

# ***News from Small Town (Tawas)***

## ***Middle America***

**Issue #12**

**October 24, 2022**

**By Michael Gilfix**

### **Iosco County News Herald – October 12, 2022**

#### **Can You Believe it: “Murder for Hire Plot!”**

Keep in mind that many page 1 headlines in the newspaper are about millage (local tax) proposals and discussions. Not the kind of thing you get excited about.

But this issue of the newspaper features a photo of an “East Tawas businessman, city councilman” accused in a murder for hire scheme by the Michigan state police.

First observation: anybody who serves on the city council is known to virtually everybody in town.

Second observation: this story will keep the town abuzz for months and perhaps years to come.

The accused individual tried to hire two brothers from Georgia to murder a mother and son who were beneficiaries of an estate with which the accused was involved. He apparently offered \$400,000 for the deed. Unfortunately for him, the individuals solicited to commit the murder called the police. They also set up a “phone trap,” which is a recorded conversation in which the accused individual clearly incriminated himself.

Stay tuned for more updates.

#### **Moratorium on Political Letters**

The newspaper informs its readers that it will not accept or print any letters to the editor regarding any political issues until after the November 1 election. They did this “in an effort to provide fair coverage” of the general election.

This very wise approach was no doubt done as the newspaper received an avalanche of letters about various candidates and political parties.

One letter in the current issue, for example, has the comment that a vote for a particular candidate “is a vote to end democracy.”

#### **Homemade Pies - \$12 Each**

The Tawas United Methodist Church held a bazaar to raise money for local school children. The bazaar featured apple, cherry, or blueberry pies at \$12 each.

In my community, store-made pies sell for double this amount.

### **Powder Puff Games Thrive**

Powder Puff football games are played only by female student athletes. Tawas had their flag football game – high school juniors against high school seniors – on September 27.

Ouch! The seniors won 46 – 0.

While female athletes compete in many sports, and while there are all-female flag football games in our colleges, the name “powder puff” would never fly in the Bay Area of California.

### **The Blight of Methamphetamines**

Three or four individuals were bound over or sentenced by county judges for possession and/or sale of methamphetamines. The curse of this addiction continues unabated in these and other small communities.

***So it goes for small town middle America. Murder for Hire, infestations of methamphetamines, Powder Puff Football, and \$12 homemade pies.***

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#### ***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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