



Texas Lottery  
Commission

PO Box 16630  
Austin, Texas  
78761-6630

FAX:  
(512) 344-5490

# NEWS

*from the Texas Lottery Commission*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Friday, July 31, 2009

**CONTACT:**

Robyn Smith, 512-344-5477  
Media Relations, 512-344-5131



## **VICTORIA RESIDENT WINS \$1 MILLION TEXAS LOTTERY® PRIZE, QUESTIONS OWN EYESIGHT**

(AUSTIN) – Wednesday was just another day at work for Darryl Heller of Victoria until he decided to try a \$500,000,000 *Blockbuster* ticket from the Texas Lottery®. His decision eventually led him to a second-tier prize and questions about his ability to see.

“I purchased this ticket at my store and scratched only the numbers off to see if I matched a winning number. When I’d seen I matched the ‘16’, I got a little excited but did not scratch off the dollar amount,” said Heller.

About that time, Heller became distracted by his work duties, and it took a little while for his focus to return to his winning ticket.

“I remembered I had not scratched to see how much I had won,” he explained. “When I scratched the \$1 million prize amount, I could not believe my eyes. I got real close to my ticket to make sure I was seeing it right.”

(more)

(Texas Lottery Commission, News Release, continued)

Luckily, his eyes were just fine. His ticket showed a \$1 million second-tier prize in the *\$500,000,000 Blockbuster* game.

“I play the bigger tickets,” said Heller. “It seems like they pay higher prizes, but I didn’t think I’d ever win this much.”

For selling the winning ticket, B & D’s General Store, located at 9765 US Highway 87 North in Victoria, is eligible for a \$10,000 retailer bonus.

“Winning a significant prize, as Mr. Heller did, could shock anyone, but thanks to retail stores like his, Texas education remains the big winner,” said Texas Lottery Commission Deputy Executive Director Gary Grief.

“With the help of our retailers, we have been able to contribute more than \$11 billion to the Foundation School Fund since 1997.”

The *\$500,000,000 Blockbuster* was introduced in May, and Heller is the eighth winner to claim a prize of \$1 million or more in the game. Nine top prizes of \$2.5 million and 33 second-tier prizes of \$1 million each remain unclaimed. Overall odds of winning any *\$500,000,000 Blockbuster* prize are one in 2.77, including break-even prizes.

Heller plans to pay some bills with his prize money. As a fan of scratch-off tickets, *Lotto Texas*® and *Mega Millions*®, he says he’ll keep playing, hoping to win more prizes in the future.

Tonight’s *Mega Millions* jackpot is worth an estimated \$73 million. Tomorrow’s *Lotto Texas* jackpot is worth an estimated \$31 million.

For more information about the Texas Lottery, please visit the official Web site at <http://www.txlottery.org>.

...

*The Texas Lottery supports Texas education.*

**Note to Editors:** To request a photograph of Darryl Heller in jpg format, please contact Robyn Smith at (512)344-5477 or [Robyn.Smith@lottery.state.tx.us](mailto:Robyn.Smith@lottery.state.tx.us).