

YESTERDAY ...
10 years ago - Feb. 4, 2006
(As reported in the Bangor Daily News)

ORONO — University of Maine System Chancellor Joseph Westphal plans to ask the Legislature for a significant investment in the state's public universities over the next several years.

Aiming to make the University of Maine System “the investment priority for the state,” Westphal said that when he makes his initial 2008-2009 budget request to Gov. John Baldacci this fall, he also intends to ask for a bond to finance more than \$300 million in deferred maintenance.

The message to the state will be that “it’s time to re-invest” in the university system, the chancellor said during a visit Friday to the University of Maine.

“We’ve taken a lot of pain and it’s time for the state to realize that the future is in us and in higher education.”

Westphal was visiting the campus along with Vice Chancellor Elsa Nunez to update faculty, students, administrators and staff on the UMS strategic plan.

Speaking to more than 50 faculty, students, administrators and staff who gathered for a morning forum, Westphal said that 28 states with surplus budgets have reinvested in their public universities after “realizing they’ve been cutting higher education to fund health care and K-12.”

“They’re all coming back and putting more money into higher education,” he said.

Westphal said he plans to discuss specifics about his bond request with the governor, legislative leaders and the Maine Community College System in the near future.

“We don’t want to be asking for something we have no chance of getting,” he said.

The flagship campus would receive the bulk of the money for improvements to Fogler Library, classrooms and laboratories, he said.

BANGOR — Members of the City Council’s finance committee will take another look Monday at consolidating the number of voting places during a session set for 5 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.

During the meeting, councilors will review a less drastic plan than the one they rejected last year in a 6-3 vote.

That plan called for reducing the city’s nine voting locations — comprising four voting wards, each split into two precincts, and a central polling site at City Hall — into one site, the Bangor Civic Center. Councilors decided to scrap it after about half of the 18 residents who spoke up at a public hearing penned the proposal as too radical.

Shortly after nixing the one-site plan, councilors asked City Clerk Patti Dubois to research other possibilities, including downsizing to four sites, or one in each of Bangor’s four House districts, or one on the east side and one on the west side.

As it stands, voting now takes place at Fairmount School on Thirteenth Street, the Bangor Civic Center on Dutton Street, Mary Snow School off Essex Street, Bangor High School on Broadway, Abraham Lincoln School on Forest Avenue,

Fourteenth Street School, William S. Cohen Middle School on Garland Street, and the Bangor Community Center on Davis Road. Absentee voting is conducted at a ninth site, City Hall.

The proposal going before the finance committee next week is the product of a focus group consisting of the residents who aired their views on the topic last year.

It calls for cutting the number of voting places down to four, one in each legislative district, according to Dubois’ background memo to the finance committee, chaired by Councilor Richard Stone. The recommended sites are the civic center, the community center, the high school and the Cohen school.

The group also recommends that absentee voting be shifted to the civic center, which would be staffed for that purpose during the three weeks leading to Election Day. In her memo, Dubois noted that the civic center could stay open at times other than normal City Hall hours, and it better meets handicapped accessibility rules and has more parking.

25 years ago - Feb. 4, 1991

An estimated 2,500 people, including a veteran of the USS Pueblo, drenched in red, white and blue marched from Brewer to Bangor on Sunday to show support for U.S. troops fighting in the Middle East.

Armed with flags and signs illustrating their support, people of all ages from all over Maine attended the “Walk With Pride!” which started shortly after noon at the Brewer Auditorium and ended at the Bangor Auditorium.

Flag shirts, Veterans of Foreign Wars service caps, Prisoner of War flags, and Vietnam-era fatigue uniforms also were seen among the crowd, which began to gather in Brewer about two hours before the march.

Under springlike conditions, the demonstrators, who also displayed many yellow ribbons, quickly exhausted the supply of “Support the Troops in Desert Storm” buttons, and waved homemade signs before starting the parade. One Bangor High School student sported a Saddam Hussein voodoo doll, complete with pins, around his neck.

The show of support and the POW flags were particularly important to Jim Layton of Cherryfield, who was a member of the USS Pueblo crew taken prisoner by North Korea in 1968.

“I can’t say enough for these guys that are over there,” Layton said.

“I wish them all the best. I wish the Lord would just take and put his hand on them and keep them safe.”

Layton agreed that televised reports of allied POWs apparently being mistreated by their Iraqi captors have helped to increase support for Desert Storm and that such support is important for the morale of troops and POWs involved in the operation.

“Any time you see one of your own being mistreated ... yeah, that stirs up the fervor in the people,” he said. “I just wish there was some way we could get word to the POWs that, by golly, we’re here behind you and we sympathize with you.”

Meanwhile, hundreds of

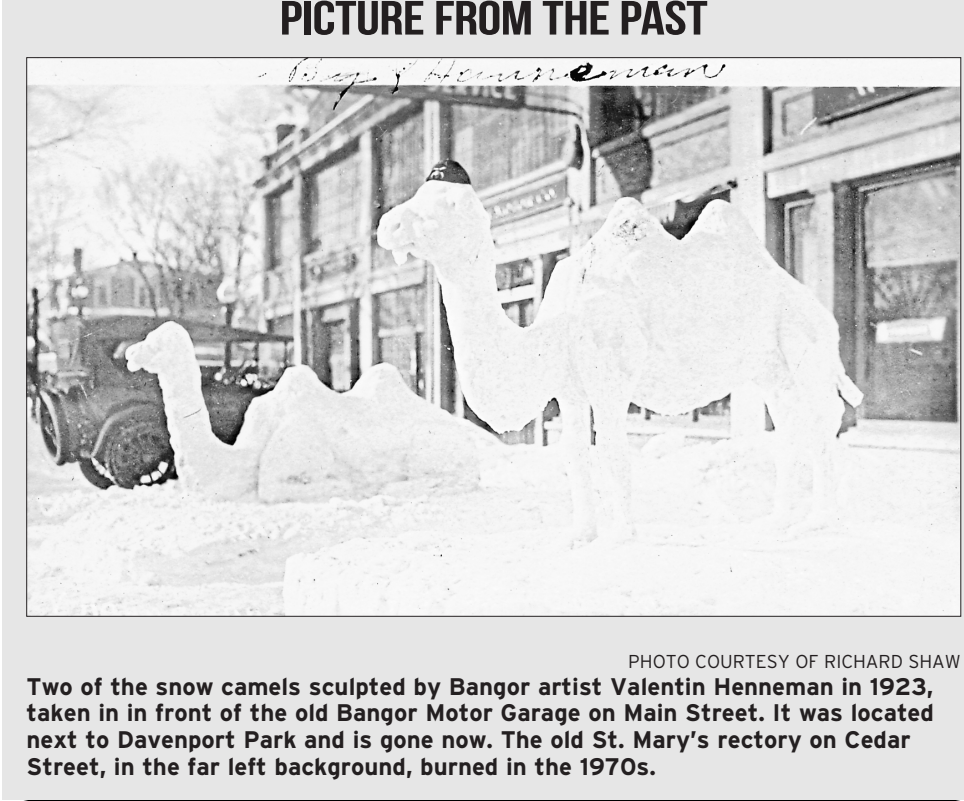


PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD SHAW

Two of the snow camels sculpted by Bangor artist Valentín Henneman in 1923, taken in in front of the old Bangor Motor Garage on Main Street. It was located next to Davenport Park and is gone now. The old St. Mary’s rectory on Cedar Street, in the far left background, burned in the 1970s.

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people also rallied in three other Maine cities this weekend. About 600 people in Lewiston, 170 in Augusta, and 70 in Westbrook showed their support for the U.S. troops.

Brewer parade organizer Bill Baxter said he was not sure how many people would march when he began preparations for the event, but he soon realized that the response would be huge.

Told to report at 10:30 a.m., an estimated 500 demonstrators had gathered in Brewer a half hour later. While Brewer police first expected only 100 demonstrators, they later estimated that 2,500 marchers, some of whom joined along the way, participated. One group of VFW members was bused in from Mattawamkeag.

“All you have to do is get the people motivated a little bit,” Baxter said, taking the time during an interview to pass out free apple juice and redirect a \$5 donation to a local support group. “It’s looking awful good right now.”

Winners in the area DAR American History Essay Contest were honored Friday by Frances Dighton Williams Chapter at the Isaac Farrar Mansion. Each winner read her first-place essay on the Bill of Rights. Medals and certificates were presented by Nellie Blethen, regent, and Susan Xirinachs, contest chairman.

Grade eight pupils receiving certificates were: first, Holly Boyington, St. John’s School; second, Marjorie Bassett, Bangor Christian; third, Scott Saucier, St. John’s.

Grade seven: first, Kelly Graham, Brewer Middle School; second, Joanna Wilkes, Bangor Christian; third, Sean Comer, St. John’s.

Grade six: first, Stephanie Rhodes, St. John’s; second, Robert Kimball, St. John’s; third, Laura Honald, Brewer Middle.

Grade five: first, Laura Walker, Fairmount School; second, Nicole Goss, St. Mary’s; third, Shane Ashe, Fairmount.

First-place essays will be entered in the state contest, with winners to be announced at the Maine DAR State Conference in March.

Attending the meeting with the pupils were parents, family and teachers.

Jean Lyford, chapter chairman for the National Defense Committee, gave a special program on World War II. She displayed the Purple Heart and Bronze Star awarded to her husband, Lawrence Lyford, for service in Europe in that war.

BANGOR — The 20th Annual Cerebral Palsy Telethon, broadcast from the WVII-TV studio, Bangor on Saturday and Sunday resulted in \$55,014 in pledges from viewers in northeastern Maine. The telethon is a major source of income for the services provided by United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Maine for children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

The highlights of the telethon included interviews with children and their parents, adults with disabilities, and representatives of local civic and fraternal organizations. Entertainment was provided by the Maine Arrangement Barbershop Quartet, Jean Boutot, Bananas the Bear, and visits from community leaders.

50 years ago - Feb. 4, 1966

HOLDEN — It was noon time and a beautiful peaceful day at the Holden Post Office. Then the red network telephone rang. “A forest fire!” the Lucerne Fire Chief said. “Contact the fire fighters! We need all the assistance we can get,” he said, urgently.

Mrs. Helen Harding was the only person in the Post Office and not one soul in sight! Who would drive the fire truck? She didn’t hesitate, but locked up everything and ran to the fire station. It didn’t even daunt her that she had never driven a truck before.

Speeding for Lucerne with the big fire truck wide open — the flasher and siren going full blast — Mrs. Harding prayed that some nice little old lady driver wouldn’t get in front of her. The road construction workers on Route 1-A nearly dropped their tools in amazement as she whizzed by.

She made it, however, and

helped put out the fire with 500 gallons of water. The fire department later made her an honorary member.

Mrs. Harding is not only a homemaker concerned about her community who tends to any emergency that arises, but also a member of the Fire Belles, the ladies auxiliary of the Holden Volunteer Fire Department.

This is a unique women’s organization. Since the enormous fire in Holden last summer, which swept through acres of timberland on Route 46 (lasting ten days with 320 fire fighters), the Fire Belles have raised \$600 for radio equipment.

The Holden firemen — and, in case of emergency, ladies — now have three stations equipped: one for the truck with a public address system; one for base station at No. 1 Fire Station; and one two-watt portable unit for mobile use.

Determined, the girls donned their aprons and sponsored public suppers, held rummage sales, and circulated round-robin baked food baskets to raise money for the needed equipment.

“We are trying to get things for our fire department which we wouldn’t have ordinarily,” Mrs. Harding said.

Of course, this isn’t the first project the group has worked on. It was only a few years ago, following a drowning, that the Belles raised the money to purchase a complete rescue equipment kit with resuscitator, first aid equipment, stretcher, and blankets.

BANGOR — More than a hundred pairs of eyes will be getting the once over at the Bangor Public Health Department in the next few weeks. It’s all part of the city’s new driver certification plan for employees, the first on the municipal level in the state.

The professional driver certification course will involve some 135 drivers from the several fleet departments of the city. It will include a complete physical, including the eye screening test, written examinations, and road tests.

The city hopes the course will help in continuing the dramatic reduction in acci-

dents involving city vehicles.

Miss Margaret Medders, personnel director, points out, “The course is designed not to teach employees how to drive — they know how — but to certify their driving performance.” Her department is setting up the course, part of the overall employee training program.

This certification will also provide information on the quality of municipal drivers, their driving and simple automotive maintenance aptitude.

William C. Warner, manager of the Bangor Daily News Sports Department, will be a participant at a two-week seminar beginning Sunday at the American Press Institute, Columbia University, N.Y.

Improved writing, editing and presentation of sports news will be discussed by 28 newspaper executives. Discussions during the seminar will cover sports page content, departmental organization, staff training, reporting and writing, sports columns, makeup, scholastic sports, coverage, pictures, participant sports, and responsibility to the reader.

Warner, a native of Freeport, is a graduate of the University of Maine in 1956 and has been a member of the News Sports Department for the past eight years. He also has worked for the Freeport Weekly News.

He is married to the former Barbara Whitehead and the couple, with their children, Peter and Anne, reside at 34 Carver Street, Bangor.

100 years ago - Feb. 4, 1916

BOSTON — An offer of five cents apiece for 100,000 cast off railroad ties was received today by the Boston and Maine railroad from the British government. Formerly the railroad burned all its cast off ties, but orders were sent throughout the system today directing that they be saved. It is understood that the British government is negotiating with other railroads in the hope of obtaining half a million ties for use in constructing trenches in France.

ORONO — Tomorrow will be an eventful day in the annals of the University [of Maine] with ex-President William Howard Taft speaking from the rostrum of the chapel. In the past, baseball players, Irish orators and wits, students of folk lore and of science, have spoken before a crowded chapel, but in all probability the spacious and yet insufficient room will be crowded as never before. Announcement has been made to the students to be as careful in inviting friends as possible as there will not be sufficient room for those intimately connected with the University.

BREWER — Mrs. HARold Blackmore of San Diego, Calif., arrived in the city Tuesday to visit her mother, Mrs. Caleb Holyoke in State Street and to be present at the wedding of her twin sister, Miss Madeline Holyoke, which will occur next Thursday. Miss Holyoke will marry Ernest Hanson of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Compiled by Ardeana Hamlin and Aimee Thibodeau

New 101st wing commander: Air Guard in a ‘pretty good place’

BY DAWN GAGNON
BDN STAFF

BANGOR, Maine — A Hampden native who has been tapped to lead the Maine Air National Guard’s 101st Air Refueling Wing said Monday it’s like he has been preparing for the role for most of his life.

Col. Adam Jenkins, who assumed command of the 101st on Jan. 20, succeeds former wing commander Col. Douglas Farnham, who late last month was nominated and later approved as the Maine National Guard’s adjutant general and commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

As commander of the MAINEiacs, Jenkins is responsible for the full range of command, discipline, training and morale matters connected to a KC-135 air refueling wing, according to a job description provided by the National Guard. He supervises slightly more

than 950 men and women in the wing.

A command pilot with about 4,800 military flying hours under his belt, Jenkins worked his way up the ranks, serving aboard the KC-135E and KC-135R as co-pilot, aircraft commander, instructor pilot and evaluation pilot along the way.

“I’m what’s affectionately known as a ‘Guard baby.’ I joined off the street [as opposed to through the Air Force or the Air Force Academy],” Jenkins, 56, said during an interview Monday in his office in the Maine Air National Guard base’s headquarters building.

“I grew up in Hampden, and after graduating [from] the University of Maine I joined the Air National Guard here in Bangor in 1985,” he said.

“So I started kind of on the ground floor,” he said, adding he worked in operations for several years, spent some time working in

maintenance, was the wing’s chief of safety, served as a squadron commander and most recently was vice commander.

“I’d like to think, though, I’ve been preparing for this for 30 years,” he said.

According to information provided by the base, Jenkins has been deployed to all corners of the globe. He was a member of the first MAINEiac tanker crew to deploy to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield and aircraft commander of the first crew to go to Europe for Operation Allied Force in Kosovo.

He also has been deployed as part of Operation Desert Storm and has been sent to the Balkans, Greece and Turkey.

Jenkins was aircraft commander aboard the first tanker to arrive over New York City on Sept. 11, 2001, providing air combat patrol support as the World Trade Center towers collapsed.

Less than a week into his new role, Jenkins said it

was premature to discuss specific goals.

“I would say we’re always looking for new missions, new opportunities to exploit our geographical location, the great work ethic of the folks that are in this unit, the great leadership folks displayed over the years,” he said.

Despite periodic concerns about possible downsizing because of changing defense needs, Jenkins says he believes that the Air Guard is on solid footing.

“I think that we’re where we’re going to be for awhile,” he said. “There were some adjustments made as the world changes and evolves and the political and social environment changes. I think we’re probably fairly stable right now, and we’ll just be planning for the future and potential for change, but I think we’re in a pretty good place.”

Jenkins said Monday he expects the air refueling

wing “will continue to be a very operational unit. We are very involved with our headquarters missions, and joint services.”

“We’ve got some Navy aircraft that frequent our base and fly missions out of here. Of course, the [Northeast] Tanker Task Force involves multinational organizations flying through here,” he said. “That’s the world that I’ve grown up in, and it’s a world we all like being a part of, and I expect we’ll continue to be that great operational-based organization.”

Jenkins, who resides in Bangor with his wife, Jean, and three daughters, Chelsea, Caitlin and Sophie, praised the people under his command.

“We’ve got an incredible legacy, and we’ve got an incredible group of people out here who are really in fine shape to carry that legacy forward into the future,” he said.

“Having said that, maintaining a vital force is as important as any-

thing in my mind, at this point,” he added.

Jenkins acknowledged the Maine Guard faces recruiting obstacles.

“Gen. Farnham has been very articulate in explaining some of the difficulties and the challenges that we face in the future,” he said.

Jenkins said a bill before state lawmakers seeks to provide education funding for Guard members who want to study at the state’s community colleges.

“It’s come and gone in the past, and we are the only state in New England that doesn’t offer such an enticement,” he said. “And as a result, we’ve lost some folks who decided to perhaps join in another state that does offer that.”

Despite the complexities of his new command, Jenkins’ mission is clear, he said.

“I think my mission right now is to maintain a steady hand at the controls, so to speak.”