

"It was excitement. His little mouth was wide open. We were told he would cry. We were told he might scream."

— Suzanne Bass, mother of Shane, who reacts here as his cochlear implants are turned on

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CHOWAN HERALD

482-4418

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

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Finding good cops is hard

Over past year, five local officers left squad, one hired

By **Connie Sage**
Contributing Writer

Even though the starting salary for an Edenton Police Department patrol officer is about \$30,000, Chief Greg Bonner has not had an easy time filling four current openings.

In the past year, five officers left the department — three were forced to resign and two moved on to other jobs. One patrolman was hired.



Bonner

In January, the town paid \$6,000 for two candidates to begin Basic Law Enforcement Training at the College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City.

But after six weeks at the academy, both candidates left — one was ill and missed required firearms training and the second one was dropped from the program.

The town will not recoup the money, Bonner said.

A COA law enforcement training staff member said students must receive an 80 percent score on 30 out of 35 topic tests during the 16-week academy.

"There are some classes you just can't miss," she said. Had the one candidate for Edenton not missed firearms training, "he would have made it."

To date, 11 students out of the current class of 29 have left the program.

◆ ◆ ◆

Currently there are 11 officers on the Edenton police force, including the chief.

"We don't have a long list" of applicants waiting to join the police department, Bonner said.

But three slots out of the department's full 16-member

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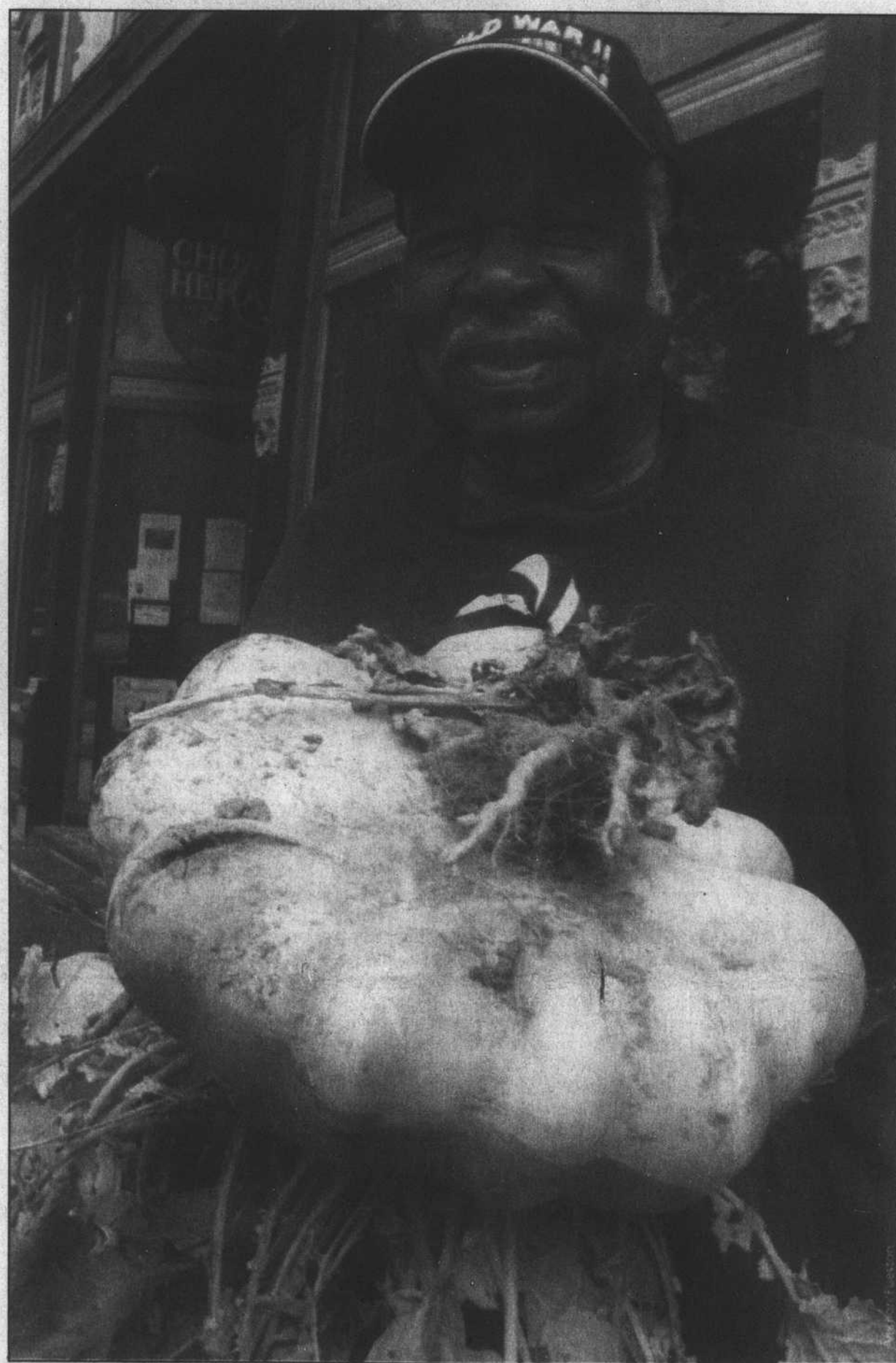
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WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN FEEDING THAT THING?



Fred and Dorothy Hill, longtime residents, of Mexico Road must have a green thumb to grow a turnip one foot in diameter! He had never seen anything like this turnip and didn't know exactly what to do with it, except bring it down to the local paper.

Implants successful in restoring Edenton boy's hearing

By **Vernon Fueston**
Contributing Writer

When little Eleanor Burcham and her mother walked into Edenton Furniture Company, she said she wanted to give something to "the little boy who can't hear."

That was Carole Bass's department.

Shane is her grandson. Since a feature article in the *Chowan Herald* appeared March 12, Carole and her husband, Ronnie, have taken more than a few donations.

This was the one that touched her.

In an envelope were the entire contents of Eleanor's piggy bank, \$36.

Just \$99,964 to go.

Eleanor, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Creighton, was just one of many residents whose response to Shane's predicament has overwhelmed the Bass family.

Shane recently received cochlear implants that are allowing him to hear sound for

the first time in his life, but at a price.

Their insurance company will not pay the \$100,000 price for what they term "hearing aids."

Hearing for the first time

About two weeks ago, in a Virginia Beach doctor's office, a switch was flipped that changed Shane's life forever.

Surgeons had already installed the implants, devices that consist of a receiver in Shane's skull and a wire-to-nerve connection deep in his middle ear.

Microphones attach magnetically to his head where metallic receivers rest under his scalp.

Small computers clipped to his shirt collar, control the signal.

The cutting edge surgery and device bypassed Shane's ears completely, sending electronic signals directly to his brain which can be interpreted as sound.

Shane is profoundly deaf. The lining of his inner ear



Bass with cochlear implants

has either damaged or non-existent sound receptors.

Now it was time to see if the system worked and watch Shane's reaction.

The system was powered up and checked.

Then the volume was slowly increased until Shane's face registered recognition.

"It was excitement. His little mouth was wide open," Suzanne said.

"We were told he would cry. We were told he might scream. But there was none of that."

As they left the office, a jet from the nearby naval air sta-

HOW TO HELP

WHAT: \$6 Pancake breakfast fundraiser
WHEN: May 17, 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.
WHERE: Edenton Baptist

WHAT: Chicken & BBQ fundraiser
WHEN: July 11; lunch & dinner
WHERE: Leon Nixon's Catering

tion passed overhead. "He looked up and there it was," Bryan said.
"He turned to us and made the sign he has learned for 'airplane'."

A noisy world

Shane has needed remarkably little adjustment following his implants, said Suzanne and Bryan Bass, his parents.

He is learning to connect sounds with the objects or people that make them.

He's learned to distinguish five of the six "ling" sounds that are the building blocks of speech, and the first word

County gets \$10.9 million for center

Town manager anticipates tax increase to repay debt for emergency operations facility

By **Rebecca Bunch**
Staff Writer

Town and county officials haven't won the lottery, but they might have felt so after the county received a ceremonial check for \$10.95 million made payable to Chowan County.

The check, presented by U.S. Sen. Richard Burr and USDA Rural Development State Director John Cooper, represents the entire cost of constructing the new Emergency Operations Center here.

Housed in the center will be the Edenton Police Department, the Chowan County Sheriff's Office and

Emergency Management Services as well as the community's 911 Center.

"There is no other facility like this one in all of

North Carolina," said Cooper in making the presentation. "We're going to showcase it all over the state."

Cooper praised outgoing County Manager Cliff Copeland for his vision in seeing the need for such a facility.

"Some people say I have about as much vision as Ray Charles," Copeland replied jokingly. "But thank you."

Burr said, "I'm glad to see a community that understands the value of partnerships. I think good things are going to come out of this."

Also on hand to show his support for the project was Rep. G.K. Butterfield.

Costs are coming

The entire cost of the 35,230-sq. ft., two-story building will be covered by the USDA loan that comes with a 30-year repayment schedule at 4.25 percent interest.

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"I'm glad to see a community that understands the value of partnerships."

— **Richard Burr**



he learned was "mama."

But there has been at least one disappointment.

Shane never paid the family television set much attention, but he is mesmerized by it now.

After the publishing of Shane's story of his condition and his family's struggles in the local newspaper, the story has been a matter of community interest.

Shane is the grandson of Ronnie and Carole Bass and Carlton and Betsy Jackson.

Paying for it all

Contributions have flowed into a charitable fund set up for Shane at the Bank of America.

Many copies of the *Chowan Herald* are mailed to subscribers around the country.

Phone calls have come into the Bass home from as far away as New York and Florida offering prayers, good wishes, and more.

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