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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### ***'Itchy Palms' Superstition Leads a California Lottery Player to Scratch Her Way to an Instant \$1 Million Win!***

*Three Additional Scratchers® Winners Score a Combined \$11 Million in Prizes*



**SACRAMENTO** – For some people, itchy hands are a sign to call the doctor or pick up some anti-itching cream from the medication aisle. For Elena Penaloza, it was a sign of good fortune to come – specifically in the form of money.

When Penaloza scratched the 16<sup>th</sup> of 20 squares on her *Diamond 8's* Scratchers® ticket, she uncovered in bold numbers: **\$1,000,000** – the game’s seven-figure top prize.

Penaloza’s daughter, Ariana, described her mom’s experience to the California Lottery.

“You know that superstition where when your hands get itchy, it means you’re going to get money? She said she felt that the week before she won,” Ariana said. “She thinks it was fate.”

Penaloza bought her winning Scratchers at the 7-Eleven on North Azusa Avenue in West Covina (Los Angeles County). According to Ariana, neither of them initially believed the million-dollar win was real. It wasn’t until they went back to the convenience store the following day to scan and confirm it that reality finally sunk in.

“We walked home and were like ‘Oh my,’” Ariana said. “My mom now wants to buy a house.”

Ariana also said her mom was elated to learn that buying Scratchers tickets helps raise extra money for California public schools.

“She most definitely came to America for her children’s chance for a great education,” said Ariana, who is a college student. “She’s happy that she’s able to help school kids.”

Penaloza has some company as California's newest millionaire.

Albert Miranda also just won \$5 million playing 100X Scratchers. He bought his ticket at Trade Wind Liquor in Gardena (Los Angeles County).

Rochelle Gardeley also won \$5 million playing a 2023 Scratchers game. He got his lucky ticket at Cat's Market and Deli in Lompoc (Santa Barbara County).

In Northern California, Tomas Herrera won \$1 million playing the *Xtreme Multiplier* Scratchers game. His ticket came from the Circle K/Valero gas station on West Texas Street in Fairfield (Solano County).

Both stores that sold the winning \$5 million tickets will receive a \$25,000 bonus. And both stores that sold the winning \$1 million tickets get a \$5,000 bonus.

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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 approximately \$2 billion for fiscal year 2021-22, 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 more than \$8.8 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. If you feel you have a gambling problem or know someone who does, you can get free confidential help by calling the California Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER.*

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