



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, February 17, 2011

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GARDEN RIDGE WOMAN \$500,000 PRIZE IN GIANT JUMBO BUCKS III SECOND-CHANCE DRAWING

(Austin) – Sheridan J. Walker of Garden Ridge says she isn't much of a Texas Lottery® player, buying scratch-offs infrequently and the weekly *Lotto Texas*® ticket only because her 94-year-old mother insists on it.

In fact, Walker's mother answered the phone when a lottery official called to inform her that she won a prize of \$500,000 in a *Giant Jumbo Bucks III* second-chance drawing. "At first, I thought someone was playing a joke on me, maybe even my mother," she said. "I started crying right after I got the news, and every time I think about it, I start all over again."

Her mother, on the other hand, happily got on the phone, called her son and her great-grandson with the news, and reminded everyone that she herself had won \$1,000 in another Texas Lottery second-chance drawing last August.

"The second-chance drawings are a key factor in the continuing popularity of the *Giant Jumbo Bucks III* scratch-off game among our players," said Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Gary Grief. "By mailing in their non-winning tickets, players have the chance to win the top prize of \$500,000, as Ms. Walker did, or one of 50 prizes of \$1,000."

Walker says she will pay off the mortgage with the prize and help her brother, too. "You can win, and I know it now, too," she said. "It's a good idea to visualize yourself winning a significant prize, but always remember to be grateful every day for what you already have."

Tomorrow's *Mega Millions*® jackpot is an estimated \$52 million. Saturday's *Lotto Texas* jackpot is an estimated \$25 million, and the *Powerball*® jackpot is an estimated \$126 million. More information about the Texas Lottery is on the official website, www.txlottery.org.

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