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November 4, 2018

Photo by Becky Kark
First Hebrew
Congregation
President
Remey Rubin
(left) and long-
time member
Barry Fidelman
stand by floral
bouquets that
South Haven
area residents
dropped off
on the syna-
gogue's steps
two days after
the tragic Tree
of Life syna-
gogue shooting
in Pittsburgh
that left 11 peo-
ple dead and 7
wounded.



A show of solidarity

SH residents leave floral
bouquets on local synagogue's
steps in wake of Pittsburgh
synagogue shooting

By **BECKY KARK**
EDITOR AND GENERAL MANAGER

Three small acts of kindness profoundly impacted members of First Hebrew Congregation in South Haven earlier this week.

Two days after the tragic Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh that left 11 people dead, three different individuals from the South Haven area placed bou-

quets of flowers on the steps of the local synagogue on Broadway Avenue.

"They're beautiful, said Barry Fidelman, a longtime member of First Hebrew Congregation. "It's nice to know how our community can have such empathy for the Jewish people."

Remey Rubin, president of the syna-
gogue's board of directors, concurred.

"Our South Haven community shares the disdain of the abhorrent acts of violence and hate," he said.

Pat Householder is one those commu-
nity residents Rubin is referring to.

A member of Epiphany Episcopal Church in South Haven, Householder attended mass on Sunday, a day after the

Please see FLOWERS, A6

Bangor seeks millage to upgrade cemetery

By **BECKY KARK**
EDITOR AND
GENERAL MANAGER

BANGOR — For the past several years, Bangor city council's cemetery committee has partnered with the Bangor Historical Society to raise money for improvements to the city's historic Arlington Hills Cemetery.

In that time period they managed to raise \$20,000 to make some much-needed upgrades. But city officials say it's not enough to maintain the 23-acre cemetery on a regular basis. So they're now turning to voters who will determine Tuesday, whether to approve a .5-mill for maintenance and improvement projects.

"The cemetery needs road work, way-finding signage, a storage building, a retaining wall, additional water lines and spigots to mention a few items," Bangor City Manager Regina Hoover said.

The city budgets approximately \$36,000 each year for the cemetery, according to Hoover, however most of those funds go toward mowing and weed wacking.

"The cemetery contains over 10,000 grave sites so that's a lot of grass upkeep," she said.

Once the city gets done paying for mowing there is approximately \$3,500 left over for maintenance and upgrades.

"That doesn't go very far but we do the best we can to stretch the money," Hoover said.

If the millage isn't

Please see BANGOR, A6



Korean War veteran Bill Stegman looks at old photos that he took during his time serving in the war.

Preserving a piece of history

Veteran donates UN flag from
Korean War Armistice signing
to the Smithsonian museums

By **BECKY KARK**
EDITOR AND GENERAL MANAGER

BREEDSVILLE — An old table-top United Nations flag from the Korean War sat in a trunk at Bill Stegman's house for years.

Out of sight, out of mind. Later, a family member removed it and placed it on a table in an unused bedroom. There it sat for more years collecting dust.

But one day, Stegman decided to do something about the flag, because it was no ordinary one.

During the Korean War, the flag sat on the desk in front of United Nations Command officials who met in 1953 with officials from the Korean People's Army and Chinese People's Volunteer Army to sign a cease-fire agreement that established a demilitarized zone along the 38th parallel, cutting Korea into two countries — North and South Korea.

After years of keeping the flag, Stegman made the decision to donate it to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

"If somebody found it after I'm gone, they'd



U.S. Foreign Policy Resource and History Guide photo

The United Nations flag that Bill Stegman donated to the Smithsonian National Museum is shown in the foreground of the table where negotiators gathered during the Korean War to agree to an armistice halting warfare between the North and South Korean forces.

probably say, 'What's this?' and throw it away," said Stegman, who now is 86 and living in the tiny village of Breedsville, in Van Buren County.

He acquired the flag in a rather unusual way.

Please see FLAG, A6

MORE ELECTION
COVERAGE ON B1

Battle for the 6th

Upton, Longjohn
lobby voters
heading into
Tuesday's election

By **TONY WITTKOWSKI**
HP STAFF WRITER

The congressional race between U.S. Rep. Fred Upton and Democratic challenger Matt Longjohn has generated many headlines and piqued national interest.

In the three months since Longjohn won his party's nomination, both candidates have been focal points in negative ad campaigns, taken part in several forums/debates and have met with potential voters throughout the 6th District.



Upton

Upton, R-St. Joseph, is seeking his 17th consecutive term and runs under a platform as a moderate and bipartisan.

"I'm a voice for Southwest Michigan. This is my home. This is where I grew up," Upton said in a Herald-Palladium interview. "I have been a player on both sides of the aisle wanting to get things done. I'm pleased with the many accomplishments that we've undertaken."

Longjohn has not run for office before. However, the Portage resident and former YMCA health officer has gained support based on his stances in relation to health care.

"I'm a fifth-generation member of this community. This is the part of the world that I love the most and the only one I could represent in Congress," Longjohn said in his HP inter-



Longjohn

Please see RACE, A5



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FLAG

Continued from A1
He was 23 and serving overseas in Japan with the U.S. Navy when he received orders in 1953 to go to Korea.

"I arrived in Korea about one month after the Armistice was signed and attended most meeting held with the Communists while there," Stegman said. "The meetings were held at Panmunjom, Korea, which was in the Demilitarized zone."

One day a U.S. Army colonel, overseeing the United Nations Command office for the Military Armistice Commission, handed Third Class Yeoman Stegman a new United Nations Flag to replace the old one that had been sitting on the meeting table where the cease-fire agreement had been signed.

The old UN flag had been there during negotiations and final Armistice agreement signing and was beginning to show signs of age.

"When I asked what to do with the old one I was told to trash-can it," Stegman recalled. "I thought at the time it was a real keep-sake."

So he put it in his sea bag and when leaving from the Demilitarized Zone in 1955 brought it back home with him.

Stegman would go on to retire from the Navy with the rank of petty officer, first class, and spend another 20 years working for the U.S. Postal Service as a post master in Pullman before giving the flag much thought.

But while his son was stationed in Norfolk, Va. as a chief warrant officer with the U.S. Navy, he told him about the flag.

Stegman recalled his son asking him if he had ever let anyone know he had the flag.

"I said, 'no,'" Stegman said, "and he said, 'well you should.'"

So Stegman followed his son's advice. He contacted the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington D.C. and asked if they would be interested in the flag.

They were. In a letter to Stegman, Kathleen Golden, associate curator of the museum's Armed Forces History Division, stated, "We would be interested in collecting this object." She also asked Stegman if he had more memorabilia associated with his time spent serving at the Demilitarized Zone.

So Stegman donated a medal he received for serving in the war, several photographs of his time spent there and a letter of appreciation he received from his Navy superiors.

Golden thanked

Stegman for his donations. "These items have been entered into our permanent records as a gift from you," she wrote.

Stegman no longer has the flag, but he does have memories of serving in the Navy during the Korean War.

"It's hard to believe they had the Olympics over there," he mused, referring to the Winter Olympics that were held earlier this year in PyeongChang, South Korea – a site of deadly battles during the Korean War. "When I was there it was flattened."

When asked about the recent accord North and South Americans signed in April where the two country's leaders agreed to establish diplomatic relations, Stegman said he remains skeptical.

"It's hard to believe," he said. "I don't trust them (the North Korean government)."

FLOWERS

Continued from A1
mass shooting, to hear other congregants express horror and shock over the tragedy.

"All of us at breakfast on Sunday were just appalled and so sad," she said. When she returned to the church Monday for a class, several church members were still reeling over the latest hate crime to occur in America.

So Householder decided to do something. She went outside and gathered a bouquet of flowers from the church's memorial garden and wrote a note to the local Jewish congregation, stating,

"The congregation at Epiphany Episcopal mourn you in this latest violent act in Pittsburgh. These flowers come from our church garden. Our prayers are with you. Shalom."

"I just felt it was something I needed to do," Householder said. "A group of us at church are aware that our freedoms in this country are being compromised by this continued violence."

Householder wasn't alone in thinking about the hate crime and its implications for people of the Jewish faith throughout America, including those who worship at First Hebrew Congregation.

"When I arrived at the synagogue, a cluster of flowers was already laying by the door," Householder said. "And then someone dropped off another one later."

Householder had a second reason for thinking about the hate crime that occurred at Tree of Life Synagogue and its implications for people of the Jewish faith.

When she attended Duquesne University

in Pittsburgh during the 1960s, one of her professors was the chief rabbi at Tree of Life synagogue at the time.

"He taught a course called a 'History of Jewish Thought and Religion,'" Householder recalled. "It was one of the most powerful learning experience I ever had. He took us to his study at the synagogue. He had some rare books he wanted to show us. I remember that day as being so profoundly moving that a man who had so many years of wisdom in him had the walls of his study lined with wisdom."

Fr. Michael Ryan, the priest at Epiphany Episcopal Church, was glad Householder donated a floral bouquet to the local synagogue on behalf of the Episcopal church's congregation.

"It was a gesture of friendship and kinship in response to the killing of 11 and wounding of 7 members of the Tree of Life Congregation," Ryan said. "A hate crime like the murder of those innocent people in Pittsburgh is not simply a localized event, but it is intended as an attack on all Jews. To remain silent about the nature and intent of this evil is at best to normalize it and worse to condone it."

First Hebrew Congregation along with several other religious groups plans to co-sponsor an interfaith prayer vigil at 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 5 at the Citadel, 91 Hinckley St., Benton Harbor to pray for those victimized by hate, particularly those victimized by the anti-Semitic and anti-immigrant attacks that have occurred over the past several weeks. The other sponsors of the service are Interfaith Committee of Andrews University, Interfaith Action and Temple B'Nai Shalom of Benton Harbor.

BANGOR

Continued from A1
approved, the city will go back to trying to raise funds through the sale of commemorative bricks that have been installed around the cemetery's

historic Civil War cannon memorial.

The \$20,000 that was raised enable the city to install new pillars for cemetery entrances, new pavement at one of the entrance, the cleaning and straightening of Civil War headstones and repair of the Civil War cannon memorial. The \$20,000 that was raised also included a \$6,000 donation from Getman Manufacturing that allowed the city to buy computer software to convert 100 years of paper records to digital data that will enable easier genealogy searches.

But Hoover said the brick fundraiser isn't going to raise the necessary funds over the long haul to properly maintain the cemetery.

"The brick sales are ongoing but after the initial flush of large orders it has proved difficult to sustain sales at the level necessary to generate consistent revenue in the amount needed to continue the upgrades," she said.

If the millage is approved, it will generate \$16,000 annually, and funds will only be used for cemetery upgrades.

"None of the millage

money will be spent on mowing," Hoover said. "The city will continue to pay for that out of the charter millage. The cemetery millage will be spent exclusively on improvements. The cemetery is well visited and the city takes pride in keeping it beautiful."

LETTER

Continued from A4
over public schools which so badly need attention. Government land is being liquidated despite public outcry. What about his aides and cabinet? Corruption is so rampant, it stinks. We'll see where all the corruption probes take us with many indictments and convictions already on the books.

Where is the Republican congress in all this? Most don't seem to care, even the ones (lawyers and prosecutors themselves) who recently led endless investigations of prominent Democrats that amounted to absolutely nothing. Even our congressman of 32 years, Fred Upton, has not done anything of merit and has ratified extremist Republican positions on tax cuts, the environment

and health care. He does not hold the president to account. It's definitely time for a change.

Matt Longjohn is just the person to replace Fred Upton. With a medical degree and 20 years in public health he will hold Fred Upton accountable for his rubber stamp votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act which has been a lifesaver for millions of people. Matt believes medicare, medicaid and social security should be expanded not become the piggy bank for tax cuts. Matt accepts the science that humans are the cause of climate change that is threatening our public health and ultimately, survival. Matt Longjohn knows that 'trickle down' doesn't work to create prosperity, wages have been flat for the 32 years of Upton's tenure because of failed tax and fiscal policy. When workers prosper, the nation prospers not just wall street and big business. Longjohn, a believer in campaign transparency, refuses to take "dark money" from corporations and relies on "people first" donations.

Jonathan Towne
Bangor

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