THE DAILY CLIPS

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ECU inducts educators into Hall of Fame

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University's College of Education held its annual Educators Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday at Fletcher Recital Hall.

State Superintendent June Atkinson gave the keynote address. She has served as the North Carolina state superintendent of public instruction since 2005.

The ceremony was followed by a reception for inductees and their guests to view their plaques displayed on the Educators Hall of Fame wall in the Speight Building on campus.

The recognition was inaugurated in the fall of 1999.

In the past nine years, more than 300 outstanding educators have been inducted into the Educators Hall of Fame.

This year's inductees include Wynnette Garner Alexander, June Atkinson, Tony Banks, Gina Beaman, Dorothy Brannan, Sylvian K. Brooks, Austin Bunch, Mary Beth Corbin, Ernestine Wynne Garner, Tony Gray, Lilla Holsley, Lennon Hooper, Gwen Goodson Jeffreys, Paul Jones, Charles E. Long, Dorothy Pruitt, Rita Reaves, Wheatley Strickland, John Swope, Jerry Tolley, Sarah Williams and Ted Williams.

Members inducted into the Educators Hall of Fame are university professors, teachers, counselors, school board members, or other persons whose service made an impact in the lives of those recognizing them through a monetary gift.

All gifts received go the Hall of Fame Scholarship endowment. Annual interest from the $1 million endowment funds merit-based scholarships for College of Education students.

The 2008 Educators Hall of Fame scholarship recipient is Stephanie Moses from Robersonville. She receives $2,500 per year for four years and serves an ambassador for the College of Education.
Conference on Latino issues set

East Carolina University will hold a conference on Latino issues from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday in the Mendenhall Student Center.

Dr. Antonio Esquibel will present “Latino Education a National Imperative: Latino Students at the College Door,” as the keynote speaker. He is an author and professor emeritus and member of the Board of Trustees of Metropolitan State College of Denver.

Dr. Donald R. Spell, vice president of Student Development Services at Pitt Community College, will speak at the luncheon. Sessions at the conference will include leadership, educational, health and social issues.

The conference is free, but registration is required. Register at http://www.ecu.edu/csoc-acad/provost/register.cfm by Monday. After that, registration will be on-site only. For more information, contact Diane Battle at 328-0607 or battled@ecu.edu.
Evening showcases ECU basketball teams

BY TONY CASTLEBERRY
The Daily Reflector

Enjoying basketball wasn't necessarily a prerequisite for having a good time at East Carolina's second annual Fan Jam on Friday. Sure, the event showcased the Pirates' men's and women's basketball squads prior to their first official practices in Minges Coliseum. But there was plenty to enjoy for those seeking entertainment that didn't involve dunks, jump shots and rebounds.

While this year's Fan Jam didn't feature a celebrity the caliber of actor Dennis Haskins, aka Mr. Belding from "Saved By the Bell", like last year's, it did offer more than just intrasquad men's and women's team scrimmages. Two routines by "America's Got Talent" participants, the Zooperstars, a booming performance by ECU's drum line and even a little dance number that featured every player on both Pirate squads kept the crowd entertained when ECU's teams weren't playing.

"I've seen the Zooperstars, but in person they were even better than they were on video," East Carolina men's coach Mack McCarthy said. "The drum line was good and we have so many things that we sometimes take for granted from the dance team to the cheerleaders to the marketing and promotion staff. Everybody did a good job. I was really tickled with the evening."

And about his team's dance skills? "The dancing was better
than the basketball,” McCarthy quipped.

The Zooperstars were indeed big hits, although their act is not easy to describe. Performers dressed in oversized mascot gear, with names such as Monkey Mantle, Dennis Frogman and Rusty Walrus, had a pair of set routines, but most of the time they clumsily bounced around the Minges floor, much to everyone’s delight. They even made their way into the stands briefly and paid visits to both teams’ benches.

Those who were there for basketball got their fill as well. The women’s team took the floor first and ran through a competitive scrimmage with the Gold team beating the Purple, 34-31. Shaunda Alford scored a game-high 16 points for the Purple team.

Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener appreciated the support from the few hundred fans who showed up and could hardly wait to get practice started after the Fan Jam ended.

“I think it gives our players energy,” Baldwin-Tener said. “Every year that we’ve been here, our attendance has gone up, but I’m not sure that it’s gone up in the student population. When you have students in here cheering for you, I think it makes a big difference.”

In the layup line before the men’s scrimmage, the Pirates produced some highlight-reel dunks, including a between the legs windmill jam from Jamar Abrams that elicited oohs and aahs from nearly every person who saw it. Abrams went on to show his shooting prowess in the scrimmage, hitting a pair of long 3-pointers and leading all scorers with 12 points as his Gold team beat the Purple squad, 29-17.

If nothing else, the Fan Jam served to whet the appetite of avid ECU basketball fans while possibly serving to win over some who may not have visited Minges before.

“It was high energy and they did a good job of trying to get everybody fired up for the season,” said Greg Steele, father of ECU walk-on and former J.H. Rose standout Matt Steele. “It was fun and I’m just hoping Matt can survive (Friday’s) practice.”

Contact Tony Castleberry at tcastleberry@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9591.
Elliot was the first black student, graduate from East Carolina

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

Laura Elliot was honored Friday night for her perseverance, marking recognition of her struggle to attend and graduate from East Carolina University during turbulent times.

In 1966, she became the first African-American student to graduate from ECU — then East Carolina College — pushing through, she said, because her parents forced her.

But it was tough, and she remembers that white classmates did little to ease the situation.

“They did not want to associate with me because of how people may have treated them the way they treated me,” Elliot said.

“It was years before I could get over the pain and hurt. I wasn’t bitter, but I couldn’t believe that people treated me — I mean I was a nice person — like that.”

Elliot was presented with the 2008 Perseverance Award by Omega Psi Phi fraternity Friday evening, capping a day on campus, sharing her story as part of an ongoing project sponsored by the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

She also visited with an African American studies class and walked around campus with her husband, Allen. Now a Mary-

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land resident, Elliot has retired from her post with the federal government.

Friday’s visit was much less intimidating than when she was a student here, she said, starting at age 17 as a freshman in 1962. After graduation, she did not look back. Though she grew up in Pitt County and returned to visit family, she said she stayed away from ECU until 2002.

“It has taken me almost 50 years to reconnect, just getting to know what the 21st century ECU is all about,” she said. “I would hope that students are trying to work together for the good of the university now.”

Elliot said she was encouraged to walk around campus and see many black students.

In her time, there were only a few that came after her first year and most left before graduating, she said.

Last year, 3,851 ECU students identified themselves as African American. Total enrollment was 25,990.

As terrifying as it was for Elliot in the mid 1960s, she said she would do it all over again.

“I’m very proud of what I did,” she said. “I’m not glad I had to do it. I would do it again, but I would hope the next time I wouldn’t be so afraid.”

Elliot told her story Friday on video at the Joyner Library as the first in a series of diverse individuals to be documented for the Centennial Diversity project, said Latham Turner, director of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

“I can’t begin to tell you how historic her visit to this campus has been and continues to be,” Turner said.

“Each time I am in her audience, I learn so much about what it meant for her to be a student of color at East Carolina University in the 1960s at a time when civil rights was so prevalent.”

Turner said he feels a sense of responsibility to capture her story for posterity.

“There were many obstacles for her, especially coming first, as a female and really by herself. I have this sense of responsibility that I need to help students to understand their position at ECU today,” he said.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9565.
PBS to feature Intergenerational Center director

The Daily Reflector

The woman who powers the engine at the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center in west Greenville will share a rare moment in the spotlight at 7:30 p.m. tonight when she is featured on a segment of the UNC TV program, North Carolina Now.

Lessie L. Bass, associate professor of social work at East Carolina University and director of the Gorham Center, received the Award of Excellence in Public Service on Friday from the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina.

The award, presented by UNC System President Erskine Bowles and award committee member Phil Dixon, of Greenville, was established in 2007 to encourage, identify, recognize and reward distinguished public service and outreach by faculty across the multi-campus university system, according to a university news release.

Bass has been an ECU faculty member since 1993. She was honored for her painstaking efforts to improve the quality of life for residents of west Greenville, an economically deprived area of Pitt County worn down by high crime rates, gang violence, drugs and blighted housing, said Joni Worthington, vice president for communications for the university.

Drawing on her training and expertise in social work and her own personal values, Bass helped forge a coalition of residents, city and county officials and ECU and Pitt Community College faculty and administrators to plan and secure resources for a community center to foster and sustain neighborhood revitalization, Worthington said.

Today, the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center provides educational and outreach services that include after school programs, summer camps, academic tutoring, GED and college-level classes, parenting programs, youth apprenticeship programs, small business workshops and substance abuse counseling, Worthington said.

Bass’s work is now recognized as a national model for community organizing and urban planning.

She has also been a role model and mentor, Worthington said, citing one of Bass’s students who described her as “social work in action.”

In addition to her service to west Greenville at the Lucille Gorham Center, Bass has served as adviser, consultant or trainer for: the Pitt County Planning Board; the Domestic Violence Committee for the state of North Carolina; Lenoir County Hospital; the Pitt County Mental Health Department; and the Halifax County Department of Social Services. She has served on the Alliance Committee of Wayne County, the Henrietta Williams Foundation Board and the Mt. Olive Downtown Revitalization Committee.

The Award for Excellence in Public Service carries a $7,500 cash prize.

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Public Forum

More school nurses needed in Pitt County

I want to thank The Daily Reflector for recognizing Regina Wyatt, Charla Holbrook and the other school nurses in Pitt County (Oct. 13). I have had the privilege of working with these nurses on a project funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Health Care Trust for the past two years. Together, we have focused on providing case management to children with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, asthma, seizures, sickle cell anemia and severe allergies. We have demonstrated that when school nurses have the opportunity to work with children on a consistent basis they contribute to their academic success, quality of life and ability to manage their illness.

However, the limiting factor in providing services to children in Pitt County is the ratio of school nurses to students. As your article notes, Wyatt is the school nurse for three schools.

The recommended nurse/student ratio, and the goal for North Carolina, is one nurse for every 750 students. In Pitt County, the ratio is one nurse to 1,412 students. Only two other school districts in eastern North Carolina have a worse ratio.

Fewer school nurses means that teachers and school personnel must provide health care to children who need injections, medications and procedures. It also means that on many days there is not an on-site licensed health professional in the school to provide emergency care and health promotion and preventive care for students and staff is limited.

Funding for school nurse positions in Pitt County comes from PCMH and the state budget. Pitt County does not fund any local school nurse positions. Recognizing that budget constraints affect all of these entities, I challenge all of us — PCMH, county officials, educators and citizens — to work together to find a way to improve the ratio of school nurses to children in Pitt County.

MARATHA ENGELKE, RN
Greenville
Latino education is focus of conference

BY ECU NEWS BUREAU
Special to the Daily Reflector

The challenges facing Latino students will be the focus of East Carolina University’s first conference on Latino issues.

The conference, “Building Leadership for Latino Access to Education,” will be held Friday in the Mendenhall Student Center on ECU’s campus.

Experts in the field, as well as leaders in the eastern North Carolina Latino community and ECU students, faculty and staff will participate. The public is invited to this free event. Registration is required.

Keynote speaker Antonio Esquivel, professor emeritus and board of trustees member at Metropolitan State College of Denver, will open the conference with a talk, “Latino Education a National Imperative: Latino Students at the College Door.”

Contact Diane Battle at 328-0607 or e-mail, battled@ecu.edu to register.

ECU NOTES

"Living Comedy," will be shown at 7 p.m. in Hendrix Theater, Mendenhall Student Center. The free, public event also will include a panel discussion with Olson and ECU economics professor Richard Ericson, geography professor Scott Curtis and biology professors Dave Kimmel and Enrique Reyes. The panel discussion will begin immediately following the screening.

Olson will also participate in an Oct. 30 seminar, “Shifting the Baselines of Broad Communication in Ocean Conservation.” The free event will be at 6 p.m. in Room C-207, Science and Technology Building.
Finders, keepers

Bailey’s viral advertising becomes jewel of an idea

BY MIKE GRIZZARD
The Daily Reflector

As Carolyn Erwin left a late-afternoon meeting, just a few minutes before heading home for the day, something interesting caught her eye. There, on a bench in the main lobby of the Brody School of Medicine, sat a small black-and-white box with a bright, red bow. Erwin couldn’t resist.

“Of course I was intrigued by the package,” she said.

It’s not uncommon for Erwin or her co-workers at ECU Physicians to find various personal items and trash left behind. But this was different. At first, she thought the package might be a delivery for someone in the building. “and they couldn’t find them and just left it here.”

Then she had a Candid Camera moment.

“You kind of look around to make sure that nobody is playing a joke on you,” Erwin said.

This was no joke. It was a gift, courtesy of Bailey’s Fine Jewelry. No gimmicks. No tricks. Just find it and keep it.

“I picked it up, and the envelope underneath was a Bailey’s envelope,” Erwin recalled. “On the front in bold letters was ‘Finders Keepers’. When I saw the ‘Finders Keepers,’ I thought, ‘Hey, I haven’t heard that since I was a child.’

“It would have been a perfect time for lots of people to walk by it
at 10 minutes to five — anybody. But most people are so busy leaving work that maybe they didn’t notice it. It was kind of hard to turn down a wrapped package.”

Inside the box was a pearl bracelet. The Bailey’s envelope read:

“Congratulations. This gift is for you. Yes you. You deserve it, you really do. Give it, share it, wear it. This Bailey Box is yours. We just hope to see you come through our doors.”

“I chose to wear it,” Erwin said. “It’s very pretty. ... It certainly has generated quite a bit of talk among the women that I work with.”

And that’s the goal Trey Bailey, director of operations for Bailey’s Fine Jewelry, had when he cooked up the concept of placing gift-wrapped boxes throughout Greenville, Raleigh and Rocky Mount — the three communities where Bailey’s operates — as a way of spreading a little cheer. So be alert on your next trip to lunch, the grocery store or even the park.

“My wife (Marcy) and I left 12 all around Greenville the other day,” Bailey said. “I don’t even look back. I leave the box and a little note.”

The Bailey’s boxes contain necklaces, bracelets, pearl jewelry or earrings ranging in value of $20 to $100. The first was found on Sept. 11 by Cecilia Upchurch of Raleigh on a patio table at Cafe Carolina & Bakery in Cameron Village. Since then, the viral advertising has snowballed.

Bailey’s e-mail inbox is filled with notes from those who have found the little treasures, and it’s generated even more publicity than he anticipated. Bailey says his staff also has pitched in and taken boxes back to where they live, including Kinston and New Bern.

“It’s not just me anymore,” Bailey said. “... Our associates have really come up with some great ideas. Really for it to spread, it’s taken a group effort from everybody.

“It took off way bigger and faster than we expected,” he said. “It was an off-the-wall idea, but we thought, ‘You know what, this will be really fun.’ It’s like you’re Santa all year long.”

The stories he hears from those who find the boxes are heart-warming and gratifying, Bailey said. He said one woman found a bracelet, read the accompanying letter and gave it to her sister, who had just lost her job.

“I didn’t realize that it would have the impact that it has had on people,” Bailey said. “Maybe not everyone contacts us, but a lot of people either call us, come in, or my e-mail’s on there, so I get some fantastic e-mails. Some people write some awesome e-mails.”

There are funny stories, too. Marci Bailey recently left
UNC will pay $900,000 to redo chancellor’s home

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — UNC-Chapel Hill is making more than $900,000 in renovations to Quail Hill, the chancellor’s secluded residence.
The work actually began before Chancellor Holden Thorp was hired this past summer. Thorp, 44, and his family will move in next week.

Documents released Friday by the university show kitchen upgrades of more than $300,000, a master bathroom renovation of $102,000, and a great deal of infrastructure work to the 50-year-old home, including a $190,000 upgrade to the heating and air conditioning system.
The work is not being done at the Thorp family’s request but because of a series of required code improvements to the 1960s-era home, say university officials. It also will be retrofitted to accommodate Thorp’s two children, who are middle- and elementary-school age, said Carolyn Elliland, UNC-CH’s associate vice chancellor for campus services.
The home became the chancellor’s official residence in 1995, but neither prior resident had children living there. With Thorp’s two kids needing bedrooms, the university was forced to add a dormer on the home’s second floor.

“Today, you can’t have a second floor where a fire department can’t get in to get people out,” Elliland said. “We had to go in through the roof and add a dormer to give the fire department access so they could get into the whole second floor.”

All renovation work is being paid for with money from the university’s unrestricted endowment.

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funds, including a series of updates to make the house comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

The work was reviewed by the state Department of Insurance, Elfand said. ADA improvements had to be done because the 7,500-square-foot house is not only a family home but host to a range of official university functions.

**Big fixes ahead**

That proved no small feat, Elfand said. Much of the house, including the entranceway and master bathroom, needed wholesale changes to comply with that federal law. Those upgrades cost more than $56,000.

“We actually had to reverse the whole front door,” she said. “Then, as you’re going through the house, we had to widen doorways to be 36 inches wide. In the bathroom, we had to lower the floor. There was a lot that had to be done.”

The university is replacing the 50-year-old heating and cooling system and doing electrical upgrades.

The university’s endowment fund received the home and 20 acres in 1993 through a gift-purchase arrangement with Mrs. George Watts Hill Sr. and the George Watts Hill Foundation. The university also did repair and renovation work before its last two chancellors, Michael Hooker and James Moeser, moved in.

Universities are increasingly upgrading presidents’ houses to be able to entertain donors and host official functions in the homes, though the expense has sometimes been questioned by critics.

At N.C. State, officials made the decision to spend more than $3 million on a new Centennial Campus home for the chancellor after planned renovations to the original 1928 Hillsborough Street home were deemed too costly.

Duke University spent nearly $1.5 million to renovate a 12,000-square-foot historic home on campus for President Richard Brodhead.

Since 2000, UNC-Charlotte and Appalachian State have built new homes for their chancellors at a cost of about $2.5 million each, while UNC-Wilmington spent about $1.2 million on a renovation of the historic Kenan House for its chancellor.

Staff writer Jane Stancill contributed to this report.

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Why pay Nichol?

Can anyone find out what's in the Kool-Aid at Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill that attracts radical lefties to their professorships? At least Duke has shipped its laughable law professor to the West Coast, but UNC continues to humor Gene Nichol, who says, probably with a straight face, in an Oct. 5 Point of View article that "a vote for McCain is a vote ... to place the presidency above the rule of law." What irresponsible nonsense!

Any rational North Carolinian, regardless of political affiliation, should be appalled that our hard-earned money pays this College of William & Mary reject's salary.

C.J. Goode Jr.

Durham
PAYING FOR COLLEGE
JUST GOT HARDER
STOCK MARKET SWOON EATS INTO COLLEGE-SAVINGS FUNDS

BY ALAN M. WOLF
STAFF WRITER

Theeresa Kostrzewa isn't happy that her 16-year-old daughter is getting closer to college.
The past year's stock market drop has eroded more than $10,000 from the money Kostrzewa invested in a state college-saving fund known as a 529 plan.

"I'm going to need it in two years," she said. "Everyone says to be wise, start saving when they're little. I would have been better off putting it under the mattress."

Most college-savings plans haven't dodged the Wall Street devastation — the Dow Jones industrial average is down 40 percent from its high a year ago. And some parents who planned ahead sit in the same nervous boat as retirees and other investors without the luxury of time to wait out an eventual recovery.

If the downturn is prolonged, it also could hurt future generations' ability to afford college. Nationally, 529 plans had $109 billion invested last year. Preliminary figures from Financial Research Corp. show the value declined 8 percent last quarter — and that was before the recent stock slump.

The 529 plans offer tax breaks to encourage parents and grandparents to save money for children's tuition, books and other college expenses. Although the money can be transferred to related beneficiaries such as younger siblings, the severe declines are still worrisome for parents who will need the money soon.

"Even if you have a kid in middle school, if the account is down 20 to 30 percent, you have to be concerned," said Brian Orol, president of Strategic Wealth Group in Raleigh. "Will you be back to where you were when they start school?"

Those who are even closer to starting college may have to make other adjustments. In a recent

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survey of 2,500 users of the Web site meritaid.com, 57 percent of students were considering a less prestigious school for money reasons.

CFNC assets shrink

The College Foundation of North Carolina managed assets of $397.2 million in 69,049 accounts as of Sept. 30, the latest date for which figures are available. The total fell sharply in September as stocks sank and parents pulled out money for the fall semester. But the amount was still up 10.8 percent from the corresponding month last year. The number of accounts had climbed 48.8 percent from a year earlier.

Since Sept. 30, of course, the stock-market's sudden, historic skid has wiped out even more money set aside in the state's 529 plans.

"It's an investment like any other, and we try to make sure people understand there are no guarantees," said Jim Sutton, program services manager for the state's 529 plans. "We would love to be able to say you're not going to lose any money, but that's not the case. Obviously, this is the worst we've seen anywhere, anytime."

The state plan's administrators report a surge in calls from concerned parents. Some are shifting their money to more-conservative options. Others with younger children say they'll stick it out, hoping to recover losses.

"Everybody is down now," said Walter Davis, an engineer in Raleigh who is putting money into a 529 account for his 8-year-old son. "It's still tax-free money, and the economy is going to turn around. It's not causing me to go out and do something foolish."

Advice not given

The foundation's representatives cannot give financial advice, only information about the various funds and how 529 plans operate. Parents fretting about their choices should contact a financial adviser, Sutton said.

"We don't have the training or the background to go over someone's finances," he added. "We don't have any knowledge about the rest of their financial situation."

That annoys Kostrzewa, who believes that the state's sanctioning of the plans gives the appearance of safety and stability. "For most people, there's a complete trust factor when they give the state their money," she said.

Kostrzewa's money was in the most aggressive fund offered by the College Foundation of North Carolina. It was the worst-performing fund for the year ended Sept. 30, losing 32 percent, and eating into Kostrzewa's principal, not just earnings.

For now, Kostrzewa, who works as a lobbyist in Raleigh for liquor companies, libraries and other clients, plans to leave her money where it is. She will use loans and other savings to pay for her daughter's early years of college, with the hope that the 529 plan money will rebound.

"It doesn't make any sense to move it now, then I'm stuck with my loss," she said. "I have the luxury of being able to ride out the market."

The slumping national economy, floundering stock market and increasing jobless rate are expected to dampen parents' enthusiasm about saving money for school. Experts often recommend parents first save for retirement, with the assumption that children can get government grants, cheap loans and other aid for college.

Dunn's sons, a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill and a freshman at Appalachian State University, are already using some of their money. And Dunn knows the money will be there when her 10-year-old daughter needs it.

"I can stomach our 401(k) losing money, but there's something about taking a hit on my kids' money," Dunn said. "We feel really good about it. I didn't have to call my sons and say, 'You're out of luck, your money has disappeared in the past few weeks.'"

The state's 529 plans, despite recent losses, still earn strong recommendations from Saverforcollege.com, a research Web site. It ranks North Carolina No. 19 for one-year performance through June 30, and No. 14 for three-year performance.

Shauna Hay and her husband started saving about six months ago. They had finally paid off their own student loans and wanted to put money aside for their two children, one in kindergarten and the other nearly 2 years old.

The Carrboro couple picked the North Carolina 529 plan for its tax breaks. Hay said she's leaving the money in funds that are invested heavily in stocks, despite the recent losses.

"This is a rough period," Hay said. "Fortunately for us, our children are young; we have some time still."

"Things have to go back up," she added. "If they don't, it means big companies like Coca-Cola and McDonald's are going out of business. I don't think that's going to happen."

Boring is beautiful

Amy Dunn of Apex has three 529 accounts. After an earlier but less severe stock-market drop, Dunn and her husband moved all three children's money into the state's "very boring, slow but steady" dependable-income account, she said.

That fund, which is similar to a money-market account, is one of only two of 15 offered by the state to show a gain this year through...