



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Contact Kara Lee Ford at 501-683-1646*

## **New Year Brings Huge Lottery Jackpots**

Jan. 4, 2021

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – With no grand prize winners last Friday and Saturday nights, the Mega Millions® and Powerball® jackpots have climbed to \$432 million and \$410 million, respectfully. These jackpots are nearing the highest levels they have been for many months.

Eric Hagler, Arkansas Scholarship Lottery (ASL) director, said the Mega Millions jackpot was hit seven times in 2019 but only once in 2020. Tuesday’s jackpot is the third highest it has been since Jan. 1, 2019; and the current roll is the second longest since the game started in 2002.

The largest Mega Millions jackpot ever was \$1.537 billion on Oct. 23, 2018, with one winning ticket sold in South Carolina. The largest Mega Millions jackpot ever won in Arkansas was \$177 million in 2017.

The Powerball jackpot was last hit on Sept. 16, 2020. Since then there have been 31 drawings in a row without a grand prize winner.

Currently ASL is offering a special promotion called the 5-Buck Bundle. For just \$5, a player receives a Powerball ticket with Power Play®, a Mega Millions ticket and a free Natural State Jackpot ticket.

“The 5-Buck Bundle gives a player three chances to win big jackpots,” Hagler said. “All tickets must be Quick Picks.”

He said when sales increase from big jackpots, so do proceeds for scholarships – and that’s a win for everyone. Since 2009, ASL has raised more than \$1 billion in proceeds which has helped fund more than 600,000 scholarships.

Hagler encourages players to always check their numbers or scan their tickets at a retailer even if they know they didn’t win the jackpot. There are multiple lower-level prizes to be won. For example, if a player has four white ball numbers, the prize is \$100. And when the Power Play is purchased, the prize is multiplied by whatever the number is for that drawing.

The Arkansas lottery has sold 77 tickets to players that paid \$1 million or more, which averages out to about seven per year. There are still two \$20 instant tickets with \$1 million top prizes yet to be claimed – three on \$1 Million Spectacular and one on Millionaires Club.

Hagler said players have a one in 24.9 chance of winning a prize no matter if the jackpot is \$40 million or \$1 billion. Even if more tickets are sold in a particular drawing, a player's odds of winning a prize are the same. He reminds players it only takes one ticket to win so please play responsibly.

### **About the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery**

More than 92 cents of every dollar of ASL revenue goes to prizes, scholarships, retailer commissions, and other expenses in Arkansas. Since 2009, the lottery has raised more than \$1 billion in proceeds for scholarships. More than 600,000 college scholarships have been awarded to Arkansans. The lottery has awarded more than \$3.4 billion in prizes to players, about \$295 million in retailer commissions and provided more than \$139 million in state and federal tax revenue.

Follow the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Visit [MyArkansasLottery.com](http://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.

###