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## PRESS RELEASE

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## CA Lottery Player Parlays \$500 From a Scratchers® Win – Spends Entire Workday Unaware He Was a Millionaire!

Five Additional Winners Throughout the Golden State Join the Millionaires Club

**SACRAMENTO** – Vang Cha says he doesn't play California Lottery Scratchers games very often. He told the California Lottery he prefers trying his luck with *SuperLotto Plus*® and other draw games



when they have gigantic jackpots such as the current \$1.25 billion estimated for *Mega Millions*®.

Out of curiosity, however, Cha jumped on the <u>California Lottery</u> <u>website</u> to browse the odds of the \$30 *California 200X* Scratchers game with a top prize of \$10 million. He learned something that would end up changing his life.

"I looked at the odds of winning and found it's better odds than *SuperLotto Plus*, so I figured I might as well give it a shot," he explained. And that's exactly what he did. He bought the *California 200X* game, hoping he could beat those odds and win the \$10 million top prize.

He ended up winning \$500 – still not bad for a \$30 investment. But Cha was after a prize amount with a few more zeroes. So he took the \$500 he won and bought 30 of the \$10 *Xtreme Multiplier* Scratchers at Mike's Liquors on South Land Park Drive in Sacramento.

"I decided to just go all in and buy an entire book of the ten-dollar games. I went to work and scratched probably about 20 of them, went home and scratched the rest," Cha said. He revealed that he uncovered lucky number 16 on the fourth and final row on that ticket.

"I was stunned! I scanned it on the Lottery app to make sure it was

true, and it was," Cha exclaimed. He says he plans on investing his winnings and just might start playing Scratchers a little more often than before.

Cha isn't the only California Lottery player celebrating being one of the state's newest millionaires!

John Garcia pooled his money with another player and hit it big on a *Set For Life* Scratchers. He and another player will split the top prize of \$20 million. This lucky ticket was sold at Westlake Arco on Southgate Avenue in Daly City (San Mateo County).

Muhammad Ali won \$1 million playing another Scratchers game called *Winter Riches*. He bought his winning ticket at Smoke Stop on Sandcreek Road in Brentwood (Contra Costa County).

Jay Inkhothavong scored \$2 million on an *Instant Prize Crossword* game. He bought his lucky ticket at Dragon Gate Inn on North Hill Street in Los Angeles.

Maria Rios also won \$2 million playing an *Instant Prize Crossword* Scratchers. She bought hers at Golden Gate Donut on Telegraph Avenue in Oakland.

Javier Pena is also a big winner, after winning the top prize of a million bucks on a *Show Me \$1,000,000* Scratchers he got at the Beacon Gas on West Harder Road in Hayward (Alameda 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 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. As jackpots rise, the California Lottery would like to remind players that gambling should be fun. Borrowing money to play, spending above a person's budget, or using money intended for other purposes can ultimately lead to significant problems for players and their families. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem or if someone knows of someone who may have a problem, the Lottery recommends calling the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.

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