

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - July 21, 2003

Contact:

Karen Kalergis, 512-344-5436

Kristina Tirloni, 512-344-5144

Clock Ticking Down For Unclaimed *Lotto Texas*[™] Jackpot ... New Record Could Be Set



Texas Lottery Executive Director Reagan E. Greer speaks to reporters about missing Lotto Texas jackpot ticket.

(San Antonio, July 21) - Today, Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Reagan E. Greer announced that almost no time remains for someone to come forward and claim the \$5 million jackpot from the January 29 *Lotto Texas*[™] drawing.

"Turning in that ticket before the deadline earns someone more than \$3 million and a place in the Texas Lottery record books," said Greer. "The current record for claiming a *Lotto Texas* jackpot is 147 days. We're at 173 days and counting, so if that ticket shows up before next Monday at midnight, the jackpot and the record go to the winner."

Greer held a news conference this morning at the Diamond Shamrock Corner Store at 1002 Castroville Road where the winning ticket was sold. Valero Energy Corporation, which owns the store, has already received its \$50,000 bonus and shared a portion of it with the store's employees.

Greer, a native and resident of San Antonio, said the story has a lot of San Antonio angles.

"A previous San Antonio winner currently holds the record for taking the longest to claim a *Lotto Texas* prize," explained Greer. "Robert Wantland Family Investments, Ltd., claimed a \$7.4 million jackpot prize on February 12, 1997. That was 147 days after the September 18, 1996, drawing."

Greer noted that Robert Wantland came across the ticket unexpectedly, while rummaging through a desk drawer.

"I encourage Texas Lottery players who buy their tickets at this Diamond Shamrock store to do a little rummaging of their own," said Greer. "You could be San Antonio's next winner."

While the whereabouts of the ticket is still unknown, lottery officials know this much about the ticket:

- It was purchased for the January 29 drawing.
- The jackpot that night was worth \$5 million.
- The buyer selected the Cash Value Option, making the ticket worth \$3,015,708, before taxes.
- The player chose the numbers.
- The numbers drawn were: 04-12-22-33-37-52.
- The ticket will expire July 28, at midnight.

Individuals who believe they have the winning *Lotto Texas* ticket should call the Texas Lottery at 1-800-37LOTTO or 1-800-375-6886 and speak to the Winners Information Specialist to find out what to do next.

If the ticket is not claimed by the 180-day deadline on July 28 at midnight, the prize money will be transferred to the state to help pay for indigent health care.

Wednesday's *Lotto Texas* jackpot is worth an estimated \$36 million.

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