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

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California Lottery Announces Ten New Millionaires Just in Time for the Holidays

SACRAMENTO – White Christmases are nice, but these 10 winners will have a green holiday this year because they’ve all just become California Lottery’s newest millionaires.

Thomas Nguyen won \$2,000,000 playing an Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers® (image of Scratchers ticket below) he picked up at the 7-Eleven on Kooser Road in **San Jose (Santa Clara County)**, and he has a peculiar and fun way to play.

“I buy tickets, but I don’t scratch the entire thing at once. I scratch a little at a time,” he said. “It takes me all day to uncover the whole ticket, and when I played this one, I thought I won \$2,000, but when I realized how many zeroes were there, I realized it was \$2 million!”

Nguyen is a regular at the 7-Eleven, and he happened to buy his big winning ticket on his birthday! He says he plans to build a house for his family with the prize money and said he believes this win was “a blessing from a higher power.”

Elsewhere in Northern California, **Daniel Fagundes** won \$1 million playing a Power 10’s ticket he bought at Santa Fe Market & Liquor on East Whitmore Avenue in **Hughson (Stanislaus County)**. Unlike Nguyen, Fagundes didn’t even make it out of the store before he scratched his winning ticket.

“I scratched it right there in the store and knew I won right away. I was in shock,” he explained. “I called my wife, and she didn’t believe me. Finally, I said, ‘I won a @\$%ing million dollars!’ And then she knew it was true, but stayed very calm, unlike me!”

Fagundes went on, “This is an amazing thing that happened, and we have already started planning financially. I even already retired!”

Eight other California Lottery winners are also new millionaires, some several times over.

Michael Warden won \$5,000,000 playing a 100X Scratchers from Lone Hill Liquor in **Glendora (Los Angeles County)**.

Another \$5 million winner is **Varinder Mohan**, who won playing the West Coast Winnings game. He bought his lucky ticket at Coalinga Smoke Shop (**Fresno County**).

The only draw game winner in the batch is **Dennis Mangubat**, who won \$2,595,149 on a Powerball ticket in late August, when he matched five out of six numbers, missing only the Powerball number. He bought his ticket the 7-Eleven on Gellert Boulevard in **Daly City (San Mateo County)**.

Agustin Cantu won \$2,000,000 playing an Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers he bought at the original Royal Donut in **Burlingame** (also in **San Mateo County**).

Rounding out today's announcement are four winners of \$1 million each.

Julio Bracamontes won his fortune on a 50X Fortune ticket he bought at Amigos Market on Firestone Boulevard in **Los Angeles**.

Maria Esparza Franco also played 50X Fortune and won \$1 million. She bought hers at Rotten Robbie on Oakland Road in **San Jose (Santa Clara County)**.

Israel Parkins Rodriguez was playing California Dreamin' when he struck it rich after buying his ticket at Vista Liquor in **San Pedro (Los Angeles County)**.

And finally, **Susan Beach** won her riches playing Sparkling Riches; she bought the lucky ticket at Tropicana Liquor in **San Jose (Santa Clara County)**.

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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 \$1.88 billion for fiscal year 2020-21, which amounted to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely 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 \$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

Enter 2nd Chance Draw at calottery.com/2ndChance or Mobile App

\$20

Instant Prize CROSSWORD

YOUR LETTERS

WIN UP TO \$2,000,000!

Words that WIN Instantly!

FAST
\$100
SPOT

\$25

PUZZLE 1

\$200

		G	R	A	P	H	I	C			C			
	T	E	A				T		P	U	S	H		
		L	O	U	N	G	E				A			
		A		E	M				B		I			
	A			C		A	R	O	U	N	D			
F	A	R		E		G	X							
U	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E			R			
T		I		S				C	L	O	S	E		
U		D	A	T	A				U		T			
R		G		R	F				S	T	I	R		
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	O	V	E	R		L	I	G	A	M	E	N	T	
	W		O			S	R	A						
	N		A	T	T	A	C	H		T	O	K	E	N

PUZZLE 1
MULTIPLIER

PUZZLE 1
PRIZE KEY

3 WORDS	TICKET
4 WORDS	\$25
5 WORDS	\$50
6 WORDS	\$100
7 WORDS	\$200
8 WORDS	\$500
9 WORDS	\$1,000
10 WORDS	\$5,000
11 WORDS	\$25,000
12 WORDS	\$2,000,000

\$50

\$500

calottery®

PUZZLE 2

Y		H		G	L	I	D	E	R	
A	L	T	O		D		X			
R		W	H	A	T	E	V	E	R	
D		L		A	R					
S	I	R		P	O	L	I	C	E	
T	A			N		I				
I	N	V	O	L	V	E		S		
C	E		O		E	V	E	N		
K	E	N	N	E	L		D		E	
	A	E	T	U	G			S		
W	R	I	T	E			E	D	I	T

\$250

\$25

PUZZLE 2
MULTIPLIER

PUZZLE 2
PRIZE KEY

3 WORDS	TICKET
4 WORDS	\$25
5 WORDS	\$50
6 WORDS	\$200
7 WORDS	\$500
8 WORDS	\$2,000
9 WORDS	\$25,000

\$50

\$100

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SEE BACK FOR PLAY INSTRUCTIONS.
EACH PUZZLE AND EACH MULTIPLIER PLAYS SEPARATELY.