

Alumni Association

Keeping Ties with Our Alumni



TAYLOR
School District



April 2020 Newsletter

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Dr. Gary Procop's Presentation to Students



Dr. Procop, who is the Medical Director of the Molecular, Microbiology, Mycology, Parasitology & Virology Laboratories at the Cleveland Clinic presented to three

groups of students at Taylor High School, Monday, March 9th. Dr. Procop made an instant contact with the students when he told them about his home life and education. He

explained that his father died when Gary was in Junior High School. That left Gary and three other children to struggle financially, along with their mother, who was now the head of a single parent household. Despite not having much money, he was able to graduate from Eastern Michigan University. He stated he missed not having a campus life, but by commuting, working and borrowing from student loans, he was proud he graduated. As a matter of fact, he managed to continue his medical courses and beyond for 15 years. Through a video presentation, he drew parallels between his current work on the coronavirus outbreak with that of the first doctors working on epidemics years ago. After answering questions from the students, he invited them up to view a collection of bed bugs, ticks, tape worms, etc. He concluded by thanking the Taylor School System and Staffs for the educational preparation he received prior to his graduation from Kennedy High School in 1983.

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Dr. Procop had to return to the Cleveland Clinic immediately as he was under tremendous pressure dealing with the Corona Outbreak.

Gary told the Taylor Alumni Association and Foundation that he will continue to support the efforts of both of the organizations.

DECA- DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATION CLUBS OF AMERICA



The DECA Fashion Show and Prom was a huge hit.

The marketing students put on their annual DECA prom fashion show. The students used their marketing curriculum to plan, organize, implement, execute, and evaluate this event. Senior DECA members modeled in the show and emceed it. The males wore clothing provided by Men's Wearhouse and the females modeled fashions from David's Bridal. They all looked phenomenal.

Chris Sherry was announced at the event as our DECA executive board member who is

running for Michigan State Officer.

He is currently campaigning and was featured on page 7 of the Spotlight on DECA Magazine. Voting took place on March 5th at the State of Michigan conference.



A HISTORY OF PAST AND PRESENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Our recent articles on present and past school has prompted many responses and corrections from our readers. Here are a couple of examples: John Makar, JFK 1974, gave us this information:

TAYLOR CENTER ELEMENTARY

☑ Building is 1938, originally 1 two story building. A smaller 1 story building with 6 classrooms was added in the late 1950's for K & 1st graders. Auditorium and music room added to original building in early 1960's. The original building was razed.

☑ Roger Swap, TCH 1967, advised us that we had a wrong date of 1960 as the year Eureka Dale was built. He was sure it was an

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error as he had attended school there long before 1960. As a result of Roger's message, I looked for additional information and found this:

☑ In 1938 Taylor Center was the first school in Wayne County to be fully built by the WPA (Works Progress Administration). This created the 7th School District in Taylor Township. (Note, sounds different but they seemed to have called each school a District.) This indicates that there were six schools built prior to 1938 when Taylor Center (I assume this is Taylor Center Elementary) was built.

The article goes on to say that in 1946 the seven School Districts voted to be consolidated into one District. The seven were:

- ★ Edison - We had it being built in 1938— seems it may have been built earlier.
- ★ Edgewood - We had information that it was built in 1928, which appears to make it the oldest.
- ★ Eureka Dale - We were partly in error...It appears it was built in 1938 or earlier and then a new building was built in 1960. There were actually two pictures according to the historical society photographs.
- ★ Fletcher - Again, we had 1938 and it could have been earlier.

Your Taylor Alumni Association thanks John for the information and Roger for pointing out the error. I found the research very interesting

and will continue to attempt to find more information. I asked Caroline Patts to contact the Taylor Historical Society for more information. We'll follow up with any additional information we find in a future issue. 📝



WE HEARD FROM YOU!

► **Sonny Wilburn, TCH Class of 1965, sent us this powerful message**

When I was a little boy, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed!

All my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that ugly burned biscuit. He

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ate every bite of that thing...never made a face nor uttered a word about it!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits every now and then."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your mom put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides—a little burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

As I've grown older, I've thought about that many times. You know, life is full of imperfect things...and imperfect people. I'm not the best housekeeper or cook.

But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each other's differences is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship. 📖

COURAGE IS BEING SCARED
TO DEATH AND SADDLING UP
ANYWAY. —JOHN WAYNE

ALUMNI NEWS!

George Vail, TCH graduate of the Class of 1960, is a retired Police Officer after working in both the City of Detroit and Taylor. George enjoys writing poetry and has shared many of his poems with me. Day or night when a topic comes to mind, he enjoys writing a poem regarding that topic. George is one of five children in the Vail family. He wrote the following poem about his sisters.

SISTERS

You are the snow that melts
Into the stream giving new life

The smell of spring
The cherry blossoms
The sweetness of honeysuckle
The kindness of a fawn

You are the warmth of the
Summer sun

The sound of the birds
The serenity of the loon
The peace in a summer night

You are as beautiful as the crimson
Colored tree against the gold

The flight of an eagle
The sun setting on the lake
The howling of a wolf calling his own

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You are the purity of the first snow
That brings joy to everyone

The glitter of diamonds in the moonlight
The cave that gives refuge
The safety of a tree

You are all that God could give
To a brother such as me

I am not an expert, but I sure was impressed. And what a gift to give his sisters. What do you think of the poem? Please send comments to johnpantalone@sbcglobal.net

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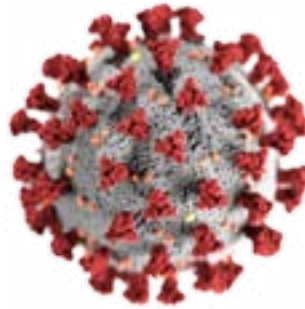
A photograph of a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a gradient of colors, from a pale blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking out towards the horizon. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

EVEN THE
DARKEST
NIGHT WILL
END AND THE
SUN WILL RISE.

- Les Misérables -

Coronavirus...what is it?

Coronaviruses are a group of related viruses that cause diseases in mammals and birds. In humans, coronaviruses cause respiratory tract infections that can be mild, such as some cases of the common cold, and others that



can be lethal, such as SARS, MERS, and COVID-19. Symptoms in other species vary: in chickens, they cause an upper respiratory tract disease, while in cows and pigs they cause diarrhea. There are yet to be vaccines or antiviral drugs to prevent or treat human coronavirus infections. —source: wikipedia

Please stay safe everyone! You and your families are in our prayers during this time of crisis. —Your Alumni Association Team

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OBITUARIES



The Alumni Association members would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the former classmates mentioned below. You will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.

If you know of a deceased graduate that is not listed in the Memoriam section of our website please let us know the name, school, graduating class and date of passing.

Truman High School

Rhonda Wright Torimino, Class of 1997 (passed February 26, 2020)

John F Kennedy High

Wanda Chapman Pongracz, Class of 1968 (passed February 27, 2020)

Gail Louise Holland, Class of 1968 (passed March 6, 2020)

Taylor Center High

Eric Dubke, Class of 1982 (passed March 16, 2020)

Janet Fedorinchik Smothers, Class of 1959 (passed March 19, 2020)

Staff

Mary Joann Monson, Retired Elementary Teacher (passed January 19, 2020)

Memorial Contribution

Gail Holland's family asked that memorial contributions be sent to: Taylor Public School Foundation for Educational Excellence (Scholarship Program), 23033 Northline Road, Taylor, MI 48180.

The Taylor Alumni Association extends our appreciation to Gail Holland's family, Sister Sharon Cruden, TCH 1964, Brother David, JFK 1976, Brother-in-law John Cruden, TCH 1964 and companion Jim Fraser for asking that Memorial contributions be sent to the Taylor Foundation Scholarships. These memorial contributions will help students to defray higher education costs and be a memorial that will live on for years.

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit the alumni website tayloralumni.org and click on "In Memoriam".