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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### ***New California Lottery Winners Sending 2020 Out With a BANG!***

#### ***More Than \$750 Million Up For Grabs in Mega Millions® & Powerball® Combined***

**SACRAMENTO** – From incredibly small towns to metropolitan cities, some California Lottery players found a perfect way to end 2020 – recently becoming millionaires by winning the Lottery. Only one of these winners won their million-dollar prize by playing a draw game; all the others won big playing *Scratchers*®!

Heather Zal bought her *Mega Millions*® ticket in Shoshone (Inyo County), which is a town of only 31 people. She bought her ticket at The Charles Brown Company at 712 CA-127. She won \$1.9 million (less federal taxes) because her lucky ticket matched five out of six numbers. Zal's father actually bought the ticket for her and says she plans to pay off debt and help her family out with her prize. The Charles Brown Company gets a bonus of \$9,500 for selling the winning ticket.

Janette Lujan likes to share her *Scratchers* "hobby" with her family, which is why she bought them all tickets and passed them out at a recent family dinner. Imagine the surprise when one of them was a million-dollar prize winner, and it was actually Lujan who won. "You can imagine how that went!" She explained, laughing. Lujan purchased the tickets at a Circle K located at 2323 North Oxnard Boulevard in Oxnard (Ventura County). That retailer will receive a \$5,000 bonus for selling the winning ticket.

Several other Lottery players across the state recently won millions on a variety of *Scratchers*.

- Bernard Schmall III and Darlene Pang each won \$2 million by playing an *Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers* ticket. Schmall bought his ticket at J Food & Liquor located at 10401 Folsom Boulevard in Rancho Cordova (Sacramento County). Pang bought her ticket at 5 Star

Liquor located at 9461 Edinger Avenue in Westminster (Orange County). Each retailer will receive \$10,000 for selling those lucky tickets.

- And two more players each won \$1 million playing *Million Dollar Multiplier Scratchers* tickets. Juan Camarena purchased his ticket at The Corner Store located at 220 Alta Street in Gonzales (Monterey County) and Alfonso Sanabria bought his ticket at Frank's Liquor located at 4023 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Los Angeles. Each retailer gets \$5,000 for selling those winning tickets.

Lastly, for players hoping to win big to close out 2020, there are two HUGE jackpots up for grabs this week. *Powerball* is at \$363 million for Wednesday night's draw and *Mega Millions* has a jackpot of a whopping \$401 million for Friday night's draw. *Powerball* draws happen 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.** *Mega Millions* draws 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.** Players can buy their tickets when visiting essential businesses, like getting groceries or gasoline. The California Lottery has more than 23,000 retail partners, 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](http://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](http://www.calottery.com)