

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - March 13, 2003

Contact:

Sylvia Womble-Saenz, 512-344-5216

Leticia Vásquez, 512-344-5208

Instant Game Player Makes A Change For The Better; Nabs Instant Million-Dollar Texas Lottery Prize



Holiday Million winner Ernesto Fabela with Reagan Greer, Executive Director of the Texas Lottery Commission.

(Austin, March 13) - Changing his morning routine, Ernesto Fabela of Odessa bought a Texas Lottery™ *Holiday Million* instant ticket Monday afternoon that instantly changed his life. Today Fabela, joined by his wife, daughter and father-in-law, visited the Texas Lottery Commission headquarters in Austin to pick up his top prize that totals \$1 million before taxes.

A daily player of Texas Lottery instant games, Fabela said he adds the Scratch Off games to his morning ritual. "In the morning on the way to work, I go to 7-Eleven, buy a cup of coffee and a scratch-off ticket or two, and then I sit there to relax with my coffee while I scratch tickets."

He bought his winning *Holiday Million* instant game ticket at 7-Eleven #135, 6013 W. University, Odessa. The retailer is eligible for a one percent bonus of \$10,000 for selling the ticket.

Fabela, 47, made an afternoon stop at 7-Eleven on Monday for a cold soft drink when he decided to buy another instant game—this time, the \$20 *Holiday Million* that debuted in late November as the lottery's first-ever \$20 instant game.

Changing yet another routine, Fabela went back to work and scratched the ticket at his job site instead of at the store.

"He couldn't believe it; he was jumping up and down and screaming," said his wife, Jane Fabela. "He had played *Holiday Million* since it came out and had won a few prizes, but nothing really big. This kind of win is unreal."

The Fabelas have earmarked some of the winnings for a donation to their church and for expanding their business, Fabela's Body Shop, along with planning for the education of their two sons and one daughter.

Mrs. Fabela said her husband will continue to play all of the Texas Lottery games, including *Texas Two Step* and *Lotto Texas*. "My husband has always felt unusually lucky, and I think this was just meant to be," she said.

Fabela's win marks the fourth \$1 million *Holiday Million* ticket claimed.

Saturday's *Lotto Texas* jackpot is worth an estimated \$28 million.

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