

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - March 17, 2003

Contact:

Leticia Vásquez, 512-344-5208

Kristina Tirloni, 512-344-5144

## Austinite Wins \$77,000 From Texas Lottery

(Austin, March 17) - If you can't finish your lunch at the venerable Joe's Bakery on Austin's East Side because you've got a winning Texas Lottery ticket in your pocket, then you won't be able to eat anywhere.

"I just couldn't concentrate on eating knowing that I had a little ticket with \$77,000 on it in my pocket," said Leonard Prado. "I nibbled just enough so I wouldn't be quite so hungry, then I took off to the Lottery to get my prize."

The 53-year-old Prado bought three *Royal 7's* instant game tickets. He says he plans to be prudent with his prize.

"I'll pay off my car and tie up a few financial loose ends, but I'm not going to go crazy spending this prize," he said. "The only place I really want to go to is Louisville, for the Kentucky Derby, so I'm going to treat myself to a trip."

Prado says he buys only three tickets at a time, whenever he's in any retail location that sells Texas Lottery tickets. It was no different when he purchased three *Royal 7's* at Mr. MC's Grocery, located at 2109 Holly Street in Austin.

"I buy only three tickets, and I never ever scratch them in the store, because if I win, I might want to buy more tickets," he said. "But this time, I scratched them in the store, and I got really excited, but the clerk was even more excited than I was."

The self-employed travel ticket broker says he enjoys gaming in general and travels frequently to Las Vegas.

"Some years, I go as many as 10 times to Vegas; I really like it," he said. "But last year, I went only three times. And, as far as my \$77,000 prize, all I can say is that I never gave up. I've been playing since the beginning, and I knew I was going to win a big prize someday. Well, here it is."

Wednesday's *Lotto Texas* jackpot is worth an estimated \$35 million. For more information about the Texas Lottery, please visit the official Texas Lottery Commission website at <http://www.txlottery.org>