

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

## ***Middle America***

**Issue #21**

**December 28, 2022**

**by Michael Gilfix**

*Enjoy this Newsletter and let me know what you think!*

For an explanation of my goal and the inspiration, look to the end of this newsletter. You will see information about where Tawas is located and how big it isn't.

### **New Years Message from your Tawas News:**

Writing *News from Small Town (Tawas) Middle America* has been a blast. It will continue.

I have read every issue of the *Iosco County News Herald* published in 2022. Who else does this?! I will do the same in 2023.

I will “pick and choose” items that I find meaningful for inclusion.

It may be the fishing report, the price of bologna at Klenow's, the latest arrest of a county official, or an intriguing church gathering.

As a born and raised Tawasian\* I will offer thoughts and perspectives about small town life from my location in the heart of Silicon Valley.

\*I was actually born in Harrisville, north of Tawas, even smaller with a population of 437.

I look forward to comments and suggestions from readers. I have received about 20 so far. I cherish them.

The fact is that life in a town like Tawas is different. It is simpler in many ways, yet remarkably complicated in others.

I can't wait to see what 2023 brings us.  
Enjoy New Years!

- Mike Gilfix, Palo Alto, CA

### **Favorite Comment From a New Reader:**

“Cool.”

## **Iosco County News Herald – December 21, 2022**

### **Front Page News: Tawas City Council Sets its 2023 Schedule**

It must have been a slow news week. Yet, making it a front page article could pique interest and get many people to attend meetings who never would have considered it.

### **Letters to the Editor:**

One Letter, from Paul R. begins “Liberals are so predictable.” He says that the safety and effectiveness of vaccines “has been widely disproven.” After a number of other examples, he concludes: “the mainstream media is efficient at hiding truth.”

Many “pro and con” letters address this type of issue. At least it isn’t personal.

In fact, the editors indicate that they will “no longer allow letters to attack specific individuals by name.” Past letters in past issues routinely did so, no doubt stirring heightened passions. This is a good development since debate is robust, but should not be personal.

### **86 Year Old Jon K and Unplanned Days in the State Forest**

Jon went for a drive on December 9 and didn’t return home. He was an “avid outdoorsman,” so drones and helicopters joined the search in forested areas he liked. On December 16, he was found “in good spirits.” He spent a few days in his car after it got stuck in the snow.

As I write this portion of the Tawas News, the temperature in Tawas is about 19 degrees. Jon is a hardy guy!

### **Vice Chair of the County Board of Commissioners Pleads Guilty**

Charles F was charged with impersonating an officer when he approached a school bus and detained all of the young occupants for about ten minutes. He was apparently and reasonably concerned that there was an assault that took place on the school bus.

Yet, “a cop is a cop. Others are not.”

Charles will be sentenced on January 31.

### **What the Merry Christmas Publication Tells Me**

This issue of the Herald is full of advertisements from local businesses wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

More important are the multiple local festivities and community gatherings that are happening in town. They reflect the real “small town” essence of Tawas and nearby communities.

Consider this: if 500 individuals participate in local community, club, and church holiday events, it is a large portion of the population of 2,800 – about 18%. In my diverse city of residence, 18% would be about 12,000 individuals.

This means that, as so many jokes conclude, locals in small towns are dramatically more likely to know one another. This is a good thing.

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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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