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## HITCHCOCK MAN SAYS PRIZE OF \$1 MILLION IN *\$500,000,000 BLOCKBUSTER* GAME SETS TONE FOR 2011

**(Austin)** –As 2010 draws to a close and bells of 2011 get ready to ring, Darrell M. Singer of Hitchcock says he has “one million reasons to be happy.”

“I won \$1 million in *\$500,000,000 Blockbuster* right before the new year starts,” he said. “My girlfriend scratched the ticket for me, but she thought I had won only \$1. When I looked at the ticket and saw the prize, I almost had a heart attack. I’ll get to help my loved ones in 2011, and that’s a great feeling.”

Between sitting in the parking lot of the retail location in Texas City where he bought the ticket and getting to Houston to collect his prize at the Texas Lottery claim center, Singer called his brother, his daughter and his sister, with whom he lives. “My brother and daughter are so happy, but my sister never answered her phone,” he said. “She’s in for a surprise.”

Singer said he bought one *\$500,000,000 Blockbuster* ticket because of one of his friends. “A young lady I know likes *Blockbuster* and wins regularly with it,” he said. “I thought I could hit a good prize, too, but I never thought it would be the million dollars.”

The new winner says he buys lottery tickets only occasionally, “maybe on payday and one other time every month.” After he helps his immediate family members, Singer says he will spend some of his cash on himself by getting a new truck.

**(more)**

**(Texas Lottery Commission News Release, continued)**

“The \$500,000,000 *Blockbuster* scratch-off was issued in May of 2009 with 10 top prizes of \$2.5 million and 40 prizes of \$1 million,” said Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Gary Grief. “After one and one-half years, the game still has four top prizes left and 15 prizes of \$1 million that remain unclaimed. In addition to those, the game still has prizes of \$25,000 and \$10,000, as well as other lower-tier prizes that include those from \$1,000 to the break-even prize of \$20.”

Singer bought the ticket at the Mainland Texaco, 5202 FM 1765, Texas City. The retail location is eligible for a retailer bonus of \$10,000 for selling this ticket.

Tomorrow’s *Mega Millions*<sup>®</sup> jackpot is an estimated \$242 million. Saturday’s *Lotto Texas*<sup>®</sup> jackpot is an estimated \$11 million, and the *Powerball*<sup>®</sup> jackpot is an estimated \$25 million. More information about the Texas Lottery is on the official website, [www.txlottery.org](http://www.txlottery.org).

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