

IN THE NEWS



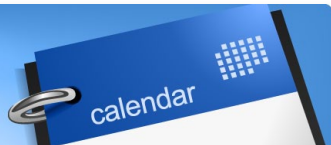
Madonna University Woman's Volley Ball team were victorious in their first tournament match. The team is coached by Gerry Abraham long time Taylor teacher, counselor and coach. He has been coaching at Madonna for over 30 years and has had outstanding success in both volleyball and softball. Gerry's assistant coach is another former Taylor teacher, Mark Grenier. The Taylor Alumni Association wishes Gerry and Mark continued success in the Tournament.

THERE IS A LOT HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

Business News.

- HEARNS Industrial Services (all facets of the Trucking Business) is expanding their facility on Huron Street by a 96,000 sq. foot addition that will add 100 new jobs
- BUBBA'S 33, a family sports restaurant chain will be located in the Burlington Square Center. The Bubba name comes from CEO Kent Bubba Taylor who also operates the Texas Roadhouse chain.
- CYPRESS GARDENS, located near Goddard and Holland are putting in five new homes in the \$200,000 range.

**Upcoming
Events**
Mark your calendar



December 1st - 22nd

December 8th

Santa's Magic Forest, Downriver's finest holiday display.

The Taylor Community Chorus presents, "Sing A Little Christmas" 4 pm at the William D. Ford Senior Activity Center, 6750 Troy Street, Taylor.



WE HEARD FROM YOU!

➤ **Bea Leonards Benjamin, JFK class of 1985**, accepted the position of Curriculum Director and State and Federal Director for the Redford Union Schools. She said, "I am happy to accept a new challenge but I miss Taylor as it was my home in so many ways for over 40 years".

The Taylor Alumni Association wishes Bea the best in her new position.

➤ **Reg Dickson, JFK teacher and counselor**, attended the 50th reunion of the JFK Class of 1969. Later he told me he met graduate Michael Bates and was very impressed with Michael's achievements after graduation. I contacted Michael and asked for the write up that follows.

I attended our JFK 50th class reunion and it was a pleasure to be seated with Mr. Dickson. Although I never had him as a teacher, I am sure he was a great one. There are so many memories of my years at JFK, that I would never be able to mention all of them. Aside from my Parents, the teachers I had at JFK have influenced my life tremendously! Mr. Checkler, Mr. Schediers, and Mr. Garthe to only name a few. Mr. Checkler was my Sociology teacher in

the 10th grade, he would bring in the Detroit News and the Free Press and that was our study. We learned so much about world events and local news as we discussed everything. Mr. Schediers taught Electricity. He taught us the right way to wire a home, and every time I work with electricity, I think of him. Mr. Garthe taught Machine Shop, the things I learned from him has stayed with me all of my life. He taught us welding and worked on and used every machine that was in the Machine Shop. Most of all, he always stressed safety. My junior and senior years I was working for Synthetex Inc., a local Taylor company that built custom cars for Chrysler and Ford companies. The owner, Ron Mondrush, was impressed with all the machines that I could not only use but use them correctly. In early 1969 we built a custom show car for Chrysler. I ended up doing most of the fiberglass work and ended up painting the vehicle which was on the cover of July 1969 Motor Trend Magazine. In 1972 I was drafted into the US Army, I missed serving in Vietnam by a miracle, I ended up in Germany for 13 months and days. My typing skills from JFK, landed me in Supply. After the Army and much speculating, I opened my own Collision shop in Taylor, "Mike Bates Collision Service". In my career, I have been certified in Engine Major, Engine Minor, Brakes, Suspension, Auto AC, Auto electric, SRS protection system, ABS, I-Car certified, also Vehicle Appraiser to include Heavy Equipment. In 1988 my wife and I made a move to Tennessee, where we

continue on page 4

continue from page 3 (We heard from you!)



are both from. I was born in Tennessee and my wife's family was from Tennessee. It was a great move for us. We have two daughters Natalie and Alicia. In 2003 I went to work with Crawford and Co. as a vehicle appraiser, traveled in middle Tennessee doing appraisals on collision vehicles. In 2006 I started my own Appraisal Company. This has taken me all over the United States doing Catastrophic appraisals on vehicles. I was working in Wisconsin in 2018 when, a co- worker suggested that I send my resume to the Bosch Corporation. Bosch was looking for people with my background. I was hired in June of 2018. This has taken me to 15 countries in the Caribbean. We are replacing Takata air bags in Honda recall vehicles. My wife Rhonda asked me just the other day, if I could have been in any other career what would it have been. It took a moment before I said I would not change a thing. I have had

the honor to meet and work with some of the greatest people in the Automotive business. I am proud to be one of them. As a 17 year-old, graduating from high school, I did not desire or feel the need to go to college. My career had already begun. Many things have shaped my life. I am so happy to say that JFK was a big part of my life and my career. Looking back, I thank all of my teachers and classmates for being some of the greatest people that I have had the Honor of Knowing. Michael E Bates. JFK 1969. 📝

A HISTORY OF PRESENT AND PAST SCHOOL BUILDINGS

TAYLOR CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

- ★ Built in 1953 opened in 1954
- ★ 1956 second unit added
- ★ 1957 third unit added
- ★ Closed in 1997 and two wings were razed some time later. The remaining portions were fully razed in 2011. The property is now used for greenspace

JOHN F KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

- ★ Built in 1964 opened in 1965
- ★ Closed in 2018
- ★ Still standing...future uncertain

HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL

- ★ Built in 1973 and occupied in the Fall of that year.
- ★ Closed June of 2018
- ★ Re-opened September of 2018 as Taylor High School.

—Document prepared by Caroline Patts



GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER HOME GAMES

- December 6th Boy's Basketball Fundraiser 7 pm Skore Lanes in Taylor Bowling, shoes, pop, pizza- great time- help the boys—all for only \$25
- 10th Winter Band Concert, 7 pm at the beautiful WCCC Auditorium
- 16th Choir Concert 7 pm at the beautiful WCCC Auditorium
- 23rd School closes for Holiday Break – Re-opens January 6
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- December 6th Girls Basketball Vs Robichaud JV 5:30 pm Varsity 7
- 13th Girls Basketball Vs Woodhaven 9th Grade 4 pm JV 5:30 Varsity 7
- 17th Boys Basketball vs Wyandotte 9th Grade 4pm JV 5:30 Varsity 7

☒ **College Night**

Seventeen Colleges and University representatives met with Taylor High School students. The one on one meetings resulted in \$922,996 dollars being offered to our students in scholarship money. Fantastic! The Taylor Alumni Association thanks the staff, counselors and administrators for such a productive event.

☒ A Powder Puff football game between Jr and Sr girls was held in November. Boys from both classes were the cheerleaders. Senior girls won 12-8. That was not the important part. The important part was the students raised \$2,000 to be donated to the Autism Alliance. What a great gesture and learning experience. The Taylor Alumni Association commends the students, coaches and staff of Taylor High for making this happen.



**YOUR TAYLOR ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION'S BOARD
WISHES ALL OF YOU A
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON**

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.

We have received many reports about people who passed away several months ago, and in some cases, even years ago. Many are being reported as a result of post cards or calls being made by the company working on the directory as they've tried to contact these individuals.

That prompts me to ask the following: If you know 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.

Taylor Center High

Katherine Marie Stellini, Class of 1969 (passed November 4, 2019)

Robert Geiger, Class of 1968 (passed November 7, 2019)

James "Jim" Boyd, Class of 1986 (passed October 16, 2019)

John F Kennedy High

James Moran, Class of 1970 (passed November 5, 2019)

STAFF

Ben Franas, Elementary Physical Education Instructor (passed November 11, 2019)

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