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

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‘A Little Play’ Pays off Big Time for California’s Newest Millionaires

SACRAMENTO – People across the state may be familiar with the California Lottery Scratchers® tag line, “A Little Play Can Make Your Day,” and that ‘little play’ has now paid off in a BIG way as the Lottery unveils the state’s newest millionaires.

In Merced County, **Enrique Reynoso** played the [\\$5,000,000 Extreme Cash](#) game and won the top prize of \$5 million! Reynoso bought the winning ticket at the Pennywise Travel Plaza in Santa Nella.

In Southern California, **Nam Pham** also won \$5 million by playing the [\\$5 Million Roaring 2022](#) Scratchers game. Pham bought the winning ticket at Vallarta Supermarket in Whittier. Both stores who sold those \$5 million winning tickets get a bonus of \$25,000.

In the Bay Area, the [Gold Rush](#) game lived up to its name, making **Rodica Capraru** \$1 million richer. Capraru purchased her ticket at the CVS on El Camino Real in San Carlos. The CVS gets a \$5,000 bonus for selling that winning ticket.

The announcement of these three winners comes as the California Lottery honors Public Schools Month in April, celebrating the value of public education. The Lottery’s sole mission is to raise extra funding for the state’s public schools from kindergarten all the way to university. The Lottery has generated more than \$39 billion for public education since its creation in 1985, and because Lottery funds are largely discretionary, they help schools do things they otherwise couldn’t, such as attracting and retaining quality teachers, buying state-of-the-art equipment, and keeping critical programs and services running.

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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.

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