



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2021

Contact: Jorge De La Cruz

(916) 822-8554

009-21

Lucky St. Patrick's Day Comes Early for These Winners

SACRAMENTO – Four California Lottery *Scratchers*® players weren't waiting until next week for St. Patrick's day to cash in on some luck.

These Southern California Lottery players struck it rich even before St. Patrick's Day. **James Nichols** purchased his *\$5 Million Extravaganza* ticket at the Arco located at 28406 Sand Canyon Road in **Canyon Country (Los Angeles County)**. Nichols won the top prize of \$5 million, as did **Thonginh Sasouvanh** when he purchased his *Instant Prize Crossword* ticket and won \$2 million. Sasouvanh purchased his ticket at Food Market located at 9059 Van Nuys Boulevard in **Panorama City (Los Angeles County)**. Wrapping up the Southern California lucky streak is **Mike Hong**, who bought his *2021 Scratchers* ticket at Circle K located at 1 Hellman Avenue in **Alhambra (Los Angeles County)** and won \$3 million.

The winning wasn't just in the Southland. **Rafael Monroy** purchased a *Mystery Crossword* ticket at Greenfield Market located at 348 El Camino Real in **Greenfield (Monterey County)**. That top-prize winning ticket won Monroy a lot of greenbacks, \$750,000 to be exact.

The California Lottery and its employees continue to serve an essential government function, providing supplemental funding to the state's public schools, colleges and universities. The Lottery also provides essential revenue to more than 23,000 local businesses that sell tickets, most of which are independently-owned by entrepreneurs trying to stay afloat during these difficult times.

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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.