



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***Million-Dollar Scratchers® Players Weren't Expecting It***

*As Luck Would Have It, the Universe Found a Way Anyway*

**SACRAMENTO** – Justin Beattie had been hard at work finishing one last DIY project for the year on New Year's Eve. After replacing the head gasket on his 300,000-miles-plus Toyota, he was ready for a test drive. He grabbed three \$3-winning Scratchers® waiting to be cashed in and headed down to the Smoke Depot in Desert Hot Springs, where he's been buying Scratchers games for the past 27 years.

Taking his \$3 winners and adding a dollar, he purchased one \$10 *Triple Red 777* and got back in his truck to play the game.

"I usually scratch the winning numbers," Beattie explained to the California Lottery, "and then scratch my numbers one at a time until I reach the bottom."

Justin scratched his way down to the last row with a growing sense that perhaps he'd played a losing game when, near the end, he matched the number 11.

"I only reveal the prize if I have a match," he continued. Caught up in his surprise at the turn of events, he had to go back into the store and have the cashier scan the ticket for him. The scanner verified what his eyes couldn't believe. He had matched a winning number for a \$1 million prize on New Year's Eve.

### ***Another Big Winner: "The Universe Finds a Way"***

D. LaBounty was out and about when he asked his wife if he should get anything at the store.

"Get some lotto tickets," she said.

"Like *Powerball*® or Scratchers?" he asked.

"Get Scratchers," she replied.



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LaBounty did just what she asked and picked up a *\$100 Million Mega Cash* game from B-1 Liquors in Palmdale.

A long-time player of Scratchers and the occasional draw game, LaBounty doesn't recall ever winning more than \$100 over the last 20 years of play. This time, though, a few hours later, he played the game at home with his wife and discovered he'd won the \$1 million top prize.

"The universe always finds a way for us," mused LaBounty as he recounted that the win came at just the right time for him and his family. Now, the LaBounty family plans to pay off some debt and buy a house. Where there were once dreams, now "it's actually more of a vision."

These weren't the only Scratchers players who found million-dollar dreams recently. **Nicholas Amour Leon** played a *Triple Red 777* he picked up from the Vons on Lake Murray Blvd. in La Mesa and uncovered \$1 million. **Maria Ramos Orellana** hit \$1 million playing the *Single Double Triple* Scratchers she scooped up at Amigos Market in Mendota. Last, but far from least, **Jose Lopez** stopped in Frankie's Market at 4818 East Olympic Blvd. in Los Angeles and left with a \$2 million top prize after playing an aptly named *Millionaire Maker* Scratchers.

Every day, players' daydream fun contributes to the mission of the California Lottery, providing extra funds for public schools across the state and fueling students in the pursuit of dreams of their own. California Lottery funds provide [program support](#), support [job training](#) curriculum, and help schools purchase [materials](#). To see how funds are allocated in a specific school district, [calottery.com/who-benefits](http://calottery.com/who-benefits) has an interactive map, as well as [links to the most recent California Lottery quarterly financial reports](#).

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The mission of the California Lottery is to raise additional funding for public education, helping to supplement school budgets for K-12 as well as colleges and universities. **The California Lottery has raised more than \$46 billion for public schools** through the responsible sale of its games since 1985. Lottery funding for schools is largely discretionary, so administrators and educators can use Lottery money for instructional programs and services they may not otherwise afford. The California Lottery features eight [draw games](#) and dozens of new instant [Scratchers](#) games each year. More than 95% of California Lottery sales revenue goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, [retailer commissions and bonuses](#), and contributions to education. More information about who benefits can be found [here](#). California Lottery is also committed to promoting [responsible gaming](#). Anyone who shows signs of a gambling problem, or knows someone who does, can get free, confidential help by calling the CA Problem Gambling Hotline at 1-800-GAMBLER.



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