



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2022

Contact: Jorge De La Cruz

(916) 413-3016

PIO@calottery.com

Follow us on Twitter [@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

March Millions: California Lottery Announces Two New Big Winners

SACRAMENTO – As you can imagine, the reactions of players who become instant millionaires playing Scratchers® vary from one to the other, but they usually feel *something*. That’s NOT the case for one of two players announced today as the California Lottery’s latest millionaires.

When **Gregorio Samano Escobar** became instantly rich, he felt nothing; in fact, he said he was completely calm. But when it finally hit him, he broke down and cried. Winning \$2 million playing Instant Prize Crossword will do that to you.

“It didn’t quite hit me until days after winning,” Escobar explained. “While spending time with my family, I began to cry, thankful for this wonderful blessing.”

Escobar plans to pay off debt, buy a home and start a business. He also plans to make good on a promise he made to some friends a few years ago, blessing them as well. Escobar purchased his lucky ticket at La Bahia De Acapulco on Westminster in **Santa Ana (Orange County)**. That market gets \$10,000 for selling the winning ticket.

In Northern California, another winner, **Le Chao**, was going about her day like usual, grocery shopping for her family at the local Safeway. She loves to play the newest Scratchers games, so she tried her luck on Plus the Money. It more than paid off as she won the \$1 million top prize. After she scanned her ticket, she went home, very excited – unlike the previous winner, Chao wasn’t calm at all!

“I told my family I had won,” she explained giggling. “And my kids said, ‘Mommy, you are lucky!’” She plans to pay off her kids’ college loans and buy a house for her family. Chao bought her lucky ticket at the Safeway on Webster Street in **San Francisco**. That store will receive \$5,000 for selling the winning ticket.

Whether calm and in shock or excited and giggly, every California Lottery winner has a story to tell. And win or lose, every player is supporting schools. Raising money for public education is the sole mission of the California Lottery.

###

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