

East Tawas News

Issue #1

By Michael Gilfix

News from Lake Wobegon ended, sadly, when Garrison Keillor was forced to stop broadcasting. What a slice of (his take on) Americana.

I get the Iosco County News-Herald every week. It is my small hometown newspaper. It actually covers other small towns in the area, as well, as the population is so small. E. Tawas has about 2,000.

So I decided today to try it as Garrison might have done it, only my effort is purely based on fact, on what is in the newspaper.

For the record, Tawas is truly middle America. Joys, warts, blemishes, promises, and all. This may be a “one off” or I may sustain it. Let me know if you enjoy it and want more.

June 22 edition of the Iosco County News-Herald – Selected Highlights.

Jane Nelkie published a book about her family history on their farm, started in 1900. (I knew the Nelkie family, btw). It is largely about life on farm, she says, and the under-appreciated, vital role farms play in our world.

“She didn’t anticipate her book becoming so popular,” says the article.

It “sold 30 copies over the course of a week before they sold out.” Fact is, it probably wonderful reading. Direct and home spun, catering to no one.

20 churches announced their Sunday schedules.

The “Sentenced” feature about the local Circuit Court is long, as always. Mostly drug and alcohol and domestic violence, with lots of resisting arrests, and more.

And these: TAH of Lincoln was sentenced to 60 days after pleading guilty to “attempted false report of a felony.” 60 days in jail.

CDW pleaded guilty to “disorderly drunk person-jostling.” Credit for 4 days in jail and a \$400 fine.

Play golf on “Thirsty Thursdays” at Tawas Creek (the course I grew up on) -- \$20 with a cart and \$2 beer.

The Fishing Report tells us that “there were some small mouth bass caught while casting spinners, body baits, and crawlers” in Tawas.

The Tawas Area Elks Lodge presented \$9,000 to 6 area students for college.

This is dear to my heart, as I got a \$50 Elks scholarship when I graduated from high school in 1965 and it really mattered.

Notes from the Author:

The Goal of my Tawas News is to educate and amuse you about my home town, East Tawas, Michigan. It is to remind you that small towns still thrive in America, that they are sometimes struggling, often vibrant. It is based on my hometown weekly newspaper, personal memories, and occasional, very personal observations.

The Inspiration: The inspiration was Garrison Keillor's "News from Lake Wobegon" on his NPR show, Prairie Home Companion. Lake Wobegon was fictional, quietly poignant and lol enjoyable.

Tawas is not fictional; it is very real. It is similar to Lake Wobegon in many ways – the farmers, the pastors, the community where everybody knows everybody's business.

The town of East Tawas is located on Lake Huron on the lower peninsula about 110 miles north of Flint, Michigan. The population is around 2,723. It hasn't grown much from my childhood in the 50's and 60's. The adjacent town of Tawas City has a population of about 1,726. Why 2 separate towns? Don't ask.

So, enjoy, and let me know what you think. Share it with friends and family. I am happy to add anyone to the mailing list, so send me names.

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