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Disease can't keep Eileen Rockensies down

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN - Eileen Rockensies was ready to cancel her wedding in 1970 because doctors told her she might have a brain tumor. Then they said it might be a brain abscess and one doctor even suggested that her symptoms were merely psychological.

Seven years after her first symptoms appeared and many CAT scans and spinal taps later, Mrs. Rockensies was correctly diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) at age 35.

"I never thought it odd until someone pointed it out from the outside."

Regina Rockensies
Eileen's daughter

The disease now has her homebound, but, if you think she's sitting around feeling sorry for herself, think again.

Despite being homebound, Rockensies is an extremely active member of the community. She volunteers countless hours for St. Therese's Church; Sr. Sponsa

Beltran, a missionary in W. Africa; local senior citizens and other organizations.

Her family, faith and outlook allow her to live happily and help provide happiness to others.

MS is a disease in which myelin, a protective layer over nerve fibers, is damaged. Cells multiply in the damaged area causing the formation of scar-like tissue, called Sclerotic tissue. This tissue can slow down or prevent the transmission of signals between nerve cells, impairing many body functions including vision.

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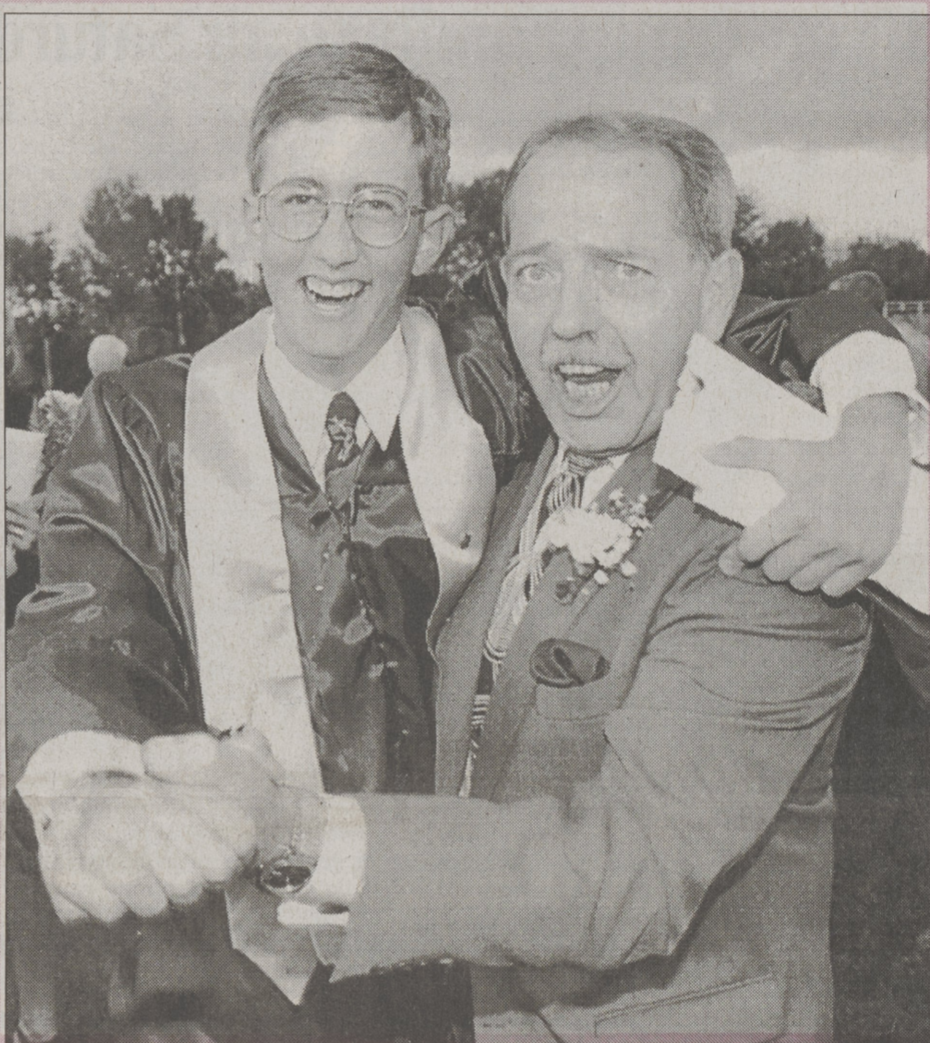


The Rockensies family, seated, Eileen and Kenneth; standing, Regina, Kevin and Patricia.

The agony ... and the ecstasy



Graduation brings out all kinds of emotions, as shown in these photos. At left, Erika Knappman held back tears during graduation ceremonies for the



Dallas High School Class of 1998. After the diplomas were handed out, Brian Blase celebrated with John Turner, a history teacher. More photos on pages 4-5.

Mixed emotions at Dallas graduation ceremonies

By ALEXANDER LAFFEY
Special to The Dallas Post

DALLAS - The sun was setting beautifully as the 1998 Mountaineer graduating class walked off the stage Tuesday, following a very emotional ceremony held outdoors in the athletic field. A large turnout of family and friends showed up to bid the graduates farewell. Many were forced to stand and observe as the bleachers became overcrowded, but no one seemed to mind very much. After all, this was a happy event.

After everyone got situated, class secretary Kenneth Hoover initiated the ceremony with a morality tale he recalled which tied in with a theme of the ceremony: decision making through-

out life. In his welcoming speech, Hoover also reminded his peers that "the wise man is the man who knows that he doesn't know it all."

Superintendent Dr. Gilbert R. Griffiths had words of inspiration for the graduates. He told them to look upon their years at Dallas as "a chapter written and recorded," and as one that "will remain on the shelves for many years to come." He also hoped the graduates would perceive their individual futures as "the beginnings of a new chapter."

Class president William Piasta stressed the importance of good role models in shaping one's personality and mind. He cited his parents and friends as the people he most looked up to, and his father as his personal

hero, adding a bit of humor by saying, "Mom, you gave me birth, but...it's just a guy thing." He also let his fellow classmates know how much he would miss them. "I love you all," he said before closing his remarks.

Remembering past achievements and the people who helped realize those achievements was one theme commonplace to all the student speakers. Salutatorian Erik Steltz noted how influential the faculty and staff were to him as a student. He commended the teachers especially for their dedication and support. "Teachers have the power to create or discourage minds, and they choose to create," said he.

Goodbyes are often hard, so how does one say goodbye forever to friends of 13 years? "I hope the best of your

past is the worst of your future," was valedictorian David Williams's wish for his classmates. Timothy Herbert's farewell speech rekindled thoughts of the many friendships made throughout school, and the many more to come. "Friendship is a promise kept in the heart," he said, ending on an emotional note by saying, "I hope you had the time of your life."

Beach balls, silly string, and graduation caps thrown into the air were some of the sights seen before the class of 1998 walked away into the sunset, ready to face whatever the future may hold. As one day ends for the graduates, a new day begins to dawn.

Editor's note: Alexander Laffey will be a senior at Dallas High School in the fall.

School board members want more info about teacher hires

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LEHMAN - The Lake-Lehman School Board will now receive justification of recommendations for all future teaching candidates before making its final decision to hire.

Some members of the board, such as president Lois Kopcha and Robert Allardyce, think it is the right of the board to be more informed about prospective candidates. At least one board member believes the hiring process should stay as it is, with little board input.

At the board's last work session, Kopcha said the board should be given the names of the top three candidates for each teaching position, a written justification and a list from the administration ranking the candidates. The board held an unofficial vote of 4 to 3 to support Kopcha's suggestion. Kopcha, Allardyce, Rose Howard and Moderno Rossi voted yes and Karen Whipple, Ed Kern and Gary Miller voted no. Tom Williams and Ron Payne were not present to vote.

Currently, the board receives only the recommendation of the administration to hire a particular teacher, whom they are told nothing about.

"I've talked to Dr. Price about it before and he's fine with it. I'm not suggesting that we be in on hiring, just that we be more involved," said Kopcha, who believes she owes it to the public to know more about who is being hired. "It makes for better relations with the public. If people ask why one person was hired and not the other, we can tell them."

She said board members would not look through the candidates' resumes, only the recommendations and only in executive session.

"If people ask why one person was hired and not the other, we can tell them."

Lois Kopcha
School board president

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Township must name, number all roads by end of summer

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LEHMAN - The Lehman Township supervisors have the daunting task of naming all the private roads and rural routes by the end of the summer. All streets must have names and all homes must have numbers for the new county 911 system that went into effect this week.

Dave Sutton, board chairman, said the supervisors will meet with other townships to make sure they are not giving the same names to their streets.

"It's a little confusing. Some streets that go through different townships change names while one road could have three different names," Sutton said.

They will also work closely with the Shavertown, Dallas and

Hunlock Creek post offices while naming streets.

In other business, the board voted to accept a new pension plan for its two full-time police officers. The plan is completely funded by the state, said Sutton. This year \$4,500 is given to the township to cover its officers.

The board approved hiring of Damien Hoover as a part-time police officer at a salary of \$8,070.

Roadmaster Douglas Ide will be attending a two-day seminar to learn about environmentally safe dust control for unpaved roads in the township. Currently Lehman Twp. uses calcium to control the problem.

Dan Cornell, owner of the Pikes Creek entertainment complex, is looking for donated commercial playground equipment for a playground he is building.



POST PHOTO/IRON BARTIZEK

Signing up for summer

Elizabeth Eby, right, a volunteer, signed up Alexandra Kijek, of Kingston Twp. for the summer reading program at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Eby was dressed to illustrate the medieval theme of the program. Special programs start June 30, and children can sign up now for the program, which sets a goal of eight books read by Aug. 14. Call 675-1182 for information.

Medieval fun

Dallas Middle School students study King Arthur. Photo story, Pg 3.

Unbeatens battle

Back Mountain Legion Baseball team comes up short against Plymouth. Pg 9.

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