



In 1991, The Dallas Post wrote about a Phantom Valentiner who posted red Valentine hearts on doors of Back Mountain businesses. Twenty-one years later, the secret Valentiner has confessed.

PHANTOM

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Maine was noticed in 1976. Ever since then, the city has been adorned in pink paper hearts on Valentine's Day. Similar efforts have been made in Montpelier, Vt.; Boulder, Colo.; and in Rhode Island.

Hand told her family about the Valentine Phantom, and touched on bringing the idea back home.

"My husband thought I was crazy, which was kind of the usual," she laughed. "...But Tim, his eyes lit up when I told him. He was really excited about it."

The foursome decided to go through with the plan, and from 1991 through 1993, they also successfully kept it a secret.

"I turn into a pumpkin at 10

p.m.," Hand said. "So it was exciting for me to get out that late at night."

The act was even worthy of The Dallas Post's front page in 1991. Many business owners spent the day after Valentine's Day wondering who the Phantom was, though many just enjoyed the message.

"I love Dallas, I really do," Hand said. "There are a lot of good people here. Sometimes, in the winter you get into doldrums ... it brought a smile to people's faces."

The sneaky adventures were not without mishaps, though. One year Hand and her husband were pulled over by a Dallas Borough police officer in the wee hours of the morning as they were spreading the love.

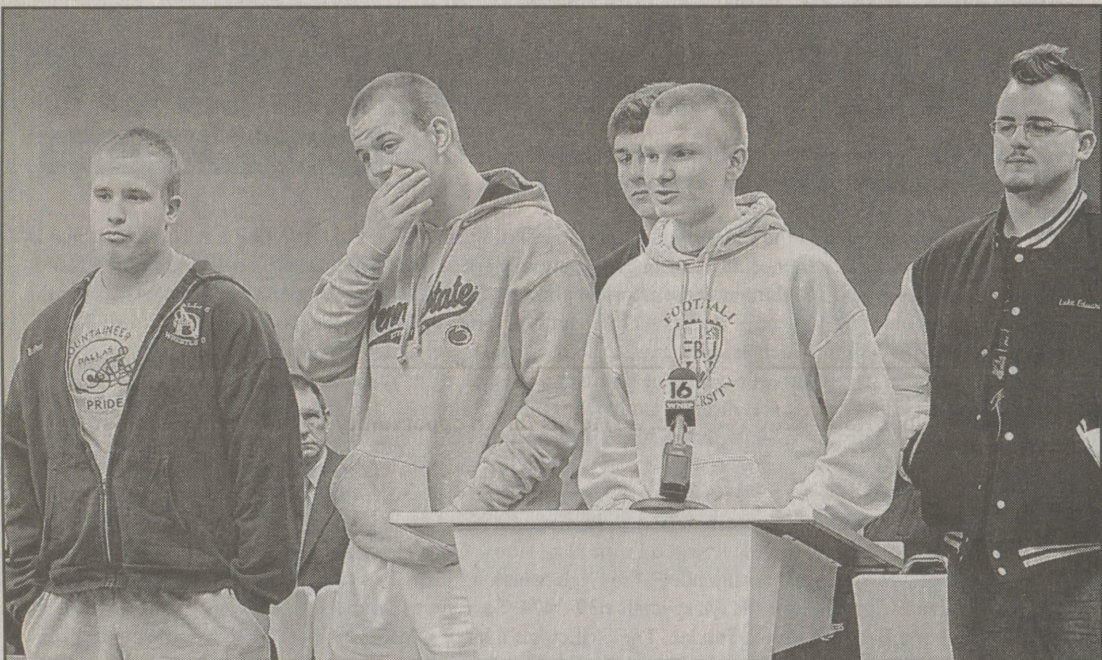
"It was embarrassing for me," she said. "I said, 'Call Jack Fowler; this is all legal!'"

Exhaustion after distributing more than 100 hearts all night also landed her in the emergency room one year.

"One year I was so sleepy the next day, and it was so snowy and icy, that I slipped and broke my foot," she said. "As I'm going down to the hospital, it was really cool to see all the pink hearts on all the businesses."

Not long after, the group decided to go into hiding and the Valentine Phantom hasn't resurfaced since. Though Hand admits she wouldn't be able to do it again now, she would like to see the tradition continued by someone else.

"This year, the Valentines will not be from me, but if anybody out there is interested, call me and I can give you some tips," she said.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Current and former members of the Dallas High School football team protested to the Dallas School Board after it did not renew the contract of coach Ted Jackson.

ERA

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about wins and losses but about the man.

"I have talked to many of you who said this is about the students; we are here for the kids," he said. "They are the students and it is falling on deaf ears. I have a hard time understanding why."

Coach Jackson was suspended for the 2010 season due to an incident when some Dallas High School football players urinated on the Tunkhannock High School tennis courts. He was also under probation in 2008 for a fight between Dallas football players and members of the opposing team.

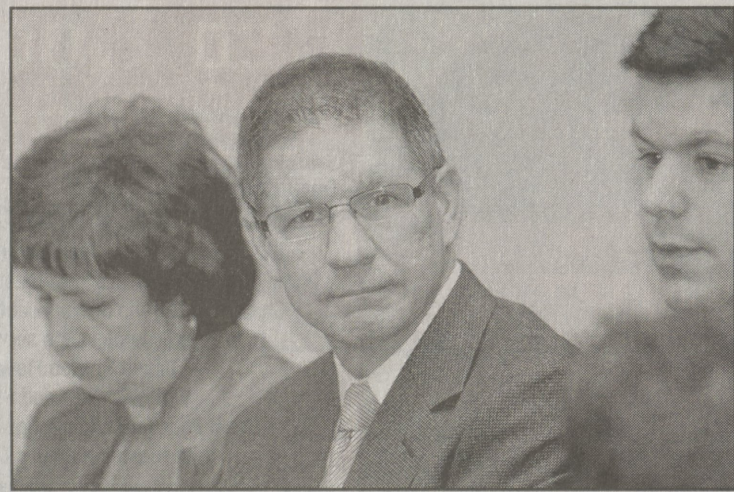
Zaruta, 54, of Shavertown, has been the freshman and varsity coach at GAR, coached Dallas freshmen for one year and at the varsity level for four years, ending in 2007.

After the meeting, Zaruta said he understands emotions are running high and knows it will take a while for the team to get used to him. He does, however, think when Dallas gridders see his plans, they will be excited for the next season.

In other news ...

• High School Principal Jeffery Shafer unveiled a new five-period block schedule he hopes to implement for the 2012-2013 school year.

The tentative schedule will offer one 76-minute first-period class and four 73-minute classes, running in a 90-day format. The morning homeroom period will be eliminated with the exception of the first and last day of school, report card distribu-



Robert Zaruta, of Shavertown, has been named the new head football at Dallas High School. Shown here with Zaruta at Monday's school board work session are his wife, Debbie, and their sons.

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tion and standardized testing days.

The schedule will allow students to earn 10 credits annually as opposed to the eight they receive now.

New course selection will include subjects such as electronics and robotics, broadcasting, a full-year music program and business computer information technology.

A foreign language program is still being reviewed.

"We are thinking along the lines of offering Chinese and Russian, whether it is through blended schools or online learning or in house," Shafer said. "We are not sure yet."

Shafer estimates the new schedule will be revealed to students in mid-March and to the public at the end of March.

• Bob Nesbit of Crabtree and

Rohrbach addressed issues with the new high school building, including leaks in the heating and plumbing systems, which will be addressed during the President's Day weekend.

He said R.J. Reynolds will repair the plumbing leaks which are connected to the fire sprinklers and A.J. Demor will fix leaks within the heating system. Decals on the gymnasium floor have been scuffed up and the finish is dull, Nesbitt said. He would like to have the entire gym floor redone and decals re-applied during the summer.

Better insulation in the art room's west facing wall should correct draft issues in that area, he said.

• The next school board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13 in the administrative building.

DMS STUDENTS ENTERTAIN AT MERCY CENTER



Dallas Middle School French and Spanish Club students, under the direction of Mrs. Susan Davis and Mrs. Farouzeh Razavi, recently entertained residents of the Mercy Center in Dallas. The students performed traditional Christmas carols but also sang carols in French and Spanish.

PLAN

Continued from Page 3

coming season.

The board also opened eight bids for the Toby Creek Emergency Streambank Stabilization Project. The grant-funded project, made possible through a partnership with the Luzerne County Conservation District, is to place stabilizing materials along 135 feet of the streambank.

The township received the following bids: Brdaric Excavating of Swoyersville in the amount of \$61,424; Stell Enterprises of Plains Township in the amount of \$117,845; Phillips & Jordan Inc. of Williamsport in the amount of \$116,865; Wexco-

nInc. of Mohrsville in the amount of \$100,940; Napcon Inc. of Wilkes-Barre in the amount of \$41,260; Latona Trucking Co. of Pittston in the amount of \$105,145; Meadville Land Service Inc. of Cochran in the amount of \$61,599; and Stark Enterprises/Wince Construction Inc. of Scranton in the amount of \$68,000.

A bid will be awarded at a special meeting to be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 27 in the municipal building.

In other news, the board...

• Approved the Pennsylvania Department of General Services 2012-13 salt contract participation agreement.

• Approved Borton-Lawson's request for a notice to proceed with construction services in accordance with the engineering agreement with the state De-

partment of Transportation for the East Center Street Bridge Project.

• Approved the electronic execution of the contract with Fabcor Inc. in the East Center Street Bridge Project.

• Appointed the following residents to official boards: Raymond Stephens to the zoning hearing board, Joan Ruscavage as an alternate to the zoning hearing board, Bridget Costello as alternate to the zoning hearing board, Chris Wargo to the recreation commission, M. Wargo to the recreation commission and Nicole White as an alternate to the recreation commission.

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors will hold a regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14 in the municipal building.

LIFE

Continued from Page 3

bers to inspire them as much as she was inspired by her youthful trip to Ireland.

"Hopefully, my little cousins

will be inspired," she said. "...And I want to do this for my grandmother, who died in 2009."

Davis said it will be hard to spend the time with her family during the hectic celebration.

"During the 10 days of the festival, those who run the pageant basically own our lives and ev-

ery minute is planned," she said. "We're not able to see families at all, and they take us all over the county."

Davis hopes to travel to Dublin with her family a few days before the festival begins so she can spend some quality time with loved ones in the place that inspired her career.

GAS

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dressing issues regarding cleanup on Sedlar Lane.

Grant relayed that Humphreys said though work on the pipeline was completed Jan. 6, work is not yet complete in remedying right-of-way areas.

She said the right-of-way, including Sedlar Lane, has been seeded and mulched in preparation for winter weather. Humphreys wrote the company must still comply with erosion and sedimentation controls as outlined in a state permit and in an agreement with the township, and the company will continue to monitor the area throughout the winter.

She also said the company will plant vegetation in the springtime in compliance with state and township requirements.

The board approved an update to the Emergency Operations Plan of Dallas Township and agreed to update the plan every two years to ensure it conforms with county operations.

Martin said the plan had not been updated in "a number of years," and the operations plan includes contact information that would act as "a Bible" in any emergency situation.

The board also agreed to change its monthly meeting schedule starting in March. The dates and times will remain the same, but instead of two meetings during which official votes can be taken, the first Tuesday of the month will act as a work session in which all parties of the township and residents can discuss certain issues before action is taken on those issues.

The second meeting of the month, on the third Tuesday, will be a formal meeting during which the board will take action on issues discussed at

the work session.

Martin said many municipalities in the area have similar schedules, such as Dallas Borough and Kingston Township.

The board also announced that Grant will not accept the \$2,500 a year stipend he would receive for being a supervisor. Grant said he did not know there was a stipend when he applied, and decided to forgo the payment because he feels being a supervisor is more about "community involvement."

The board also announced the creation of an investment committee comprised of supervisors and representatives of the uniformed and non-uniformed pension plan. The supervisors adopted an official policy about how the pension group members can invest monies.

The next Dallas Township Board of Supervisors meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21 in the municipal building.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Puzzles, Page 2

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

TAB	SWEAT	PRY
SIR	HALLE	ROE
PROBATION	OVA	
ODE	HOOVER	
PEPPER	ANTI	
OUR	SET	SISAL
PROD	DOG	SITE
SOFAS	ORB	OON
UTAH	ALONZO	
SESAME	MOA	
URI	PROMOTION	
EGO	LOPED	SHE
DON	ENTRY	MOW

Go Figure! answers

4	x	7	-	6	22
+		-		÷	
8	+	5	+	1	14
÷		x		+	
3	x	7	-	9	12
4		14		15	

Super Crossword Answers

ROBS	SCOLD	DID	CABOT
EVITAN	AERIE	DOT	ELLIZ
PAUL	ING	LOVEIS	REGAL
LEONE	LEA	EMOTE	OW
MESH	CPR	MUSETTA	
VIGE	TUBA	AGE	RAGA
ARIA	ALEUT	ETI	BOVING
TIRADE	STEELE	R	PLEA
SNARL	AHEM	SIGHT	ALL
ATRIUM	NETS	COE	ALER
ABR	AND	NEW	CARAB
RACY	SHAR	DEAR	GLIDER
EDO	SALVO	NILE	GONTI
VALET	INTENSE	GENEVI	
MARR	JAGETS	IDEAL	ME
HUM	APT	SASE	PYLL
SHOTPUT	OER	PLIE	
AWE	STAFF	UPS	INDIA
LEASE	THE	FIRST	SCRATO
FLAVOR	TON	OSTIS	ENGLA
ARENA	DEN	ULTRA	TIND