

700 North Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
calottery.com



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

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Contact: Jorge De La Cruz

(916) 413-3016

PIO@calottery.com

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San Jose on a Lucky Streak!

SACRAMENTO – The California Lottery is unveiling two more big winners today, both of whom bought their lucky Scratchers® tickets in San Jose.

The first winner, **Lasandra Arizmendez**, won playing the Gold Rush game, and what a gold rush it was! She instantly won \$1 million, and the best part of all – the ticket was a Christmas gift from her loved ones. Giving Scratchers to each other is a family tradition.

“We really believe in it, and we believe in miracles. That’s what this was, a miracle on Christmas,” said Arizmendez. “I was a little leery, because my family plays tricks on me, but when I turned it over, I knew it was real!”

Her win couldn’t come at a better time for her. Arizmendez is a hairdresser, and when her salon closed during the pandemic, she was out of work. She now plans to buy a house and start her kids’ college funds with the prize money. The store where her winning ticket came from, Piedmont Shell in **San Jose (Santa Clara County)**, gets a \$5,000 bonus just for selling it.

The Lottery’s second winner announced today is **Ishak Jimenez**, who also won a \$1 million prize. He played a California Dreamin’ ticket he bought at the Safeway on West San Carlos in **San Jose**. That Safeway also gets a \$5,000 bonus.

Jimenez often plays with his mom, and they were together when they bought his winning ticket. “We scratched in our car and had to go back in to (the store) confirm; it was kind of a shock,” Jimenez said. “I really want to buy some property and build my own custom house.”

Whether players win with Scratchers or draw games, anyone whose prize is \$600 or higher needs to fill out a [Lottery claim form](#). Big winners are also vetted by the California Lottery through a thorough investigative process. So, depending on when the claim form is filed and how long the vetting process takes, it may take weeks or even months before an official winner is declared.

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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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