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P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2020

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054-20

The Holidays Get Brighter as Jackpots Grow Bigger

Christmas Has Already Come Early for a Few Lucky Californians

SACRAMENTO – The 2020 holiday season is here, and two jackpots combining for more than half a billion dollars this week are ready to bring holiday cheer. The *Mega Millions* jackpot for Tuesday night is at \$330 million while the *Powerball* jackpot for the Wednesday night draw is at \$321 million.

“These jackpots are bigger than we’ve seen in months, and we want to remind people they can still buy Lottery tickets when they’re at the gas station, grocery store, or other essential businesses,” said Carolyn Becker, Deputy Director for Public Affairs and Communications at the California State Lottery. “Lottery tickets make great last-minute gifts for friends and family who are 18 years or older.”

Several Lottery players and retailers across the state already have millions of reasons to enjoy the holiday season after winning big on a variety *Scratchers*® games.

- Katherine Webb won \$1 million on a *PAC-MAN*® *Scratchers* ticket she purchased in Sutter County. She got the lucky ticket at Robbins Mercantile, located at 4895 Del Monte Avenue in Robbins. This retailer gets a \$5,000 bonus just for selling that ticket.
- Arminda Villafuerte scored a whopping \$10 million on an *Ultimate Millions Scratchers* she bought at the Quality Gas for Your Cash Arco station located at 5898 Mission Street in San Francisco. The lucky retailer in this case will receive a bonus of \$50,000.
- Natale Mercuri picked up a life-changing \$6 million after playing a *Set For Life Scratchers* ticket. That winning ticket was purchased at the Ralphs store located at 670 South Western Avenue in Los Angeles. This retailer will receive \$30,000 bonus.

- Juan Lopez got rich in an instant by Playing an *Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers* ticket. That \$2 million winning ticket was purchased at Vincent Chevron located at 206 North Vincent Avenue in West Covina. The retailer will receive \$10,000 for selling that lucky ticket.
- Finally, we have a *Million Dollar Multiplier Scratchers* ticket that lived up to its name for Gustavo Vasquez. He won \$1 million by grabbing a winning ticket from Pioneer Market located at 465 South Brand Boulevard in San Fernando. This retailer gets \$5,000 for selling that winning ticket.

For players hoping to win big this week, there are a few things to keep in mind. *Mega Millions* draw times are Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. PT. **Sales close at 7:45 p.m., so players must buy their tickets by then to qualify for that draw.** *Powerball* draw times are Wednesdays and Saturdays at 7:59 p.m. PT. **Sales closes at 7 p.m., so players must buy their tickets by then to qualify for that draw.** Tickets can be purchased from any California Lottery retailer, most of which are essential businesses and still open in according with state and local public health guidelines. Please visit the California Lottery website at www.calottery.com for more information on how to play.

The California Lottery and its employees also continue to serve an essential government function, providing additional funding to the state's public schools, colleges and universities.

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The California Lottery's mission is to provide supplemental funding to California public schools, including kindergarten and grades 1-12, community colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and other California public educational entities. The funds the Lottery transfers to public education total approximately \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2018-19, which amounts to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely non-discretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period the Lottery generated almost \$7 billion in sales, more than 95% of which goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly. Problem gambling resources are available to anyone at 1-800-GAMBLER.

www.calottery.com