

# Alexandria Gazette Packet

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FEBRUARY 14, 2019



ACPS Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings lays out his "100-Day" vision at T.C. Williams High School last Wednesday, Feb. 6.

## 'Raise the Bar for All Kids'

Public schools chief to boost rigor, equity.

BY DAN BRENDEN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Having analyzed the situation over the first 100 days of his tenure, Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings laid out his vi-

sion, principally for "equity," for the public school system's future.

"Equity is the number one reason why ACPS is not the number one school division in this state, in the country," he told a crowd of parents, teachers and  
SEE 'RAISE THE BAR', PAGE 8

## Right to Organize

DASH bus drivers to begin collective bargaining, following clashes over unionization.

BY DAN BRENDEN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Amalgamated Transit Union, representing local DASH bus drivers, will begin collective bargaining negotiations next week, on the heels of a successful unionization effort in November.

DASH drivers voted overwhelmingly to unionize — 97 in favor, 13 against, 21 abstentions — in a Nov. 15 election overseen by the National Labor Relations Board. They'll fold into ATU Local 689, which represents transit workers, including Metro employees, throughout the region. Local 689 in turn affiliates with the Amalgamated Transit Union, which covers the U.S. and Canada.

The union and DASH management will begin collective bargain-

ing negotiations on Tuesday, Feb. 19. DASH General Manager Josh Baker thinks the process could take most of a year.

Negotiations come in the wake of several points of contention last fall between drivers, the union, and DASH management.

### PAY AND BENEFITS

DASH pay is "lower" and "slower" than other regional bus systems, said Tyler Boos, a DASH driver. DASH drivers' top pay grade, which takes 20 years to reach, is \$29 per hour. That compares to \$34 and 5 years with WMATA Metrobus, and \$32 and 5 years with Fairfax Connector, according to Chris Townsend, a union organizer.

"Unfortunately, we are simply not yet in a stable enough fiscal  
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## 'Tragedy on the Potomac' McClellan to keynote Friendship Firehouse breakfast.



Jim McClelland

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Jim McClelland, a professor of history and the dean of liberal arts at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, will keynote the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association's 245<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and breakfast Feb. 18 to kick off the city's George Washington Birthday celebration of events.

McClelland is the author of the two-volume American history text "Historical Moments: Changing Interpretations of America's Past" as well as numerous journal articles. His presentation will be "Tragedy on the Potomac," the story of a day in the history of Al-

exandria that began with "great joy and ended in a disaster that traumatized the nation and altered the course of American history."

McClelland is the recipient of The University of Texas at Arlington's 1997 Distinguished Alumni award, described by the school as "the highest honor the university can bestow on one of its graduates." He has graduate degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington, George Washington University and Union Institute and University at The Institute for Policy Studies. In 2012 he was named a Living Legend of Alexandria.

The Friendship Firehouse breakfast is the traditional kick off to the city's George Washington

Birthday celebration of events that includes a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier at 11 a.m. and the signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant with the Commandants of Fort Belvoir and Quantico at noon. The parade through Old Town begins at 1 p.m. New this year is the Hunt for Washington treasure hunt. The Friendship

Firehouse breakfast will take place Feb. 18 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 901 N. Fairfax St., at 8:30am. Tickets are \$40 and include a three course meal and the presentation of the Reverend Ben Lynt Distinguished Community Service Award. For tickets or more information, contact Bill Kehoe at kehoeFD@aol.com or 703-751-6416.

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

ican Speaker of the House will likely become governor and will preside with a one or two vote margin in the General Assembly. And, if that scenario occurs, I have no doubt that among one of the new governor's first orders of business would be to repeal or at least significantly marginalize the expansion of the Medicaid program.

It's important to remember that Governor Northam almost single-handedly was responsible for the enactment of Medicaid Expansion, which will bring comprehensive health insurance to more than 200,000 very low-income African Americans in the Commonwealth (including a few thousand in the City of Alexandria). Repealing or marginalizing Medicaid Expansion, in my mind, would represent a far greater affront to the dignity, the value and the hopes of the African American community than Northam's shameful, ignorant and, yes, racist affront 35 years ago by applying black shoe polish on his face.

Finally, it's worth pointing out that Alexandria's own reputation remains somewhat "blackfaced" as long as the "Lost Cause" Confederate statue remains in the middle of a major thoroughfare in Old

Town and our only public high school — the largest one in the Commonwealth — still bears the name of a segregationist.

**Richard Merritt**  
Alexandria

## Remember Washington's Knight

To the Editor:

Fisher Ames (1758-1808), the great orator of Massachusetts, made a decisive speech favoring the controversial 1796 Jay Treaty. His winning its adoption saved Washington from a major political defeat, and earned him the President's gratitude — an invitation to Mt. Vernon.

Republicans in the House of Representatives were holding up the appropriation to fund the unpopular treaty. Washington desperately wanted this treaty with England which would open their ports to trade with us, end the Royal Navy's interdiction of American ships, and get England finally to complete the terms of the peace treaty of 1783. At the close of his Presidency, this treaty would vindicate his policy of neutrality be-

tween England and France who were at war. However, Republicans opposed it because of their sympathies to France for helping America win our war of independence, and the fact Jay did not get Britain to complete all the terms of the 1783 peace.

After a month's deadlock Ames, the last to speak, essentially argued the Constitution. The "President and the Senate are the agents and instruments of treaties." Congressmen are not elected to work in this province, but have to support the Senate's and Executive's treaty efforts like they support our legislations, he said. "The treaty is the promise of a nation," he continued, and spoke of all the accomplishments of the United States. He declared the treaty (while not perfect), was a chance for America to gain respect in the world. Many present became emotional at his putting America on par with the great nations of Europe. "I see no exception to the respect that is paid among nations to the Law of Good Faith." It was unlike anything heard before in the Congress. One Supreme Court Justice exclaimed: "Bless my stars! I never heard anything so great since I was born!" Vice President Adams re

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### Legals

#### ABC LICENSE

Tasteful Affairs Catering Service, Inc. trading as Tasteful Affairs Catering, 5700 General Washington Dr. Suite J. Alexandria, VA 22312. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Caterer Limited license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Linda Harkness/Chef Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
-Werner Heisenberg

### Obituary



**William Hanford Knotts** known to many as Bill or Pop Bill was a resident of Opp, Alabama when he passed away at the age of 86 on Monday 12/31/2018 at Mizell Memorial Hospital.

A son of Everett and Nellie Knotts he was born on the 5th of July 1932 in Mannheim, WV and grew up in the town of Grafton as one of 11 siblings. He met the love of his life Emma Gean Knotts at a carnival in Ft. Walton Beach Florida while he was stationed at Eglin Air Force Base. They married in Crestview Florida on the 9th of June 1952 and proceeded to start a family with 4 children (Carol, William L., Debra and Rebecca), 5 grandchildren (Kerry, Brad, Erik, Paul and Tina) and 14 great-grandchildren.

William proudly served our country for over 40 years in the Air Force and working for the Department of Defense. During this time, he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. He loved traveling the country with Emma to spend time with family. While at home he spent time gardening, watching birds and butterflies. He will be laid to rest with his loving wife of 65 years in Arlington National Cemetery on February 15th, 2019 at 1:00PM.

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### Announcements

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about an  
upcoming event**

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### Legals

### Legals

## PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at:

Robinson Terminal North  
500 and 501 North Union Street, Alexandria, VA

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Alexandria North Terminal LLC to develop a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of soil and groundwater petroleum contamination at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact Alexandria North Terminal LLC's consultant:

Mike Bruzzesi  
ICOR Ltd.  
P.O. Box 406  
Middleburg, VA 20118  
703-608-5969

A Corrective Action Plan has been submitted to the Northern Regional Office of DEQ. If you would like to review or discuss the Corrective Action Plan with the staff of DEQ, please feel free to contact Alex Wardle, Environmental Geologist, at 703-583-3822 or [alexander.wardle@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:alexander.wardle@deq.virginia.gov). DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the Corrective Action Plan for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice. DEQ may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest.

Written comments should be sent to DEQ at the address listed below. DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC #20163090:

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Northern Regional Office  
Storage Tank Program  
13901 Crown Court  
Woodbridge, VA 22193