

## Lehman-Jackson students learn with 'pumpkin math'

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Mrs. McKeel's fifth-grade classroom at Lehman-Jackson School reeked of pumpkins Thursday and Friday, October 29 and 30.

Wait a minute - pumpkins in math class?

"Using the pumpkins as a hands-on lesson in using weights, measurements and a few basic statistics for comparison gives the students an opportunity to use their math skills for fun," McKeel explained.

Groups of students weighed their pumpkins, measured the height with a ruler and circumference with a tape measure and counted the number of seams. Then they cut the tops off, scooped out the pulp, weighed the empty pumpkins, counted the seeds and

wrote one word to describe their group's pumpkin.

"The difference in the weights between the empty and the unopened pumpkins was more than I first thought," said April Frantz.

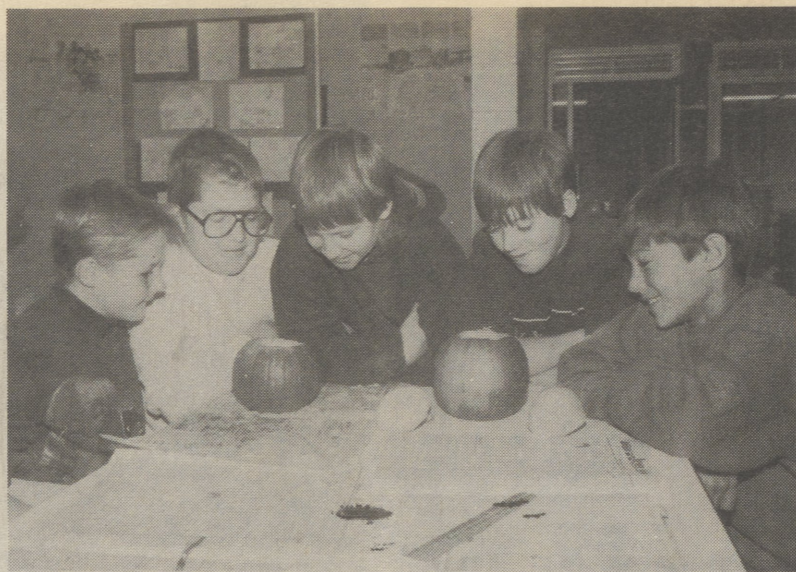
"I liked learning how to weigh them and scooping out the seeds," Jason Race said.

"The bigger ones had more seams, but the size didn't have anything to do with how many seeds each one had," said Rebecca Hartman.

Cindy Morris enjoyed making the different measurements.

Not everyone liked the exercise. "The whole room smelled like pumpkins. It got on my nerves," said David Wolfe.

McKeel, a long-term fifth-grade substitute, has had training in special projects to make math more fun. She has worked at the



**PUMPKIN MATH** - Lehman-Jackson fifth-graders Jason Race, Dan Wolfe and Jason Harris, left, compare their pumpkin with that of Joe Swire and Scott Healy, right, in a math exercise in measurements and basic statistics. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

Wyoming Valley Montessori School and as a math specialist for Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18.

According to class members, students who don't have Mrs. McKeel for math were jealous: they

didn't have a chance to try "Pumpkin Math."

And do Mrs. McKeel's students want more fun math projects? "Lots more!" they chorused.

## Jerry Ross of Dallas hits daytime TV with AMC role

By DAVE KONOPKI  
Correspondent

For 13 years Susan Lucci has been nominated for an Emmy Award as daytime television's leading actress. And for 13 years she has come up short.

But with a little help from a former Dallas High School student, this could be Lucci's lucky year.

Never before has the actress who portrays the seductive Erika Kane on ABC's *All My Children* been opposite a native from Dallas.

All that changes this Thursday.

Jerry Ross, a 1982 graduate of Dallas High School, will make his soap opera debut Thursday at 1:00 p.m. on *All My Children*. According to Ross, he will play a reporter interviewing Lucci. It's a small role, but at least it's a start.

Ross caught the acting bug during his senior at King's College. He left school for New York to pursue his dream. After attending the Perry Schreiber Studio, Ross found some work in local New York City commercials.

Ross is hoping the role on AMC will be a boost to his career.

"I look at it as a means to an end," said Ross, who was a member of the wrestling and tennis teams at Dallas. "It's just a small role but I would never turn down work. People don't understand that it's a long road. You have to be lucky



JERRY ROSS

and know the right people." Ross, who works as a bellhop at the Barbizon Hotel and gives private tennis lessons to supplement his income, has done some off-Broadway work in addition to the commercials.

"I really want to do stage work," said Ross from his apartment in Manhattan. "But these television roles will help pay the bills. I love New York. I don't think I'll ever move back to Dallas but I hope that someday I can help get some good, quality theatre there."

## Jackson police get fridge, coffee maker

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

The Jackson Township supervisors welcomed a twelve-member audience to its first official meeting at the new municipal building Monday, November 2.

"Everyone has worked very hard to get the building into its present good condition," said supervisor Joe Stager, referring to the building's checkered history progressing from an old gas station to a headache and finally to the modern new home of the township's offices.

The supervisors adopted a new policy forbidding police officers from leaving the township unless they are on official business or are assisting another police department.

Since police no longer have access to all-night businesses selling coffee or snacks, the supervisors authorized police chief Don Jones to purchase a 2.9 cubic foot refrigerator-freezer for \$294, a microwave oven for \$170 and a coffee maker for \$50 for the police station.

The supervisors turned down Jones's request for a water cooler for \$230 plus the cost of the water bottles. "The officers are reluctant to drink the water from the well because of the contaminated soil

that was cleared away from the building," he explained.

"According to tests on our well, we have some of the finest drinking water around. I am against buying a water cooler," Stager said.

In other business, the supervisors voted to allow Dale and Dale, contractors for Sutton Farms, to install individual septic units for each home, contingent upon approval by the Department of Environmental Resources (DER).

Although the original development plan approved in 1979 called for individual septic units, a later plan approved by DER in 1991 called for homes in Sutton Farms to tie into the township's sewer by obtaining an easement through the neighboring Sutton Hills development.

Although DER approved the plan before the easement was granted, the Sutton Hills homeowners' association later refused to approve the easement.

Further construction at Sutton Farms had been temporarily halted until the township, the developer and DER could reach an agreement concerning the septic units.

An ordinance setting the speed on Gates Road at 25 mph and the weight limit at 10 tons was unanimously approved. The supervisors also approved placing

stop signs at the intersection of Gates and Kasko Roads.

Secretary Henry Zbick announced that a 10'x40' office trailer, formerly used as the township police station, is for sale to the highest bidder. It includes wheels, three air conditioning units and a heater and must be removed from township property within 60 days of purchase.

The supervisors directed solicitor Blythe Evans to find out

who purchased the former LaSalle Oil Company's land, adjoining the municipal building's land, at October's sheriff's sale, so that the new owner can be contacted about removing an underground oil tank which is leaking onto township land.

### Jackson Twp. phone numbers

The Jackson Township supervisors remind all residents to use the following new emergency and municipal telephone numbers:

- 911: police, ambulance or fire emergency calls for homes with 696 and 675 telephone exchanges.
- 675-4650: police, ambulance or fire emergency calls for homes with 779 telephone exchanges. This is a new number.
- 675-6008: road crew.
- 675-8371: township secretary Henry Zbick's office.
- 675-9594: township zoning officer Robert Culp's office.

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## Florida school receives Adopt-a-School items

By BILL HARPER  
Post Staff

Students at the Buena Vista Primary Center in Miami, Florida had a little more reason to be happy when donated items from the Dallas School District arrived by truck on October 20th.

"It was neat, an outstanding job," Buena Vista Principal Patrick Doyle said. "We have put together a video tape for the school of all of the kids saying 'thank you' in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole."

Dallas Assistant Superintendent Gil Griffiths organized the drive which was a part of relief efforts after Hurricane Andrew in August. Doyle said the Florida school is in an area which was not damaged by the storm, but the area is economically hard hit.

"The majority of our students are on a free meal program and unemployment is very high in the

Windwood section where the school is located," Doyle said.

Parents, teachers and volunteers spent the morning of October 17 loading a truck to send down to Buena Vista and Royal Palm Elementary School which is also in Miami. Griffiths said that in addition to the over 600 crates of donated items, over \$3,500 dollars was raised from donations from local business.

"The money will be used to purchase underwear and clothing for the students at Buena Vista," Griffiths said.

Among the items sent to every student was a t-shirt and back pack; two items which cheered the students up according to Doyle.

"The kids are thrilled, most of them have never owned a back pack," Doyle said. "And October 21 was t-shirt day at our school, and every student wore the 'Dallas/Buena Vista' shirts which they got the day before."

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