

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - October 4, 2002

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Victoria Lottery Winner Plans To Keep A Promise



Ramiro Vela of Victoria, winner of the Break the Bank ticket.

(Austin, October 4) - Ramiro Vela of Victoria started today on a high note. And because of a promise he made, he's going to brighten someone else's day as well. Vela won the top cash prize for the Texas Lottery's scratch-off game, *Break the Bank*, collecting \$30,000 at the lottery's Victoria Claim Center this morning.

"I play *Break the Bank* every day," Vela said. "I've always told the clerks that sell me a ticket, 'If I ever win a big prize, I'll give you ten percent.' I'm on my way back now to keep that promise because I feel that it's only fair, and maybe it will bring me more luck."

Vela purchased his top-prize winning ticket at the Fastop Food Store #3, located at 2103 Lone Tree Road in Victoria. The store manager, Velia Gonzales, sold Vela his top prizewinning ticket.

"When he finished scratching off the ticket, he said, 'Please tell me I'm not seeing things,' " said Gonzales.

"He told me he would be back, and when he returned he asked me, 'Don't I deserve a hug?' I gave him a big one. I'm going to payoff a bill with the money he gave me," she added.

Vela explained he plans on paying off a tractor trailer and his home with his winnings. "That way, I keep more of my retirement money."

Break the Bank, one of the Texas Lottery's more popular instant tickets, has been issued to players a total of 10 times. Players win by matching "Your Numbers" to any one of the three "Lucky Numbers." If players get a "stack of bills" symbol, they win that cash prize automatically.

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The Texas Lottery, the 4th largest selling lottery in North America, is "Focusing on the Future of Education, One Ticket At A Time." By providing the 'Games of Texas' for more than 10 years, the Texas Lottery Commission (TLC) has generated more than \$10 billion for the state and paid nearly \$17 billion to players in prizes. For more information about the TLC, please visit the official website at <http://www.txlottery.org>