THE DAILY CLIPS

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Events mark founding of ECU

The Daily Reflector

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

East Carolina University will celebrate its founding with a series of events Thursday.

The day will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a Community Leaders Breakfast at Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church.

Celebrations will continue at 10 a.m. with the dedication of the Trustees Fountain in front of Wright Auditorium and the presentation of the Jarvis Medal, the university's highest service honor at the Centennial Convocation in Wright Auditorium.

The Jarvis Medal will be presented to Janice Hardison Faulkner, a public servant and former university faculty member and administrator. The medal recognizes extraordinary service to the university or society and is only awarded occasionally by the university’s board of trustees.

Previous recipients of the Jarvis Medal are: Gov. Thomas Jordan Jarvis; Robert Wright, the university's first president; former Chancellor Leo Jenkins; former U.S. Sen. Robert Morgan; and Dr. Andrew Best, a Greenville pediatrician who also served on the university's faculty.

Faulkner, a former North Carolina secretary of revenue, secretary of state and commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, earned her bachelor’s degree at ECU and received an honorary doctorate from the university.

She was the first chairwoman of the university’s Board of Visitors, a member of the Board of the ECU Foundation, and a recipient of the Distinguished Alumna award. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Pitt County Memorial Hospital and a native of Martin County.

ECU also will recognize winners of the 2009 Centennial Awards for Excellence and inductees to the Servire Society, which honors faculty, staff and students who contributed 100 or more hours of volunteer service to the community in the previous year.

At 5:30 p.m., a reception and gallery talk will be held for an art exhibition on display through June.

“A Perception of Events” features paintings and drawings by Michael A. Dorsey, ECU artist, professor and former administrator. The exhibit is on display in the exhibition space on Joyner Library’s second floor.

ECU’s Centennial Task Force and Joyner Library will sponsor a public program at 7 p.m. showcasing interviews with ECU alumni who were the first members of their families to earn four-year degrees between 1930-2005.

The program will be held in the Teaching Resources Center on the second floor of the Joyner Library and include a keynote address by Mac Legerton, executive director of the Center for Community Action in Lumberton, and a panel discussion by the interviewers who conducted the interviews.

Members of the audience, including those who recorded their interviews for the project, will be asked to relate some of their experiences as first-generation students.

The first Founders Day was held on March 5, 1932 to recognize the bill passed in the state legislature on March 8, 1907 that established East Carolina.

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Population on the rise

By Tom Marine
The Daily Reflector

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Pitt County’s population continued to balloon last year, following an eight-year trend that has added nearly 22,000 county residents since 2000.

As of July 2008, the county’s population grew to roughly 156,000, according to the annual estimates of residential population for counties of North Carolina. The growth equates to a 2.5 percent increase from 2007 and a 14 percent spike from the 2000 census.

Several Pitt County officials said the migration to North Carolina will continue, meaning important decisions must be made.

James Rhodes, director of the Pitt County planning department, said population growth represents the crux of the planning process.

“Generally, we look at the overall growth of the county,” Rhodes said about the stages of any land-use plan. “We know we have new growth coming, so we have to be prepared for it.”

Rhodes said Pitt County’s population “hot spots” include west Winterville around Frog Level Road, the south Allen Road area and south Greenville near Simpson. Looking ahead 20 years, he said there could be 75,000 more people living in the county.

In the wake of the population growth, Pitt County Commissioner Tom Johnson said the county must pay attention to its fundamental services, such as Emergency Medical Services and the detention center.

“The population growth is not all good,” Johnson said. “We have a number of people living in Pitt County who want to break the laws, and the only place I can see for them is in the detention center until they are tried and found guilty.”

Crime levels have remained relatively stable for 15 years, according the Pitt County Sheriff’s Office, despite the soaring population. Figures showing the county’s crime rate with population growth shows the total crime index began to plateau in 1992 and slightly decreased between 2001 and 2005.

Yet the magnitude of Pitt County’s growth still typified the biggest change during Johnson’s 18 years serving on the Pitt County board of commissioners, he said.

“My prediction,” Johnson said, “because of East Carolina University and (Pitt County Memorial Hospital), every square foot of land in the foreseeable future will have some type of structure on it.”

Johnson also noted the county’s proximity to Raleigh, the fastest growing metropolitan area in the nation, according to census data released last week. That means Pitt County could experience a boom as the capital continues to expand.

“We'll see some of that here,” he said.

It is possible to direct population growth, Rhodes said, through zoning and other infrastructure. He said Pitt County most closely resembles Wake County about 20 years ago in terms of growth impacts, which means more schools, sewers and residential lots will be needed.

“With the university, medical school and hospital, the higher education and health services are here,” Commissioner Mark W. Owens Jr. said.
“We are a drawing point. Our sales tax has not suffered much, which means people from all over eastern North Carolina are coming here.”

Owens said since he came back to practice law in 1963, Pitt County has transformed from a rural, agricultural area to a small metropolitan one. He said funding for the local school system, Pitt Community College and the jail facility will create an undercurrent that puts a strain on the county’s finances, and that will require good planning and follow through.

Contact Tom Marine at tmarine@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9567.

Pitt County Population
July 2000134,141
July 2001135,830
July 2002137,697
July 2003139,423
July 2004141,574
July 2005144,214
July 2006148,167
July 2007152,138
July 2008156,081

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Robert 'Bob' Cowley Young Sr.

Mr. Robert "Bob" Cowley Young Sr., 88, died Monday, March 23, 2009 at Spring Arbor of Greenville.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Bethel United Methodist Church.

Mr. Young was born July 14, 1920, in Southport to the late Essie Hilliard and John Wesley Young. He attended Brevard College and was a graduate of East Carolina Teachers College. He excelled in athletics and was a member of the 1941 undefeated E.C.T.C. football team. He also played baseball, basketball and ran track at East Carolina Teachers College. After graduation from college he joined the United States Army where he served in World War II. On April 15, 1944, he married Nancy Elizabeth Wynne of Bethel who preceded him in death in 1969.

After his service in the military, he spent over 50 years in the automobile business. He was a partner in Wynnes, Inc., Bethel, and Joe Young Ford in Burgaw. He completed his automobile career with Roanoke Chevrolet in Williamston. He was a life long member of the Masonic Lodge and past member of Rotary International. He served in various leadership positions at Bethel United Methodist Church, Burns ville Baptist Church and First Memorial Baptist Church in Williamston.

On Oct. 14, 1972, he married Betty Taylor McLawhorn who predeceased him on Feb. 15, 2000. He was also predeceased by his parents, his brothers, John "Jack" Wesley Young Jr., Joseph Carson Young and his sister, Mary Young Bennett.

Mr. Young is survived by his children, Virginia "Ginger" Young Grimes, Robert Cowley Young Jr. and his wife, Frances, and John Charles Young and wife, Catherine; grandchildren, Joseph Caleb Grimes and wife, Michelle, Katharin Elizabeth Grimes, Robert Cowley Young III, Cameron Rives Young, Garrett Elizabeth Young and Katherine Hardy Young; great-grandson, Nathan Blaze Grimes; step-sons Phil and Charles McLawhorn; and numerous nieces nephews and cousins.

Family will receive friends following the service at the home of Robert and Frances Young, 3829 Cullifer Road, Bethel 27812.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Alzheimer's Research Fund, ECU Medical Foundation, 525 Moye Blvd., Greenville, NC 27834, Community Home Care & Hospice, 3740 S. Evans St. Suite E, Greenville, NC 27834, or to the John B. Christenbury Memorial Scholarship, ECU Foundation, East Carolina University, 901 East 5th St., Greenville, NC 27858.

On-line condolences at www.wilkersonfuneral-home.com
UNC won't give free parking

Former trustees won't get passes

BY ERIC FERRERI, Staff Writer

Comment on this story

CHAPEL HILL - UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Holden Thorp has scrapped a plan to give free campus parking passes to former university trustees.

The decision came after The News & Observer inquired about the proposal, a four-line explanation of which was buried in a 47-page annual document detailing changes to campus parking fees. The Board of Trustees would have voted on it Thursday.

The plan would have given former members free, all-access parking passes, a golden ticket of sorts on a congested campus. Such passes are designated for high-level administrators and would cost between $753 and $1,615 next year. Permit fees are set on a sliding salary scale.

"It's not really necessary," Thorp said in an interview Tuesday. "We don't give anyone else free parking. It's probably not a good idea. It's my fault for not knowing this was in the works."

Thorp said he learned of the proposal Tuesday after talking to Roger Perry, the board's current chairman.

Perry had just concluded an interview with The News & Observer in which he said the plan would have benefited former trustees who still visit campus and usually have to call ahead to arrange a temporary permit. The permits would have been issued by request.

"You're talking about a very few parking passes," Perry said in an interview before Thorp's decision. "I don't think that getting a parking pass when you're doing God's work, volunteer work, is necessarily taking advantage of anything."

The board has 13 members. All but a student representative are appointed to four-year renewable terms. There have been more than 100 trustees.

eric.ferreri@newsobserver.com or 919-932-2008

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UNC president pushing furloughs to save money

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON, Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. - University of North Carolina system President Erskine Bowles took his criticism of Gov. Beverly Perdue's budget proposal directly to state senators Tuesday, warning that up to 500 jobs would be eliminated and suggested furloughing workers would be a better option.

Bowles sounded the most displeased in a line of state education leaders speaking to the chamber's chief budget-writing committee, concerned about the impact of more than $500 million in spending reductions at universities, community colleges and K-12 schools.

Perdue's $21 billion budget for next year would close a proposed $3.4 billion shortfall with a combination of spending reductions, tax increases and federal stimulus money.

"The governor really had to make some tough decisions because this is the toughest economic time in my life," Bowles told the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Senate will propose and pass its own budget plan before sending it to the House, which will then create its own version.

"We are going to be team players. You haven't heard us whine and complain," Bowles said, but "we will fight to our very core to protect the academic core of the university."

Perdue's budget released a week ago seeks $192 million less for the university after it's adjusted for inflation and expected needs for the year beginning July 1. About $171 million would come from what Bowles called a 6.4 percent spending reduction at the system's 16 campuses.

Bowles was grateful that Perdue's $2.86 billion request for the UNC system provided an extra $68 million to prepare to teach thousands of additional students this fall and give more need-based financial aid.

But Bowles said the cuts would be particularly painful because Perdue wants to make them permanent, not temporary like he requested Perdue to do. So short-term cuts to supplies, purchases and travel won't be enough to fix the problems.

"There's no way that I can make these cuts and not cut 400, 500 people," said Bowles, a former investment banker and White House chief of staff under President Bill Clinton. He warned the reductions would lead to higher teacher-student ratios, delayed classroom upgrades and lower student retention and graduation rates.

Bowles said lawmakers should consider giving the system authority to furlough university employees to find some of the cost savings - and probably save jobs - while minimizing lost faculty and staff productivity.

"A furlough is worth to us about $8 million a day," said Bowles, adding that he was confident that the system could get by with $125 million in temporary cuts along with about eight to 10
furlough days.

His support contrasts with Perdue, who told The News & Observer of Raleigh last week she didn't propose furloughs within state government because such a move would hurt the state's reputation as it recruits business.

"I don't think that's even close to right," Bowles said in a response to a senator's question.

Perdue spokeswoman Chrissy Pearson said later Tuesday she presented a budget that specifically avoided furloughs and that her stance hasn't changed.

A House bill filed last week would allow government to furlough state employees who make more than $30,000 up to 20 days in a year as a last resort. House Speaker Joe Hackney, D-Orange, said last week that furloughs should be considered.

Talk of furloughs is premature, especially when the demand for public services is greater, said Suzanne Malysz, a lobbyist for the State Employees Association of North Carolina.

"It seems counterproductive in these times," Malysz said. "It's like an 8 percent pay cut, and that's huge for someone making (about) $30,000."

State Treasurer Janet Cowell, who addressed the committee before Bowles, suggested that legislators should deal with budget shortfalls squarely rather than make temporary changes if it wants to preserve the triple-A bond credit rating after the crisis ends.

"It's better to cut programs that aren't working rather than furloughs," Cowell said. Otherwise, she added, "you're not addressing the problem."

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Author says help is there for vets returning home

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Friday, March 20, 2009

National bestselling author Marine Corps Lt. Col. Jay Kopelman wants soldiers to know that help is available when they return from war if they will just ask.

On the sixth anniversary Thursday of America's involvement in the Iraq war, Kopelman attended the opening of the psychophysiology lab and biofeedback clinic at East Carolina University. The clinic, which is used to help returning and injured Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with issues such as post traumatic stress disorder, officially opened this week in its new home in the Belk Building off of Charles Boulevard.

Kopelman told a gathering of about 100 people that he was hesitant to seek therapy after he returned from Iraq. Only after the success of his first book, "From Baghdad with Love: A Marine, the War and a Dog Named Lava," did he seek help readjusting.

He said a publisher wanted him to write another book after his first book became a best-seller, and the publisher suggested that he seek therapy and write about it.

"Soldiers are reticent to come forward and say, 'I have a problem, and I need some help,'" he said.

His second book, "From Baghdad to America: Life Lessons From a Dog Named Lava," in part chronicles his experience with therapy and readjusting to normal life.

"It is OK to say you need some help," Kopelman said. "To me that is the most important thing that has come out of this book."

Kopelman travels the country advocating for wounded veterans. He is the executive director of Freedom is Not Free, a San Diego-based nonprofit that provides financial assistance to wounded veterans and their families.

"We as a society have to be very cognizant of our warriors who are coming home and not just the physical injuries," Kopelman said. "There is an entire generation of guys and gals who will become police officers, doctors and judges — making life-and-death decisions — who may not be prepared for that because they did not get the help they needed when they first came back."

The psychophysiology lab and biofeedback clinic works with wounded veterans by using innovative approaches to therapy including a virtual-reality regime in Second Life.

Soldiers can interact, hold group meetings and find resources in the online virtual community in Second Life.

"I know Marines that say that Second Life is working when nothing else has," Kopelman said.

Wounded Warriors stationed in North Carolina visit ECU for the therapy, many of whom could not receive it anywhere else.

The College of Health and Human Performance at ECU wants to work with as many returning soldiers as possible to help them readjust to life back in the United States, said Carmen Russoinello, director of the psychophysiology lab and biofeedback clinic.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@coxnc.com and 329-9565.

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Why College Towns Are Looking Smart

By KELLY EVANS

Looking for a job? Try a college town.

Morgantown, W.Va., home to West Virginia University, has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the U.S. -- just 3.9% -- and the university itself has about 260 job openings, from nurses to professors to programmers.

"We're hurting for people, especially to fill our computer and technical positions," says Margaret Phillips, vice president for human relations at WVU.

Of the six metropolitan areas with unemployment below 4% as of January, three of them are considered college towns. One is Morgantown. The other two are Logan, Utah, home of Utah State University, and Ames, Iowa, home of Iowa State University.

Both have just 3.8% unemployment, based on Labor Department figures that are not seasonally adjusted.

The pattern holds true for many other big college towns, such as Gainesville, Fla., Ann Arbor, Mich., Manhattan, Kan., and Boulder, Colo. In stark contrast, the unadjusted national unemployment rate is 8.5%.

While college towns have long been considered recession-resistant, their ability to avoid the depths of the financial crisis shaking the rest of the nation is noteworthy. The ones faring the best right now are not only major education centers; they also are regional health-care hubs that draw people into the city and benefit from a stable, educated, highly skilled work force.

The big question hanging over these communities is whether their formula for success can outlast the nation's nastiest recession in at least a quarter-century. Amid investment losses and state budget woes, many college cities are starting to see their unemployment rates rise, even though they're still lower than the national average. The longer the recession drags on, the more likely college towns are to catch up with their harder-hit peers.

They already have felt the impact of the recession. WVU saw its endowment fall by nearly a quarter in the second half of 2008, and its hospitals are reducing 401(k) matching contributions and delaying $20 million in capital spending, though its state funding has remained intact.

State Funding Cuts

Utah State University has seen nearly 10% of its state funding cut in the past six months, and in response has laid off about 20 employees and imposed a mandatory weeklong furlough for its employees during spring break to save costs. Iowa State, facing a 9% reduction in state appropriations, just received approval to begin an early-retirement program.

But for now, at least, job seekers who act quickly -- and are willing to relocate -- could well fare better in places like Morgantown, which is about 70 miles south of Pittsburgh near the Pennsylvania border. College towns
Looking Smart
As the national unemployment rate is 8.5% and some cities top 20%, college towns (highlighted below) are the big exception, for now.

Metropolitan areas with the lowest January unemployment rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Houma, La.</td>
<td>Louisiana State University</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ames, Iowa</td>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Logan, Utah</td>
<td>Utah State University</td>
<td>UT</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Midland, Texas</td>
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<td>TX</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Lafayette, La.</td>
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<td>LA</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Morgantown, W.Va.</td>
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<td>WV</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Iowa City, Iowa</td>
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<td>IA</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Casper, Wyo.</td>
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<td>WY</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Manhattan, Kansas</td>
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<td>KS</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Waterloo, Iowa</td>
<td></td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Not seasonally adjusted*

like Morgantown have a distinct advantage over many other cities: They enjoy a constant stream of graduates, some who stay put and others who return years later -- and each year brings a new crop of students and potential residents to the area.

"I could go almost anywhere and get a job right now," says Shane Cruse, a senior in the WVU school of nursing who graduates in May, citing the shortage of nurses nationwide. But come June 1, he'll be starting as a registered nurse at WVU's Ruby Memorial Hospital.

"I love it here," Mr. Cruse says. "It's a large-enough city that there's plenty to do. But you still leave your house and feel like it's your hometown."

WVU has a current enrollment of nearly 29,000, about the same size as the city of Morgantown, though the metro population is now about 115,000 and draws thousands more daily from the surrounding region for health care, shopping and WVU athletic events.

Today, the university and its hospital system together employ nearly 12,500 people -- the largest employer in the whole state. Job growth in the Morgantown metropolitan area averaged 3.2% a year from 2002-07, according to the university's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, compared to growth of just 1.1% nationally and 0.7% in West Virginia. The university system in total has an estimated annual economic impact of about $3.9 billion statewide.

Highly Skilled Work Force
Economists credit a highly skilled work force for the resilience of college towns. Edward Glaeser, an economics professor at Harvard University, has demonstrated that as the share of the adult population with college degrees in a city increases by 10%, wages correspondingly rise by about 7.8%.

"Apart from weather, human capital has been the best long-run predictor of urban success in the last century," Mr. Glaeser says.

Nikki Bowman, a 1992 graduate of WVU, is the kind of person economists have in mind when they speak of "human capital." She spent years in the magazine industry in places like Chicago and Washington, D.C., before returning last year to start her own magazine, WV Living, which was launched in November.

"It was my dream to come back, and I knew I could make it work," says Ms. Bowman, 37. "Part of why I wanted to be here was to pull from the journalism school and I have a lot of great interns as a result," which helps keep her payroll costs down.

WVU graduate Lindsay Williams, 29, started work as a real-estate broker with Howard Hanna's Morgantown office shortly after leaving WVU while waiting for her then-boyfriend -- now her husband -- to finish his degree. She now serves as president of the Morgantown Board of Realtors.

Another factor helping college towns: "communiversity," the current term for partnerships between universities and their home cities, such as joint economic development projects. The trend also reflects a shift in education to increasingly emphasize out-of-classroom learning, such as internships and volunteer work, that by definition engages the community, according to Sal Rinella, president of the Society for College and University Planning in Los Angeles.

"We could actually call these town-grown partnerships a kind of new movement in American higher education," he says. "In the last 20 years or so, the boundaries between the cities and the universities have really begun to crumble."

Planning experts point to the successful relationships between the University of Pennsylvania and downtown Philadelphia, and Johns Hopkins University's multimillion-dollar partnership with the East Baltimore Development Corp. But the college-town
effect has its greatest impact in places like Morgantown.

The close relationship between Morgantown and WVU was partly borne out of desperation. In 1991, a young, reform-minded group including Ron Justice, who is now the mayor, was elected to the city council at a pivotal moment; the decades-long decline of railroad and heavy industry in Morgantown meant the city urgently needed to find a new engine of growth.

The council hired a city manager to oversee municipal finances, and began working more closely with the WVU administration in a joint effort to turn the town around. They started out small, with road-paving projects and public safety. In 2001, the university relocated a major new administration building in the city's blighted Wharf District instead of its downtown campus.

Catalyst for Redevelopment

The new building became a catalyst for redevelopment of the whole waterfront. A new hotel, restaurants and a $28 million event center have since been built, and the old railroad tracks are now miles of jogging and biking trails.

The university has continued to upgrade its downtown campus and added new facilities like a $34 million student recreation center with two pools, a climbing wall and a café to its campus a few miles north of town. Construction is now under way on an 88-acre research park near the hospital and a $50 million commercial development featuring a Hilton Garden Inn.

At the same time, WVU president David Hardesty's aggressive expansion of the university's student body -- which has grown 50% since 1995 -- and program offerings in the 1990s, including a world-renowned forensics and biometrics program, helped raise the caliber of the city's work force.

Jason Donahue graduated from WVU in 1993 and followed a career in commercial real-estate development to a job with ECDC Realty in Charleston, S.C., whose primary business is site selection and development for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. He moved back to Morgantown in 2007 to handle development in the Pennsylvania region. "My wife would tell you I picked our house so we could be within walking distance to the football games," he said with a chuckle. They are now season-ticket holders.

His wife, a registered nurse, quickly found work at one of the city's senior centers. Their 7-year-old daughter was in a community play last weekend sponsored by WVU -- a production of "Alice in Wonderland." "She was Gardener No. 7 with two speaking lines, and she did great," Mr. Donahue says.

Write to Kelly Evans at kelly.evans@wsj.com