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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### **New Multi-Millionaires Revealed for the New Year**

#### ***Two Southern California Winners Each Have At Least Five Million Reasons to Celebrate***

**SACRAMENTO** – Two lucky California Lottery players are still celebrating the New Year thanks to a couple of \$5 million Scratchers® prizes!

**Jaquelin Pedraza** scored the top prize on a \$5 Million Roaring 2022 Scratchers ticket she bought at Hody Lane Liquor located at 5201 Pacific Coast Highway in **Long Beach (Los Angeles County)**. As with many winners, not only could she not believe she won, but she actually thought her dad was pranking her.

“He went in to buy the ticket. So when he brought it back out, and I scratched it, and it said I won, I said, ‘This isn’t real, this is one of those joke tickets!’ But when I saw the bar code, I scanned it on my phone, and I knew it was real,” Pedraza told the Lottery. She plans to buy a house, pay for her little brother’s college tuition, and spend some of it on her upcoming wedding!

**Steven Semenick** also won the top prize playing a \$5 Million Extreme Cash Scratchers ticket. This retired Cal Trans employee scratched his ticket and knew right away he had won but wanted to confirm it nonetheless, so he returned to the store and scanned his ticket. Confirmation!

“I couldn’t believe it; I thought, ‘Wow, this really happens!’ I’m so excited. I haven’t told my wife; I’ll show her when the check comes!” Semenick bought his ticket at Gus Mobil on Sunland Boulevard in **Sun Valley (Los Angeles County)**. Semenick has played Lottery since it started in the ‘80s and loves to play Scratchers. He plans to invest, buy his wife a new car, and maybe buy a classic car to restore in his spare time.

Each store that sold a winning \$5 million ticket will receive a \$25,000 bonus.

The sale of Scratchers and other games support the mission of the California Lottery, which is to raise supplemental funding for 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 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. As jackpots rise, the California Lottery would like to remind players that gambling should be fun. Borrowing money to play, spending above a person's budget or using money intended for other purposes can ultimately lead to significant problems for players and their families. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem or if someone knows of someone who may have a problem, the Lottery recommends calling the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.*

[www.calottery.com](http://www.calottery.com)