

News from Small Town (Tawas)

Middle America

Issue #15

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by Michael Gilfix

Here is some perspective from deceased author, Truman Capote:
“Fame is only good for one thing: they will cash your check in a small town.”

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Criminal Charges Abound!

First we had a “murder for hire” arrest of a member of the City Counsel in East Tawas. Then we had the arrest of a member of the county Board of Commissioners for impersonating a police officer. Now we have a local guy arrested for a “huge cache of child sexually abusive material.” The accused is a registered sex offender and on parole. He was also a “peeping Tom.” (Sorry, readers named “Tom,” for this old saying.)

Cartoon Nails It

The cartoon in this issue features an older couple at a pharmacy that features hearing aids. The wife says to the husband, “Let’s come back after political ads are over!”

Can You Believe it – Work to Complete Part of the Iron Bell (Nature) Trail is Coming in \$700,000 Less than Anticipated

Since I so often compare Iosco County to my community in California, coming in under budget is simply and absolutely unheard of in my neck of the woods.

Bologna Thrives

Klenow’s, my favorite local Tawas market, is selling ring bologna for \$4.99 per lb. Our Daily Bread, which apparently features bulk foods, is selling “sweet Lebanon bologna” for \$6.89 per lb.

Interestingly, beef bologna at Whole Foods Market in Palo Alto, California is \$5.99 per lb. Somehow, there is a lesson in this.

Michigan Bobcat Appears

This issue features a remarkable close up photo of a bobcat in Alabaster. Here it is:



East Tawas and Tawas City Collaborate – This is News?

The waste water treatment plant that serves both cities needs serious upgrades. That two small, adjacent cities are collaborating should be routine. But it isn't. They have separate (tiny) police departments and other separate services objectively wasting huge money. This sign of collaboration is good news. Perhaps it will be a role model for other activities and city responsibilities.

Fall Colors Abound

North of town, getting closer to Alpena, there are rolling hills that feature splendorous fall colors that match the best of the Northeast. You should visit!

Real Estate Report

A number of houses are for sale in the area for \$75,000. The most expensive is \$299,000 for a house three blocks from the house I grew up in. Prices are dropping in East Tawas.

Brrrrrr!

A home maintenance small business is looking for “experienced snow plow drivers and shovelers.” This certainly reminds me of growing up in East Tawas.

Fishing Report

On the Tawas River, Lake Trout and Walleye were caught using spoons and body baits.

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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