

**Students of the Month**  
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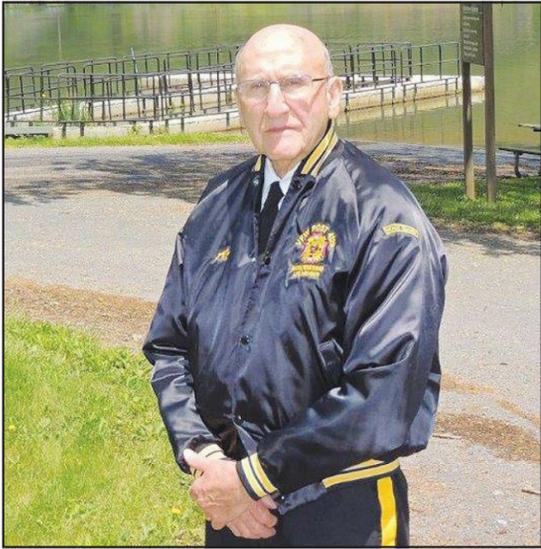
**Police: Pool game triggered dispute**  
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# BROAD TOP BULLETIN

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## Community leader Masood dies



Saxton community activist Albert N. Masood, 90, stands in front of Raystown Lake to commemorate its 40th anniversary in June 2014.

**BY ADAM WATSON**  
Bulletin Staff Writer

If there was ever a name synonymous with the Saxton-Broad Top area, it was Albert N. Masood, who passed away Nov. 16 at the age of 97.

Born on July 7, 1924, in Coaldale Borough (Six Mile Run) to the late Albert and Mary (McMillin) Masood, he spent his childhood in the former coal mining community where his parents ran a store and restaurant. He attended school at Six Mile Run and later attended Broad Top Township High School, graduating in 1942.

Following graduation, Masood joined the Navy. From 1942 to 1945 he served in the Navy Air Corps as an aviation mechanic, serving in such locations as Nicaragua, Panama and Ecuador.

Returning home in 1945, he helped operate his father's store until 1950, when his father passed away. He later attended Juniata College majoring in business administration.

He later transferred to Philadelphia to attend Eckert College of Mortuary Science. Once he graduated, he served a two-year apprenticeship at the Huff Funeral Home in Saxton.

On April 8, 1954, Masood purchased the funeral home from the Huff family and moved to Saxton. In the meantime, he met Nancy Tenley and the couple later married.

When he first came to Saxton, area coal mines and the standard gauge Huntingdon & Broad Top Railroad and later the narrow gauge East Broad Top Railroad were closing and

being abandoned. Masood, along with others, played a major role in helping to revitalize business and breathe new life into the Broad Top area economy.

"It was not a one-man effort and took a lot of work by a number area area community leaders," Masood recalled in a 2002-03 interview with this writer. He and his wife hosted a dinner to discuss how they would sell the community and invited a number of community business leaders telling them something needed done.

The group reviewed what assets the area had to offer and Masood and the late Bob Huff attended an industrial symposium at Madison Square Garden in New York City. It was here that they learned

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## COVID creates mealtime headaches for senior centers

**BY RON MORGAN**  
Bulletin Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has left its mark on the tri-county Area Agency on Aging (AAA), with the impact affecting the AAA's congregate meal and transportation programs.

Gathering in the Hopewell Area Senior Citizens Center recently, representatives from area senior centers in Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton counties listened to several program updates as part of the bi-monthly Citizens Advisory Council meeting chaired by Prudence Harclerode of Bedford County. On hand to share information was the agency's executive director, Connie Brode.

"It's been a struggle," reported Lee Markosky, president of The Nutrition Group of Irwin, a food vendor which provides the meals for the AAA's tri-county senior centers. "But we're blessed that we can still put food on the plates."

Markosky and the firm's commissary division general manager, Martin Singer, pointed to several factors impacting the PCN food vendor's operation since the arrival of the pandemic. In addition to the closing of senior centers for a period of time, the AAA's popular congregate

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## 90 years ago, fire devastated Hopewell

**BY ADAM WATSON**  
Bulletin Staff Writer

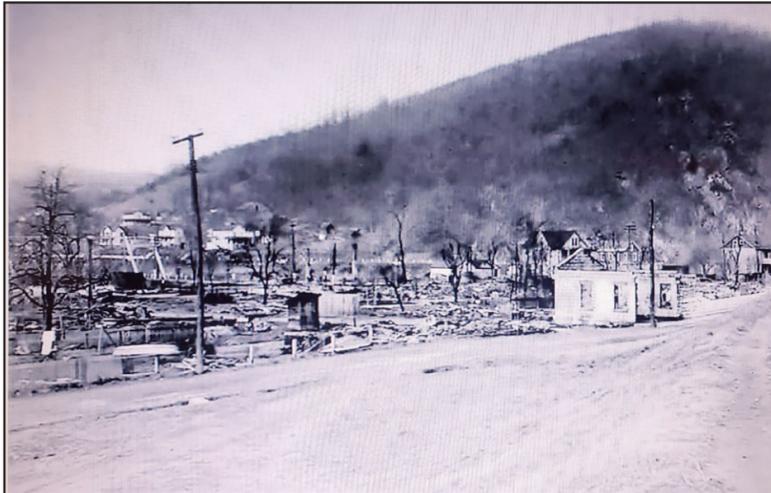
With Thanksgiving Day just around the corner, we decided to tell a story that some of our readers might not have ever heard, since one of the tales of fire and destruction is nearly a century old and the other half a century old.

Both stories involve disastrous fires that broke out on the same small village of Hopewell Borough, the first on Thanksgiving Day in 1931 and the second nearly 40 years later in May 1972.

For our story we are relying on two sister newspapers, the Bedford Gazette and the now defunct Bedford County Press. We also have reminiscences from a soon to be 99-year old former Hopewell Borough man who was a nine-year lad at the time of the 1931 fire.

From the May 12, 1972, edition of the Bedford Gazette, we learn that the 1931 fire originated in the Hopewell House, a three-story frame building owned and conducted by a Stuart E. Gates, but vacant at the time of the fire. Flames swept from building to building, fanned by a high wind.

The first fire raged for hours even burning supplies moved



Hopewell smolders after a devastating fire in 1931.

near the Huntingdon & Broad Top Railroad that were thought to be out of range. When the fire was done, downtown Hopewell had been leveled and scores of homes lost.

In the May 18, 1972, Bedford County Press, it was recalled that at least 12 homes, 10 business places, the town post office, theater, a hotel and other buildings were wiped out.

98-year old Herb Christopher, who grew up in Hopewell, recalled in a 2018 interview with the Bulletin that he was nine years old when the 1931 Hopewell fire broke out. He still recalled the

event vividly.

Christopher recalled that a fire broke out in a heating stove in a community hotel and when over, wiped out nearly a complete section of the railroad community. Christopher said a strong east-west wind fanned the flames, carrying burning embers through the air that touched off one building after another.

Fire companies battling the blaze, he said, did not have strong enough pumps to pump water from the river to adequately fight the fire. Eventually, the Huntingdon Fire Company arrived with strong enough

pumps to extract water from the river, fill tanker trucks and put the fires out almost immediately.

As a boy of 9 he helped fight the fires that broke out in his neighbor's orchard as a result of burning embers.

The 1972 fire was just as devastating as the previous fire, leaving 25 homeless and doing \$100,000 worth of damage, according to the May 12 edition of the Bedford Gazette. In the 1972 fire, it was reported that wind swept flames swept through five buildings.

The fire started in a Clover Farm General store and spread to an

apartment building next door. A stiff wind blowing through the area carried flames across Route 915 igniting two duplex homes.

Six Mile Run firefighters were the first called and before it was over, five other fire companies joined in with over 100 firefighters battling the blaze. The other fire companies included those from the Everett, Breezewood, Bedford, Southern Cove and Saxton volunteer fire companies.

It was believed the initial fire could have been contained to the general store and adjacent apartment building. However, the wind "kicked up" sending burning embers in multiple directions catching the other buildings on fire almost simultaneously.

Left homeless in the blaze was general store owner Everett Neville, his wife and two children; James Kline, his five and five children; John Kline, his wife and two children and Viola Kline, mother of James and John Kline. Also Russell Teeters, his wife and two children; Albert Kline, William Kline, his wife and daughter and Alice Risbon.

The 1972 blaze took firefighters several hours to contain.

### Obituaries

**(Obituaries on Page A3)**  
**FOOR**, James Lee, 79, of Six Mile Run.

**MASOOD**, Albert N., 97, of Martinsburg.

**REIHART**, Russell Irvin, 74, of Six Mile Run.

**SHONTZ**, Janet E., 95, of James Creek.

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## TM accepts board member's resignation

**BY RON MORGAN**  
Bulletin Staff Writer

Meeting in its regular monthly session Monday evening the Tussey Moun-

tain dchool board accepted the resignation of long-time school board member Brenda Folk and heard an update about a proposed

high school tennis courts upgrade.

Folk represents Area II of the school district that includes Broad Top

Township and Coaldale Borough, both in Bedford County. Her term ends December of 2023. Folk did not give a reason for

stepping down.

Folk's resignation falls on the heels of the Nov. 2 General Election during which no candidates filed to fill other vacant board seats.

As of this week, there were no names appealed on the ballots, subject to a final disclosure of write-in votes. At least one four-year term and a two-year term exist in Area II. In Region I and II some seats remain open. The school district's reorganization is set for early December.

Area III includes Hopewell Township, Huntingdon County and Saxton Borough and Liberty Township in Bedford County. Area I involve the townships of Carbon, Todd and Wood and the

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**November is National Diabetes Awareness Month**  
**FCMC Diabetes Educator**  
*Providing Diabetes Management and Education*



**Christine Fries**

*For Health Care Close to Home*

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