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SUPPORTING TEXAS EDUCATION
AND VETERANS

IRVING RESIDENT CLAIMS \$1 MILLION SCRATCH TICKET PRIZE

(AUSTIN) – Sandra Heard Blanton, of Irving, claimed a second-tier prize of \$1 million in the Texas Lottery® scratch ticket game [Instant Millionaire](#). The ticket was purchased at Stop N Shop, located at 401 E. Pioneer Drive, in Irving.

“I felt like I wasn’t looking at it right; I was in disbelief,” Blanton said about her winning experience. “I stopped scratching midway through to see if I really won and then when I realized I did, I started hollering at the lady at the cash register to let her know. I went back to the house and called all of my children and grandchildren. They thought I was joking.”

For Blanton, this wasn’t the first time she experienced luck while playing scratch ticket games from the Texas Lottery. The Irving resident claims to have won at least \$1,000 on multiple occasions, including \$2,300 – her largest prize prior to her recent big win.

Blanton told the Texas Lottery she always purchases her tickets at the same retailer even after missing out on becoming a big winner once before.

“One time after I bought a ticket, someone bought the one right after me and won [a top prize],” Blanton explained.

Knowing that she was disappointed by that news, the Stop N Shop clerk tried to boost Blanton's spirits by encouraging her to believe that her time to win would come someday.

“It turned out she was right,” Blanton exclaimed.

After Blanton was sure she won, she knew the next step was to claim her prize at a Texas Lottery claim center, and she wasn’t going to let any hurdles get in her way.

(more)

“On the way to claim the prize, we got a flat tire and didn’t have a spare or a jack, so we parked the car and asked a stranger to drive us to Abilene for \$100. He said, ‘Sure,’ and never asked why were going to the lottery office,” Blanton explained. “Everything from the win to going to get the prize was a fun experience!”

Blanton’s prize was the 23rd of 40 second-tier prizes worth \$1 million to be claimed in this game. Instant Millionaire offers more than \$519 million in total prizes, including 10 top prizes of \$2.5 million. Overall odds of winning any prize in the game are one in 3.20, including break-even prizes.

About the Texas Lottery

Beginning with the first ticket sold in 1992, the Texas Lottery has generated more than \$31 billion in revenue for the state and distributed \$65 billion in prizes to lottery players. Since 1997, the Texas Lottery has contributed \$25.4 billion to the Foundation School Fund, which supports public education in Texas. As authorized by the Texas Legislature, certain Texas Lottery revenues benefit state programs including the Fund for Veterans’ Assistance. Since the first veterans’ themed scratch ticket game was launched in 2009, the Texas Lottery has contributed more than \$139 million for programs supporting Texas veterans.

The Texas Lottery provides several entertaining games for lottery players including Powerball[®], Mega Millions[®], Lotto Texas[®], All or Nothing[™], Texas Two Step[®], Pick 3[™], Daily 4[™], Cash Five[®] and scratch ticket games. For more information visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or at www.txlottery.org. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

Editors/News Directors, note: Images of Sandra Heard Blanton and the Instant Millionaire scratch ticket are attached in JPEG format.

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