

PRESS RELEASE

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Thankfulness Abounds as \$24 Million in Scratchers® Winnings Are Claimed Across the State

SACRAMENTO – Four lucky California Lottery players are especially thankful this Thanksgiving – thankful for the Scratchers tickets making them California's newest millionaires.

Susan Lee Loy won \$1,000,000 playing a <u>50X Fortune</u> Scratchers ticket (see image below) she picked up at the Circle K on Clay Street in **Riverside**. It wasn't the first time she tried her luck at Scratchers.

"My friend said she had been lucky playing the \$10 and \$20 Scratchers tickets. I started playing and won \$100," Lee Loy told the California Lottery, and she didn't stop there. "I went back to Circle K, and they had it (50X Fortune). I got all the way to the 10th spot, scratched it off, and saw that I won \$20,000, and then the multiplier showed 50X. I downloaded the California Lottery app and scanned it. It said I won \$1 million!" Lee Loy plans on investing the money.

Three other California Lottery players are also new millionaires, some several times over!

Simon Maida won a whopping \$20,000,000 playing a <u>Set For Life! Millionaire Edition</u> Scratchers purchased at Village Wine and Spirits on Muirlands Boulevard in **Lake Forest** (Orange County).

Melanie Johnson won the top prize of \$2,000,000 playing an <u>Instant Prize Crossword</u> Scratchers ticket from Shinar Pizza Market on East Bradley Avenue in **El Cajon** (San Diego County).

Finally, **Erick Verdugo** just won \$1,000,000 playing a <u>California Dreamin'</u> Scratchers ticket. That lucky ticket was purchased at a Sinclair station on East Pacheco Boulevard in **Los Banos** (Merced County).

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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 \$1.88 billion for fiscal year 2020-21, which amounted to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely discretionary, 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

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