will come and check it out."

The Edenton Farmers Market is located at the corner of North Oakum and Dicks streets adjacent to the old D.F. Walker School. Hours are 8 a.m. until noon.

Edenton-Chowan Kiwanis Club launches book drive

Object is to get books in hands of kids

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Edenton-Chowan Kiwanis Club is launching a children's book drive.

The project's goal, according to Steve Lane, Kiwanis president, is to put

books into the hands of as many local children as possible. He said the books will be ones that young people can take home and keep as their own.

The project will be carried out in conjunction with the Book Buddies program at D.F. Walker School and the local Boys & Girls Club.

"We will collect chil-

dren's books so that kids in these programs can take a book home that has a sticker in it that will read, 'this book belongs to, followed by the child's name,'" Lane said. "That will make it even more special, give them a sense that the book really is theirs to keep."

Stephenie McLean, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club in Edenton,

said she was pleased to hear from Lane that the project was underway.

"The Boys & Girls Club is very pleased with this project because it puts a book directly in the hands of a child, which puts him or her that much closer to a great future," McLean said.

McLean added that education is a major focus of

activities that take place at the club. This effort will complement the work already being done, she said.

"Also, reading is a key indicator for success," McLean said. "According to a national poll, 90 percent of youth who participate in the Boys & Girls Club graduate from high school. This program will be one more way to recog-

nize kids for their academic achievements."

Another partner in the project will be Terri Fox, who operates the Garden of Readin' — a bookstore located inside the Edenton Coffee House. The store offers gently used, donated books for adults and children for sale. In return,

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