

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - November 28, 2001

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Texas Lottery Looking For A Winner

(Humble, November 28) - - She's Texas' version of the Maytag repair man, poised for action, sitting by a phone that never rings.

Tired of waiting in Austin, the Texas Lottery Winner's Liaison traveled to the Humble/Atascocita area today, in hopes of locating the winner of an **unclaimed \$13 million jackpot**.

Winner's Liaison Abbie Pina came from lottery headquarters to see if she could find the person who matched all six numbers for the *Lotto Texas* drawing on June 23.

"I'm the one winners talk to when they think they have a winning ticket, and I guide them through the process to claim their millions," Pina said. "I am ready to do my job with this winner."

Pina went to the retailer location where the winning ticket was sold, Copperfield Liquor #6, located at 7540 FM 1960 East. Claimants have 180 days from the date of the drawing to claim a prize. That clock runs out on this ticket on December 20.

"The winner usually comes to us, but this is unusual enough that we thought we'd try to find the winner," said Pina. "I usually hear something within a few weeks of the drawing. This ticket beats the record - it's gone 158 days without anyone stepping forward to claim it.

"I want to encourage everyone - before you hang those Christmas lights, search through your wallets, pocketbooks, desks - do an early spring cleaning - see what you can come up with.

"If you're the one who bought the ticket at Copperfield on June 23, you could have an early Christmas," said Pina.

The only *Lotto Texas* jackpot ever to go unclaimed was six years ago in April of 1995. The \$12.4 million jackpot-winning ticket was purchased in Flower Mound for the drawing held October 26, 1994.

The retailer has already received his bonus of \$130,000.

Tonight's estimated *Lotto Texas* jackpot is \$4 million.

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TV STATIONS - NOTE:

There will be a Satellite News Feed of the News Conference from 3:00 -3:15 p.m. Central Time on Wednesday, November 28th, at the following coordinates:

- C Band: Galaxy 3R, Transponder 6c, Transmit Vertical at 3820 MHz
- KU Band: SBS6, Transponder 17, Transmit Horizontal at 12120 MHz
- Audio: 6.2/6.8

QUICK FACTS

- Claimants have 180 days from the date of the drawing to collect a *Lotto Texas* prize.
- Including today, there are 23 days left to claim the \$13 million jackpot prize.
- The Quick Pick ticket was purchased with the Cash Value Option, and is worth \$7,302,952.80
- Gary Hmaidan, Copperfield Liquor #6 owner, received \$130,000 retailer bonus on Thursday, August 2nd.
- Only *Lotto Texas* jackpot to go unclaimed was for the drawing held October 26, 1994 for \$12.4 million. The last day to claim the prize was April 24, 1995. Ticket was sold in Flower Mound.
- Longest period for winner to come to headquarters to claim *Lotto Texas* prize - Robert Wantland Family Investments, Ltd. - waited 147 days to claim the estimated \$8 million jackpot prize on February 12, 1997. The drawing was held on September 18, 1996.
- As of September 1999, unclaimed prize money is transferred to the Multicategorical Teaching Hospital Account, which funds indigent healthcare at UTMB-Galveston and other healthcare facilities throughout the state.
- Up to \$40 million can be transferred each biennium to the Teaching Hospital Account. Any amount over the \$40 million is then transferred to the Tertiary Care Facility Account.
- The numbers drawn for June 23rd were: 10-12-16-25-29-41

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The Texas Lottery, the 4th largest selling lottery in North America, is "Focusing on the Future of Education, One Ticket At A Time." By providing the 'Games of Texas' for more than 10 years, the Texas Lottery Commission (TLC) has generated more than \$10 billion for the state and paid nearly \$17 billion to players in prizes. For more information about the TLC, please visit the official website at <http://www.txlottery.org>

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