



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

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A Slew of SoCal Lottery Players Celebrate \$1 Million Wins!

Two Winners Played the Same Scratchers® Game in Riverside County

SACRAMENTO – Five California Lottery *Scratchers* players in Southern California enter Fall season as millionaires.

Christopher Smith won \$1,000,000 playing a *Silver & Gold Scratchers* ticket. That top-prize winning ticket was purchased at Chantry's Pantry Liquor located at 7826-28 Limonite Avenue in **Riverside (Riverside County)**. Smith knew right away he had won but still wanted to double check.

"I bought the ticket, scratched it at the store, scanned it to make sure and then I yelled, 'one million dollars!' The clerk didn't believe me and I actually thought I was dreaming! I yelled again to wake myself up if I was," Smith laughed. Smith has been playing the Lottery since he turned 18 and usually sticks to *Scratchers* tickets. The most he had ever won before was \$777 on a *Scratchers* ticket. As for his newfound wealth, Smith plans to buy a house and start his own business.

Elsewhere in Riverside County, **Jonathan Torres** also scored a million dollar prize on a *Silver & Gold Scratchers* ticket. His ticket was purchased at Stater Brothers located at 1271 North State Street in **San Jacinto**. Torres scratched his ticket at home and had a hard time believing he won. He checked it 4 or 5 times before realizing it was real.

"I thanked God and hugged my family," he told the California Lottery team. Torres has been playing for about four or five years and also sticks to *Scratchers* tickets. He plans on buying a house and paying off debt, and he also wants to donate to help the homeless in his area.

There were also several big winners in Los Angeles County. **Luis Roque** won the \$1 million top prize playing a *Red Hot 10's Scratchers* ticket. That lucky ticket was purchased at Hi-Bon Liquor located at 5985 East Florence Avenue in **Bell Gardens**.

Danny Siordia is another player who won a \$1 million top prize playing a *Multiplier Mania Scratchers* ticket. That lucky ticket was purchased at El Torito Market located at 10804 Juniper Street in **Los Angeles**.

Rounding out the millionaires is **Andre Rue** who won \$1 million playing a *Pac-Man Scratchers* ticket. He purchased his ticket at Village Spirits located at 1711 South Catalina Avenue in **Redondo Beach**.

Each retailer will receive a \$5,000 bonus for selling these winning tickets.

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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 transferred to public education totaled more than \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2020-21, which amounted to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely nondiscretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period, the Lottery generated almost \$8.4 billion in sales, more than 95% of which went 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