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

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Celebrating New Year's in March? CA Lottery 'New Year's Day Millionaire' Comes Forward

SACRAMENTO – The California Lottery player whose ticket hit it big in the New Year's Day Powerball® drawing has come forward and claimed her prize. **Gloria Sanchez** bought the winning ticket, worth \$1.2 million, in **Blythe (Riverside County)**, matching five correct numbers in that night's drawing.

"On New Year's Eve, I decided to buy \$20 worth of Powerball tickets because I wanted to start the new year winning," explained Sanchez. "On New Year's Day, it happened. I won!"

Sanchez tells the California Lottery that she plans to pay off debt and help some of her family buy a house. The store where she bought the ticket, a Valero on W Hobson Way, receives a \$6,029 bonus just for selling it.

Sanchez is one of two big winners the California Lottery is unveiling today. Newlywed **Joel Aceves** won the \$2 million top prize by playing an Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers ticket he bought at Prince Liquor in **Marina (Monterey County)**. Aceves also plans to buy a home with his winnings.

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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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