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Lottery Jackpots Continue to Grow Along with Proceeds for Scholarships

May 13, 2019

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Scholarship Lottery's (ASL) three major draw game jackpots continue to grow. Powerball[®] stands at \$250 million, Mega Millions[®] has climbed to \$316 million and the Natural State Jackpot is up to \$300,000.

"Draw game sales actually produce more proceeds for scholarships," said ASL Director Bishop Woosley. "And when jackpots get big, our sales go up, which means more money for scholarships."

The lottery has raised \$82.5 million for scholarships so far this fiscal year, and that's more than \$11 million over the projected budget, according to Woosley.

"From a sales and proceeds standpoint, we have never been in a better position at this time in a fiscal year (which ends June 30)," he said. "If this trend holds, we may surpass our previous record for sales and proceeds."

Woosley said the new Taxes Paid scratch-off tickets have only be in the market for two weeks. One of the top prizes on the \$200,000 ticket, which sells for \$10, was claimed last week. Since the lottery is paying the taxes on the top-prizes on these tickets, the player won \$289,855. There is about \$7.5 million in prizes remaining in that game. About the same amount of prize money is available on the other three Taxes Paid tickets that sell for \$5, \$2, and \$1.

May is the third and final month in the lottery's Spring Cash Giveaway promotion. Players can enter winning and non-winning Powerball tickets along with non-winning instant tickets that launched in March, April and May for a chance to win cash. The final drawing will be June 4. For details on the promotion, go to MyArkansasLottery.com and click on "The Club." Woosley said he wants to remind players that the lottery is designed as entertainment so to play for fun and to play responsibly.

To read the most recent Monthly Disclosure Report presented to the Arkansas Legislative Council Lottery Oversight Subcommittee, go to Reports on the About Us page at <u>www.MyArkansasLottery.com</u>.

About the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery

More than 92 cents of every dollar of Lottery revenue goes to prizes, scholarships, retailer commissions, and other expenses in Arkansas. Since 2009, the Lottery has provided more than \$781 million for more than 302,000 college scholarships, more than \$2.8 billion in prizes to players, about \$248 million in retailer commissions and more than \$125 million state and federal tax revenue.

Follow the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Visit MyArkansasLottery.com for more information on scholarships, winners, games, odds, promotions – and to join The Club for free. To hear winning numbers, call the Winning Numbers Hotline at 501-682-IWON (4966). To get help with problem gambling, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.

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