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

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‘Beyond Our Wildest Imagination!’ – Two Friends Team up to Win \$2 Million Prize

SACRAMENTO – Friends Haim Torjman and Todd Dooher get together often to catch up on things that are going on in their lives. Little did they know their friendship would one day be worth more than a million bucks – literally!

After about a year of playing the Lottery together as a mutual hobby, their determination has just paid off with a **\$2 million** top prize win on a \$20 **Instant Prize Crossword®** Scratchers game!



“I’m still in shock. I still have to pinch myself. It’s beyond our wildest imagination!” Dooher said with a laugh. Just as they agreed they would if they ever won, these friends are sharing the prize equally. That’s \$1 million each, before federal taxes. Not too shabby for a \$20 investment!

Dooher explained that he and Torjman started playing the Lottery as a team when Torjman noticed some Scratchers® in Dooher’s open briefcase. That’s all it took for the two friends to start discussing their mutual enjoyment of trying their luck on Lottery Scratchers games, and the rest is history!

They trade off buying their weekly Lottery tickets. Prior to this \$2 million win, Dooher said he believes the most he and Torjman had ever won together was \$250. They’ve never cashed in their winnings, though; all their prize money gets reinvested into more Scratchers.

“That’s exactly what we did this time,” Dooher said. “I turned in a \$250 winning ticket and a \$200 winning ticket and walked out with a stack of \$450 worth of tickets. In a way it almost felt like we played with house money.”

Dooher said he didn’t believe his eyes at first when he realized he was the California Lottery’s newest millionaire. “I must have checked that ticket 3-4-5 times!” he exclaimed. In fact, he said he still didn’t think he’d won until he stopped to get gas at the **Chevron station (14850 Burbank Blvd., Van Nuys)** where he bought the winning ticket and confirmed. The Chevron received a \$10,000 bonus just for selling the winning ticket.

The whole gas station is now decorated with Lottery ‘Millionaire Made Here’ signs, including on every pump, in every window, and lots of lawn displays. Pictures for media use are included below.

“It was exciting to see,” Dooher said. “The signs made it real. I knew all of those decorations were for me because they had a copy of the Scratchers game I won on taped to a window.”

Dooher said he plans on putting some of his prize money toward his 401(k). And as for whether these two friends will continue playing Scratchers, Dooher said that will be a discussion for another day. For now, he plans on continuing to soak in the fact that he’s now a millionaire.

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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.

www.calottery.com

Photos from Rafi’s Chevron showing “Millionaire Made Here” Lottery Decorations

