

Lake-Lehman holds first summer graduation

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — On August 21, in the first summer graduation ceremony ever held at Lake-Lehman High School, six seniors made their walk across the stage, as most of their classmates did in June, to receive their high school diplomas.

With family and friends looking on, Justin Paul Robert Cilkiv, Jason Paul Humenanski, Jessica Lynn Keefe, Amy Carol Kline, Eric Ryan Rogowski and Heather Marie Simko received their hard-won diplomas from the new high school principal, Michael Gokay, and School Board President Charles Boytin. The students attended special classes at Luzerne County Community College over the summer to complete requirements to graduate.

Dressed in their caps and gowns of black and gold, the soon-to-be graduates stood nervously and excitedly in the hall outside the multi-purpose room of Lehman-Jackson Elementary School before the ceremony.

"This is what it is all about. The cap and the gown," said Jessica Keefe as they began their grand processional walk past their proud parents to their seats and one step closer to holding their hard-earned diplomas in their hands. In addition to family and friends, several board members and administration staff attended the commencement.

Before his welcoming speech, Principal Gokay spoke intimately from the podium to the soon-to-be graduates as if they were the only ones present, saying, "Are you excited? I didn't graduate. I didn't get a diploma."

Gokay, who went on to get his GED, bachelors and eventually, his masters in Education Administration, suggested the idea of a commencement ceremony for the students who completed their required credits when he came on board Lake-Lehman in July. He went on to tell the graduates and audience, "Only 76 percent of the population at age 29 has ever achieved a high school diploma. Although your peers have since crossed the stage to receive their diplomas,"



Heather Marie Simko accepts her diploma with a smiling face from Lake-Lehman School District Board President Charles Boytin.

the only thing that matters is that you accomplish the same."

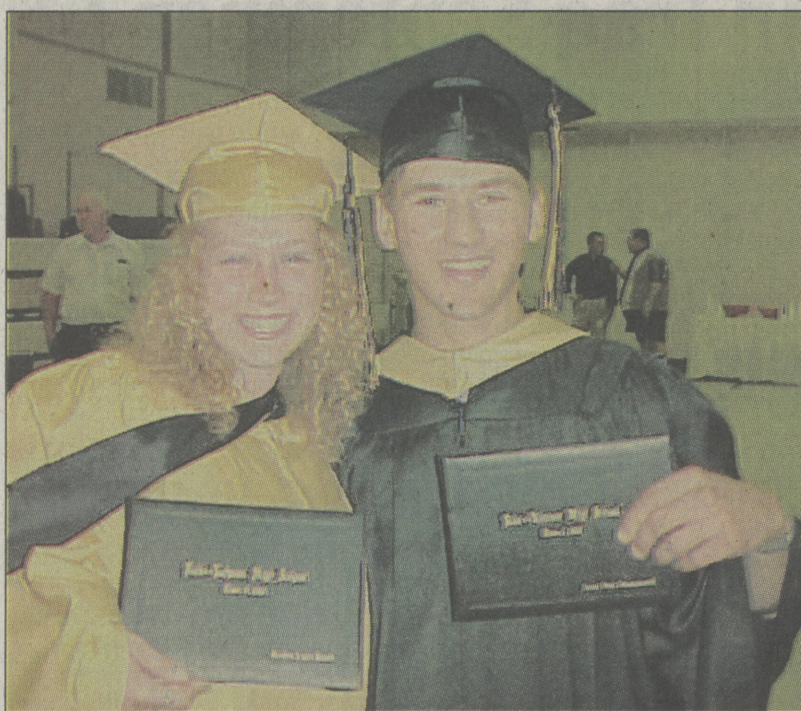
After the new graduates shook hands with Gokay and Boytin and received their diplomas, Gokay asked the parents how they felt. A loud cheer went up from the audience.

"This is a very special occasion — something you will remember for the rest of your life," Gokay said.

He went on, saying, "This is a very special evening, not only for myself, but for all the people in the room and also the board members, because this is the first (commencement ceremony). There have probably been a lot of firsts at Lake-Lehman. There's going to be more first things that are going to happen."

Gokay closed by wishing the new graduates the best of luck and telling them there was much support in the community if they needed help in their endeavors in the future.

"But first and foremost you need to support yourself. You are on your own now."



Jessica Lynn Keefe and Jason Paul Humenanski proudly present their diplomas after the ceremonies.

Lake-Lehman school taxes due September 15

Lehman Township Tax Collector, Peggy Moyer, reminds residents that the 2002 Lake-Lehman School District property and per capita taxes were mailed July 15. All bills were mailed to the property owner and/or resident at their last known address. Anyone who did not receive their bill should notify the tax collector immediately. The new 911 address changes have been made with the courthouse for next years tax bills.

Anyone with an escrow account should forward only the property tax bill on to their mortgage company for payment. Per capita tax bills are to be paid by all residents 18 years and older. If you did not receive a bill, contact the tax office.

All residents should be using their new 911 address. If you have not received your new address call 674-7788 and leave a message; someone will return your call.

The forwarding of mail is due to expire September 1. Tax payments must be postmarked on or before September 12 to be eligible for the 2 percent rebate value. To receive a receipt, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your payment. Office hours and closed dates are listed at the top of the tax bill.

Jobson tournament Sept. 15

There are still openings for golfers and sponsors in the Paul D. Jobson Jr. 4th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament. This event raises money to help fight Lou Gehrig's Disease. The format is Captain and Crew with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15 at Wilkes-Barre Golf Club. The entry fee is \$70 which includes 18 holes w/cart, soft drinks and dinner and gift for all players. There will be closest-to-pin, long drive and Greenie contests. If interested in playing or sponsoring, call Scott at 655-4656.

John Heinz Dallas clinic relocates

Allied Services John Heinz Dallas Outpatient Center will be moving to a new location in September.

Previously located in the Route 309-415 Plaza, the new center will be located in Shapes Fitness Center at the Twin Stacks Complex, 1100 Memorial Highway.

According to Jill Healey, PT, clinic director, the center will continue to offer a full range of rehabilitation services including physical and occupational therapy for individuals recovering from a variety of diagnoses including joint replacement, arthritis, stroke, spinal cord injury, and other orthopedic conditions.

Transportation will also be available for those who require assistance getting to and from therapy. For additional information call 674-3793.

Jackson Twp. to start recycling program

The Jackson Township Board of Supervisors will be conducting recycling in conjunction with Exeter Borough on the third Tuesday of each month. Recyclable will be accepted from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. beginning September 17 at the Jackson Township Municipal Building. Fliers will be distributed to township residents with recycling information soon.

Lions seek new members

The Dallas Lions are looking for new members. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact any club member or they can contact Frank Rollman at 675-4485.

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