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HUNTERSVILLE MAN WINS \$1 MILLION POWERBALL PRIZE -Three People Win More Than \$390,000 Each Playing "Carolina Cash 5"-

RALEIGH-For years Richard Darden of **Huntersville** and his wife had dreamed of winning the lottery. On Wednesday their dreams came true when they won \$1,000,000 playing Powerball. Their ticket matched all five white balls in the March 3 drawing and since it was Power Played, the normal \$200,000 prize was multiplied by five to make it \$1 million.

This is "life changing, not just lifestyle changing," Darden told lottery officials about his winnings, which totaled \$684,000 after state and federal withholdings. In addition to making some charitable donations, he also plans to take his family on a cruise. Darden purchased his Powerball ticket at Lowes Foods on Eastfield Road in Huntersville.

In addition to Darden, a total of 42,044 North Carolina Powerball players won prizes in the March 3 drawing ranging from \$3 to \$1 million for a total payout in prizes worth \$1.34 million. Because no tickets matched all five white balls and the Powerball, the jackpot for the Saturday, March 6 drawing is an estimated \$139 million.

The week started off right for three lucky winners when they found out they picked the winning numbers for Monday's "Carolina Cash 5" prize. The \$1.1 million total prize was split three ways because they each had tickets that matched the five balls for the Monday night drawing. Each winner's prize was worth \$390,868, which totaled \$265,790.56 after state and federal withholdings.

One of the winning tickets belonged to Karen Sgambati of **Hope Mills**. She told lottery officials that she was "very happy" and woke up her sister early in the morning after she saw the numbers online and realized she had one of the winning tickets. Sgambati purchased her ticket at the Short Stop on Legion Road in Hope Mills and plans to take her family on a shopping trip.

Jimmy Pierce of **Bunnlevel** in Harnett County also had a winning ticket. He told lottery officials he wants to help his family, pay for his daughter's college education and save some of the money for the future. He found out he was a winner after checking the numbers at Bunnlevel Grocery & Grill on Highway 401 South in Bunnlevel where he bought the ticket. He told NCEL officials that he "immediately started jumping around" in the store and sharing his excitement with anyone who would listen the moment he knew he had a winning ticket.

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The third winner, Elbert Foreman III of **Fountain**, said he plans to use his winnings to take his wife on a nice vacation and help pay for his grandchildren's education. He realized he won as he watched the drawing on TV and he said that he "didn't get much sleep" that night as the reality that he was a winner began to sink in. He purchased the ticket at the Falkland Mini Mart on South Main Street in Falkland.

A different game turned out to be the lucky choice for Earlene Kincaid of **Burlington**. She told lottery officials she couldn't control her excitement after seeing she had a winning ticket worth \$100,000 (\$68,001.60 after state and federal withholdings) in the "Black Pearl" scratch-off game. She said she "just screamed" when she realized her good fortune and that she plans to use her prize for one of her lifelong dreams, a trip to New York City. She bought her ticket at the Texaco station on South Church Street in Burlington.

Mega Millions players need to check their tickets! A winning ticket purchased at the Market Express in Indian Trail (Union County) matched four white balls and the Mega Ball, which makes it worth \$10,000. A total of 16,470 North Carolina Mega Millions players won prizes in the Tuesday, March 2 drawing ranging from \$2 to \$10,000 for a total payout in prizes worth \$107,171. Because no tickets matched all five white balls and the Mega Ball, the jackpot for the Friday, March 5 drawing is an estimated \$133 million.

The North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL) has paid out over \$5.5 million total in instant scratch-off ticket prizes since Monday, March 1. Also since Monday, "Carolina Pick 3" players have won over \$1,591,880, "Carolina Pick 4" players have won more than \$133,000 and 4 tickets won the top prize of \$5,000. "Carolina Cash 5" players have won over \$1.4 million.

Winner in the March 3 Powerball drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Richard Darden	Huntersville	\$1,000,000	Lowe's Foods #213 13108 Eastfield Rd., Huntersville

Winner in the March 2 Mega Millions drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Unknown		\$10,000	Market Express 7802 Idlewild Rd., Indian Trail

Winner in the March 1 "Carolina Cash 5" drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Elbert Foreman III	Fountain	\$380,868	Falkland Mini Mart 5967 S. Main St. Hwy. 43, Falkland

Jimmy Pierce	Bunnlevel	\$390,870	Bunnlevel Grocery & Grill 6879 Hwy. 401 South, Bunnlevel
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Karen Sgambati	Hope Mills	\$390,868	Short Stop 3608 Legion Rd., Hope Mills
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Winner in the Feb. 27 Powerball drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Andrew Byrd	Raleigh	\$20,000	Circle K #6329 2400 Spring Forest Rd., Raleigh

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Instant scratch-off ticket top tier prize winners:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Game Played</u>
Earlene Kincaid	Burlington	\$100,000	"Black Pearl"
Carrie Nolden	Spring Lake	\$80,000	"Emerald Green 8s"
Jane Oliver	Chapel Hill	\$50,000	"Cash Spectacular"
Shirley Parks	Jacksonville	\$50,000	"Match & Win"
Marzette Colon	Cherryville	\$30,000	"Triple Lucky Diamonds"
Teresa Singleton	Charlotte	\$30,000	"Super 7's Bingo"
LaTorra Hopper	Shelby	\$10,000	"Cash Spectacular"
Catherine Lapin	Cary	\$10,000	"\$200 Million Extravaganza"
Susan Campbell	Shelby	\$5,000	"Cash Spectacular"
Carol Cummings	Wendell	\$5,000	"Cash Spectacular"
James Friend	Coats	\$5,000	"Cash Spectacular"
Chad Hohn	Thomasville	\$5,000	"Cash Spectacular"
Jerry Jones	Newport	\$5,000	"\$200 Million Extravaganza"
Thanh Pham	Durham	\$5,000	"Cash Spectacular"
Eloney Pierce	Charlotte	\$5,000	"Cash Spectacular"

"Carolina Cash 5" Top Prize Winners Tally	
<u>Prize</u>	<u># of winners</u>
\$50,000 to \$856,998	284

Powerball Winners Tally	
<u>Prize</u>	<u># of winners</u>
\$2 Million - \$200,000	175
\$100,000 - \$10,000	1011

Mega Millions Winners Tally	
<u>Prize</u>	<u># of winners</u>
\$1 Million - \$250,000	0
\$40,000 - \$10,000	1

*The Powerball numbers above are since May 31, 2006.
The Mega Millions numbers above are since January 31, 2010.
The totals do not include unclaimed prizes.*

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100% of the North Carolina Education Lottery net proceeds are used for pre-kindergarten programs for at risk youth, reduction of class size in early grades, school construction and need-based college scholarships.

For prizes of \$5,000 and greater, 25% federal tax and 7% state tax are withheld.