



Enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District for both the graduates and the school district.

December 2017 Alumni Newsletter

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Taylor Alumni Association

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IN THE NEWS

New School New Name
New Colors New Logo



During the November Taylor School Board Meeting, the Board reacted to results of surveys of parents, community and students and named the new High School, new school colors and new mascot. The people have voted and the results are in—they are:

New High School Name:

Taylor, Colors: **Black and Gold**, Mascot, **Griffins**—
you might ask, what is a

Griffin? Here is the definition:

A legendary creature having the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a cougar. What could possibly be better than reminding us of Taylor Center High with the Black and Gold colors and the mascot reminding us of Kennedy Eagles and Truman Cougars. Congratulations to the committee for an outstanding job surveying and choosing the name, colors and mascot.



Image Source: Wikipedia

The mythical creature the Griffin

THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Consolidation

Several graduates are asking "why are we closing a high school". Here is a look at some enrollment figures to help explain the necessity.

- 1971 Enrollment - 11,193 elementary students and 11,044 secondary students for a total of 22,237 students.
- 2017-18 tentative school year enrollment is 6,381 total student population, a decline of 15,856 students or a 71% loss.
- In 1971 TCH graduated 504 and JFK graduated 553 for a total of 1,057.
- In 2017 JFK had just over 200 graduates and HST was a little under 200 for approximately a total of 400.

The numbers seem to tell the reason, at least one of the reasons.

Now perhaps we have to determine the reason or reasons for the decline and see if it is possible to reverse the trend. The Taylor Alumni Association would certainly assist in such a study.

Truman High School Hosts Cancer Awareness Football Game



This year Truman High School starting a new tradition. One of their final football games was a Cancer Awareness fundraiser game. During this years event each player wore a uniform with the name of a community member who was touched by cancer in some way. Before the game, a ceremony was held to recognize cancer survivors and the families of those whose names were on the jerseys. The families were given the jerseys at the end of the game. The game raised more than \$3,000 for the American Cancer Society.

The Taylor Alumni Association commends Truman and all who participated in this great community effort.

Article source [Dave Herndon of Theheraldnews.com](http://DaveHerndonofTheheraldnews.com) | Photo courtesy of Relay for Life of Taylor.



TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOLS FIRST PRINCIPAL



Truman Principal Al Whited

Al Whited started his career in the Taylor schools in the mid-fifties. It did not take long for this charismatic individual to advance to Administrative positions. He started as an elementary teacher and made a rapid move into administration, first at the Jr. High level and on to become Principal of Taylor Center High School, a position he held for 8 years. When Harry S Truman High opened in 1973 Mr. Whited was named the Principal. Mr. Whited had a great resume for the position-degrees from Spring Arbor and Eastern, experience at all three levels in the Taylor Schools, elementary teacher, Jr. High Administrator and Principal of Taylor Center High School. His eight years of being Principal at Taylor Center High made the move to HST an easy one. It was reported that Mr. Bargamian had the longest run as Principal in Taylor High Schools. He served as Principal of

JFK for 16 years. Al Whited served longer as High School Principal but in two High Schools, TCH & HST for a total of 18 years.

Al was an avid golfer to say the least. He competed in the Michigan Public links golf tournaments, in senior Olympics and several leagues with fellow educators in Taylor. He had 6 holes in one to his credit as well as a remarkable record of shooting his age 5 times. Mr. Whited passed March 21, 2017. He will be long remembered by the students, residents and the educational community of Taylor.

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN TAYLOR

Taylor City Election Results

Major: Rick Sollars, TCH Graduate 1992

City Clerk: Cindy Newman Bower, JFK Graduate 1989

Treasurer: Ed Bourassa, JFK Graduate 1984

Council: Angela Croft, JFK Graduate 1985;
Charley Johnson, JFK Graduate 1980;
Caroline Craddock Patts, TCH Graduate 1973;
Tim Woolley, TCH 1988 and Daniel Bzura,
Alex Garza and Herman Ramik.

The Taylor Alumni Association congratulates each of these elected individuals and thanks them for their community service.



WE HEARD FROM

➤ We received an email suggesting that they missed hearing about more Taylor Center Graduate...so here we go with a couple from the early 60's.

Richard Reid, TCH 1962 was recently in town. Richard was an important part of the newly introduced Tennis program. Reid won many matches playing singles and when playing doubles, he and Paul Faulkner were tournament champions in the Mid-Wayne League. In Reid's three years playing for the Rams, they were undefeated in the Mid-Wayne league.

After high school Richard became a successful business man in the Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti area. He owned and managed two hair salons, renovated historic homes and businesses. Now retired Mr. Reid lives 6 months on Mission Peninsula in Traverse City and 6 months in Port Charlotte FL. I was very interested in Richard's new sports venture. He plays Croquet—not the back-yard variety but league Croquet on fields specifically designed for the game. Uniforms are required, and his team plays in a league playing city teams on the west coast of Florida, including Venice, Naples and others. Very

fascinating. Richard is very proud of his family and rightfully so. He has two sons and now has six grandchildren, three of them in college and three still in high school.

➤ The November/December 2017 article in the magazine Chrysler Power has the first of a multi series article on Racing's Unsung Hero. Paul Rossi TCH graduate of the Class of 1960 is that unsung hero.

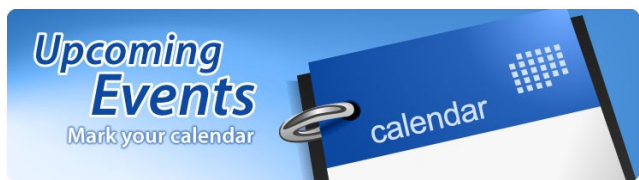
After much success on the track through the years, Paul achieved the Sportsman Racer's dream—a full time factory sponsorship with Chrysler. In return for the deal, Rossi had to make



the 440 model fly and fly it did! He also had to share the knowledge he developed on that 440 with Chrysler and was a regular guest of President Lee Iacocca, one of the most influential executives of all time.

More on this story in future editions.

The Taylor Alumni Association congratulates Paul Rossi on his success in the racing car industry. The Taylor Alumni Association congratulates both Richard Reid and Paul Rossi on their successes.



- March 3, 2018 Mark your calendars for the Foundation Fundraiser "Dueling Pianos"
- October 6, 2018 JKF Class of 1968's 50th Reunion. If planning to attend the cost is \$40. Please make checks to John F Kennedy Class Reunion and mail to Nancy Strong 35626 Pinecrest New Boston Mi 48164, If you have question please contact Nancy McVay Strong at 734-654-8395, Mary Burgraph Baugh 734-512-7272, or Lynn Carson Boughton at 517-902-4406
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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.

John F Kennedy High

Marianne Ferguson, class of 1977 (passed 2017)

Steve Riser, class of 1977 (passed 2017)

Taylor Center High

Ellis King, class of 1975, (passed October 15, 2017)

Kenneth Brooks, class of 1959 (passed October 20, 2017)

Janis Page, class of 1974 (passed November 1, 2017)

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