



PRESS RELEASE

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PIO@calottery.com
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Education Is Winning as Mega Millions® Jackpot Hits an Estimated \$525 Million

Seven Lucky Scratchers® Players Also Cash in Big Tickets

SACRAMENTO – The *Mega Millions* jackpot is on a literal roll, with tonight's jackpot hitting an estimated \$525 million. There have been 21 jackpot rollovers since someone last hit it in December of last year.

The California Lottery's sole mission is to support public education in the state, and thanks to our players, that is happening in a significant way with this game. In just two months, the *Mega Millions* jackpot sequence has brought in an estimated **\$39.3 million for California public education**.

Tickets for *Mega Millions* are \$2 each, and in California, approximately 80 cents from every ticket sold [goes to public schools](#). Players who want [a chance at tonight's prizes](#) need to buy their tickets before the draw entry period closes at 7:45 pm. Tickets sold after that cutoff are still valid for the following draw, which will be Tuesday.

Mega Millions isn't the only California Lottery game bringing excitement to the state. Players are cashing in big Scratchers prizes as well.

The *Millionaire Maker* game lived up to its name for two lucky players. **Hamid Abri** won \$5,000,000 after buying a ticket at Jon's Market on Sepulveda Boulevard in Van Nuys.

Michael Herrick also cashed in, winning \$2,000,000 on that same game after buying a ticket at the Shell station on Crow Canyon Road in Danville.

One popular Scratchers game turned five more California Lottery players into instant multimillionaires.



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Victor Lopez Esparza won \$2,000,000 on an *Instant Prize Crossword* Scratchers ticket. That ticket was purchased at Nate's Market in Compton.

Elodio Ramirez Estrada also picked up \$2,000,000 on that game after buying a ticket at Grande's Goode Donuts in Los Angeles.

William Calderon is another lucky *Instant Prize Crossword* player, also winning \$2,000,000 with a ticket from the CVS on Driscoll Road in Fremont.

The fourth player to strike it rich on this popular game is **David De La Rosa**, who also won \$2,000,000 after buying a ticket at Richard's Liquor in Lynwood.

Jorge Franco rounds out the group, also winning \$2,000,000 after buying a ticket at Bay Fair Unocal on East 14th Street in San Leandro.

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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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 \$43.8 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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