

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

## ***Middle America***

**Issue #25**

**January 25, 2023**

**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.

### **What Does George Santos teach us about small town newspapers?**

It's hard to miss news stories about George Santos, the newly elected Republican member of Congress from Long Island. It turns out that virtually everything he said about his past was a lie. He snookered leaders of his political party, virtually everyone in the media, and everyone who voted for him.

But there was one exception. The local newspaper in his district, the North Shore Leader, was the only media source that figured it out. While that newspaper, the Leader, typically endorsed a Republican, this time the newspaper endorsed the Democrat. The newspaper reported that Santos was incoherent, "unprincipled and sketchy" – "most likely... a fake."

So hats off to small, local newspapers where reporters and editors are more reliable sources of information about local candidates than big city and national media in so many instances. In other words, keep reading the Iosco County News-Herald.

### **Iosco County News Herald – January 18, 2023**

#### **"It's Always Fun Beating Oscoda"**

These are words I and my classmates would have uttered in the 60's when we were in school in Tawas. Oscoda was always the rival – and beat us more often than not.

The Tawas boys basketball team recently beat Oscoda 86-31! The guys made 22 three-pointers, an astounding achievement at any level. Go Tawas!

#### **Puff Cannabis Scores Media Coup, Does Good Work**

Puff Cannabis of Michigan is lead by a savvy marketing team. Based in Wisconsin with a number of outlets in Iosco County, it created a program to collect jackets and coats to distribute to kids in many communities where Puff Cannabis outlets exist. The good news: they collected over 1,000 coats. More good news for Puff Cannabis: incomparable, free publicity for an industry that is sometimes criticized. It is no surprise that they will be opening more outlets in other areas of Michigan.

## **Perchville USA has a New King, Queen and “Junior Royalty”**

Created in 1950, Perchville focused on ice fishing when I was a kid. Indomitable fishermen (and drinkers) would sit in their shanties, fishing through a hole they cut in the ice on Tawas Bay. I don't think ice fishing is possible this year, but there will be a polar bear plunge on February 4. Most visible are the upcoming coronations of the King and Queen and the Junior Royalty. Those selected have demonstrated “generosity and community spirit.” The coronation breakfast takes place on January 28.

## **Harrisville Follows Hale: Creates a Snowmobile Show**

This will be the first annual for Harrisville, the tiny town in which I was born. The \$5 entry fee will benefit the fireworks fund for July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **First Born of 2023**

The front page is graced with a picture of a young couple whose baby was born on January 4. Among her many gifts are a Noisy Baby Book and a gift card to the Hilltop Bar and Grill.

## **Tawas Point Lighthouse to be Upgraded**

Lighthouse viewing is popular with tens of thousands across the nation. The lighthouse at Tawas point is a classic, well worth a visit. Happily, it just received a \$15,000 grant to add a shelter from challenging weather, which is not uncommon in the area.

## **Convictions and Sentencing**

I am always amused by the number of individuals who only “attempt” assaults, malicious destruction, driving while unlicensed, and more. Five or six individuals pleaded guilty to such attempts. To be fair, I certainly understand that plea bargains are essential to the efficient management of a court docket.

Fifteen individuals were sentenced to various fines and jail sentences for everything from resisting arrest to drunk driving to child abuse 4<sup>th</sup> degree. Fortunately, no heinous crimes were listed among these sentencings.

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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.*