



Texas Lottery  
Commission

PO Box 16630  
Austin, Texas  
78761-6630

FAX:  
(512) 344-5490

# NEWS

*from the Texas Lottery Commission*

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**CONTACT:**

Kristina Tirloni, 512-344-5144

## **CALIFORNIA TRANSPLANT COLLECTS \$20,000 FROM *AMERICAN IDOL* SCRATCH GAME**



(AUSTIN) – Originally from California, T.J. Petrie, now of Leander, just won *American Idol* – the Texas Lottery® version, anyway. Petrie found she didn't have to stay in California to win a dream prize since she became the 10<sup>th</sup> recipient to claim \$20,000, the top prize for the Texas Lottery *American Idol* scratch game.

“This is the largest amount I’ve ever won in my life,” said Petrie. “I bought three of the *American Idol* scratch games and didn’t realize I had won anything at first.”

The *American Idol* scratch game, released earlier this year, allows players a chance to win up to 10 times. Cash prizes range from \$2 up to \$20,000. As of

(more)

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today, there are three \$20,000 top prizes unclaimed. Overall odds of winning any prize in *American Idol* are 1 in 4.31, including break-even prizes.

“The *American Idol* phenomenon reached untold audience participation and we really wanted to be a part of that,” said Anthony J. Sadberry, acting executive director of the Texas Lottery Commission. “Texas was the first state to release an *American Idol* ticket. We like to be at the forefront of offering new and exciting games for our players.”

Petrie told lottery officials she has already made plans for her winnings. “I want to buy a new truck and get new glasses for my daughter,” she said. “This was a way-huge surprise and blessing. For a single mom, it was a really cool experience.”

For more information about the Texas Lottery, please visit the official Texas Lottery Commission Web site at <http://www.txlottery.org>

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*The Texas Lottery supports Texas education.*

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** A photograph of T.J. Petrie is available upon request. All photos are sent via e-mail in jpg format. Please contact Kristina Tirloni at (512) 344-5144 or e-mail at [Kristina.tirloni@lottery.state.tx.us](mailto:Kristina.tirloni@lottery.state.tx.us) to make your request.

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