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\$10K sweepstakes goes to education center

By SUSAN DENNEY
Dallas Post Correspondent

Rock Stahovic, of Plains, was skeptical at first. When he found a message on his answering machine telling him he had won a grand prize, he wasn't sure he believed it. "I didn't call back right away," he said.

"The message didn't give a whole lot of information," Stahovic explained. "It said I was the winner of a sweepstakes through my ShurSave loyalty card."

But Stahovic had never entered a contest.

The message said Stahovic had won 100,000 Boxtops for Education which translates into \$10,000 for the school of his choice.

The message asked him to verify that he didn't work for Associated Wholesalers Inc. (the parent company of the Shursave/Shurfine grocery cooperative) or for General Mills which sponsors the Boxtops for Education program. The caller also needed Stahovic's age, address and the school he would choose to receive the money.

"That was it," Stahovic said.

He and his wife, Robyn, decided not

to respond immediately to the call. According to Robyn, they almost deleted the message.

But after a week of thinking it over and doing some Internet research, the couple decided to return the message.

And are they glad they did!

The Stahovics are winners of the only prize in a tri-state area that includes Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. They have chosen to donate the \$10,000 to their children's school, the Trucksville Early Childhood Education Center, affiliated with the Trucksville United Methodist Church.

Once Rock called in the information, he learned he had been automatically entered in the tri-state sweepstakes by using his loyalty card at either Schiel's Market on George Avenue in Wilkes-Barre or Gerrity's in Luzerne. Both stores issue ShurSave rewards cards and the winning entry could have come from either store.

The next step was for the Trucksville school to send in an affidavit.

Director Marjorie Adams said that everyone at the school is ecstatic about the

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Alvin Cragle has financially maneuvered Lehman Twp. as treasurer for the past 35 years.

Alvin Cragle counts up service to community

By SUSAN DENNEY
Dallas Post Correspondent

When Alvin Cragle began his job as secretary-treasurer of Lehman Twp. 35 years ago, his office technology consisted of a calculator. He used handwritten ledgers and disbursements and all checks were written by hand.

Today, he serves Lehman Twp. as treasurer and works from a fully-equipped home office, equipped by the township with a personal computer and all the peripherals and software he needs. The township also has a full-time secretary now.

But whether low-tech or high-tech, the job is one Cragle feels he does well. "I invite anyone to audit my books at any time," he said.

Cragle, 77, has lived in Lehman Twp. for 57 years. He and his wife, Phyllis, both graduated from Lake-Lehman High School. When they married, they settled in the township.

"We built our own house," Cragle said of the house on the same road his wife grew up that the couple has lived in since they were married. Cragle grew up in Hunlock Creek.

The Cragles raised two sons in the township. Kevin, and his wife, Debbie, live in the Falls area. Todd and his wife, Wanda, live in Lehman with their two daughters, Cassandra, a sophomore at Wilkes University, and Taylor, a sixth-grader at Lake-Lehman Middle School.

Cragle was in the steel business when the position of Lehman Twp. treasurer opened. His boss at the time was council president in Clarks Summit and told him, "Anytime you have the opportunity to do community service, take it."

When that boss, the president of McGregor Architectural Iron Company, became ill, he turned his company over to Cragle to run. For Cragle, it was a case of being in the right place at the right time. But he points out that it was the wrong time, too, because of the illness and subsequent death of his employer, a man he greatly admired.

While Cragle pursued his career, he worked as secretary-treasurer of Lehman Twp. for 15 years before pleading for help. Then, the late Jon Rogers took over the secretarial duties.

Cragle was quick to point out his valued relationship with Rogers and with township supervisors David Sutton, Raymond Iwanowski and Douglas W. Ide.

"These guys are the best three

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POLAR BEAR PLUNGE PARTICIPANTS BRAVE COLD, WIND AND SNOW



Kathleen Pajor, center left, of Luzerne, Russ Keeler, of Kingston, and Gerry Finnerty, of Harveys Lake, jump into 39-degree water at Harveys Lake for the Polar Bear Plunge to benefit the American Cancer Society.

TAKING THE PLUNGE

By DOTTY MARTIN - dmartin@mydallaspost.com

As if 33 degree air temperature and 39 degree water temperature weren't cold enough, Gerry Finnerty dumped six blocks of ice into Harveys Lake - just to make sure he really was participating in a Polar Bear Plunge.

Finnerty and about 100 other brave souls weathered cold, wind and even snow to make the Ninth Annual Polar Bear Plunge, held March 16 at Garrity's Real Estate office in Harveys Lake, a success.

Monies raised from the event, which has raised be-

tween \$5,000 and \$7,000 every year, benefit the American Cancer Society. This year's organizers were hoping to top the \$7,000 mark.

Started by Allison Boris in 2005 in memory of her father, Buddy, who passed away from cancer, the event has become the senior completion project of Lake-Lehman students every year since. Only once in the last nine years was the event cancelled because of weather.

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Learning about disabilities

By DOTTY MARTIN
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The little girl and her best friend, Sarah, liked most of the same things - peach pie, picking pepperoni off pizza and playing Frisbee.

What made them different was that Sarah rolled while her friend walked.

The two met when Sarah was the new girl at school and their teacher asked the little girl to show Sarah around. The

little girl wasn't sure what to do at first because Sarah was in a wheelchair. It wasn't long, though, before she was pushing Sarah around the school and the duo became known to everyone as "two peas in a pod."

The girls loved to go for ice cream, even though they differed on flavors, and enjoyed pajama parties where they hid under the covers and read spooky stories by flashlight.

"I saw only the wheelchair at first," the little girl said of her

new best friend. "Now, I see Sarah first and she's cool."

Sarah and her friend were introduced to children at the Back Mountain Head Start Center by Sandra Wegrzynowicz, program specialist, and Colleen Kustrin, program director, from Step By Step Inc., a private, non-profit corporation devoted to providing community support services to children and adults in Penn-

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Quinn Lyons, Autumn Krochta, Addyson Jacobs and their Head Start teacher Tanya DeWolf are read to about children with disabilities.



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