

News from Small Town (Tawas)

Middle America

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By Michael Gilfix

In Memorium: Len Sarki signed my High School diploma in 1965 (see below). Len just passed away at age 96. I have long wondered if small town life, perhaps mellower, adds to longevity.



Iosco County News Herald – October 5, 2022

Biggest News – Tawas Area Football Team Breaks a 20 Game Losing Streak

It was Homecoming, so this win over Mancelona (an even smaller town closer to Lake Michigan) was cause for a real celebration. Congratulations, Braves! (Yes, still called the "Braves.")

Join the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Tawas Flotilla

The announcement stresses that “age is not a factor.” The Coast Guard still has an outpost on Tawas Bay. My guess is that they will get many applicants.

Tawas City Police Force Expands its Jurisdiction

Alabaster is a small township adjacent to Tawas City. The population is under 400. The area gets a C minus for nightlife and diversity. It’s a conservative community where the schools are “above average,” even though it doesn’t have schools. It looks like the township will pay the Tawas City Police Department about \$5,000 a year to have that police force also patrol Alabaster. Yes, \$5,000 per year for police coverage.

McDonald’s Restaurants in Tawas City and Oscoda – News About Ownership

The new owner, Cynthia V is already working hard to recruit workers. For anyone who joins them, “I want them to know that the sky’s the limit. You can start as a crew person,” she says “and one day you may be a general manager.”

Letters to the Editor

Randal R says “The Big Question” (is) that the Republican Party needs to ask itself how long it will continue to support the idea that the election was stolen. “So far their response can only be described as ‘the big disappointment.’”

Ken H is very worried about the new “Progressive Democratic party. So if you like what you are seeing at our borders, our inner cities, our public schools and courtrooms get out there in November and vote for the Biden/Harris” party “and kiss the land of the free and the American dream goodbye.”

As a side note, there are ads in the newspaper to support Republicans in the election, but no ads supporting Democrats in the election.

The Annual Fall Harvest Took Place as the Tawas Point State Park

It features free Lighthouse visits and free hayrides. There was a dance that included music, apple cider, and hot chocolate.

This is truly the stuff of small towns.

Women’s Businesses Thrive

On September 29, the local chapter of the American Business Women’s Association (ABWA) held their 25th fashion show. They had about 125 attendees and gave out \$3,000 in scholarships. In the newspaper, featured was a photograph of “Model Noah” showing off his shirt.

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Firewood Cutting Follows Wildfire

The local office of the National Forest is providing free Personal Use Firewood Permits to get rid of “a lot of dead oak, both standing and down.” The idea is to prepare for a tree planting initiative.

Is this ever allowed in California, where we have millions of trees down and damaged

because of fires and wind? California's challenge is so great that this type of initiative can only make sense if lumber companies are given permits. The challenge would be building new roads in wilderness areas, something that ardent conservationist (and I) previously opposed.

“No Background Check; No Drug Testing; No Vaccination Required”

These words highlight an advertisement looking for a number of workers for a small manufacturing company in Oscoda. This is one approach to dealing with the shortage of applicants for a number of well-paying jobs. Some of these jobs involve construction and work with sophisticated machines. Let's hope this doesn't backfire.

Another advertisement offers starting wages at \$17 - \$23 per hour in addition to many benefits. Given the cost of living in Iosco County, this level of pay will enable even new employees to afford housing and the basics of life.

Golden Doodles for Sale - \$1,200

In our area in California, the cost for a vetted golden doodle is double or triple this amount. Anyone up for a long drive to East Tawas to pick up a new puppy?

Real Estate Transfer – Families Together

The daughter and son-in-law of one of my best friends just bought a little house half a block from the summer house owned by my friends. “The grandkids love East Tawas,” says my friend, the Grandpa. Two blocks walk to the beach. Two blocks walk to Marion's Dairy Bar.

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.