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

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Southern California Players Kick Off Summer With Big Wins

SACRAMENTO – Southern California is a hot spot for multimillion-dollar Lottery prizes right now, as the latest five Lottery tickets worth big bucks are from Los Angeles and Orange counties. Their collective prizes total an impressive \$18 million!



The first winner, **Derek Smith**, is many things: a frequent Lottery player, a visionary, and now, a millionaire. Smith has been playing the Lottery for about 10 years; in November of 2020, he made a vision board that said he would win \$10,000,000. Now his vision has come true, winning the top prize on a \$10 Million Titanium Black Scratchers® ticket!

“I have a several vision boards,” Smith explained. “I wrote, ‘I will scratch a \$30 Scratchers (ticket) for \$10,000,000. This will allow me to help many people and allow them to carry on that same energy. May God continue to bless us all.’ When I recently showed my family this board, they couldn’t believe it! Especially when they saw that I had made it one and a half years ago!”

What Smith envisioned is exactly what happened; he purchased his \$30 ticket at Pavilions, a grocery store in Irvine (Orange County) and walked away with a ticket worth \$10,000,000. Pavilions receives a \$50,000 bonus for selling it.

Smith plans to buy a house and follow through with his vision of helping many people with this newfound wealth, but he says the most important thing he will do is take care of his mother.

“I started crying when I won,” he said. “Because I realized she doesn’t need to worry about anything anymore!”

Another new California Lottery player-turned-millionaire is **Lisette Tabarez**. She won \$5 million playing the Golden State Riches Scratchers game. Tabarez bought her ticket at Oxnard Liquor Market in North Hollywood (Los Angeles County), so that store gets a bonus of \$25,000 for selling the winning ticket. Tabarez says she will buy her family their first house.

Third and fourth on this list of the California Lottery's latest millionaires are **Linsi Alvarez** and **Victor Macedo** who will split the \$2 million prize they won playing the Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers ticket together. The co-workers, who have only been playing for about a year, bought their ticket at Northgate Market in Hawthorne (Los Angeles County), which gets a bonus of \$10,000.

The final millionaire unveiled today is **Brian Provence**. He won \$1 million playing the Bonus Money Scratchers game. Provence bought his ticket at Doheny Liquor & Junior Market in Capistrano (Orange County). The store gets a \$5,000 bonus.

All of these winners join the growing list of millionaires and other prize winners whose purchases of Lottery tickets support California public schools.

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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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