



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

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2023
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Self-Proclaimed ‘King of Scratchers’ Lottery Player Wins \$5 Million Top Prize in Superstitious Fashion

Plus, Another Four Instant Millionaires Revealed, Including a \$20 Million Prize – The Most Anyone Can Win Playing CA Lottery Scratchers Games

SACRAMENTO – Daniel Peramaki is about as superstitious as it gets playing his favorite \$20 California Lottery Scratchers® games. After many years of trying to strike it rich, all of his determination and rather quirky methods finally paid off in the form of a whopping \$5 million top prize on a *Neon Cash Party* game.



“I thought, ‘no way!’ I honestly thought I scratched it wrong. I was in shock for probably the whole day. I didn’t sleep that night,” Peramaki told the California Lottery.

Peramaki said it was initially looking like he was going to come up short. That’s because he scratched 24 of the dollar signs on the ticket before winning on the 25th and final square!

“I’m the king of the \$20 Scratchers,” he shared. “I win a lot, but it’s never been anything this big.” Peramaki says he always tries to buy ticket numbers seven, eight, or nine of newly opened packs of the \$20 Scratchers games. Lo and behold, his winning ticket did turn out to be number seven of the pack! He also says he never scratches his tickets immediately.

“I’m very superstitious. If I scratch them right away, it’s a loser. I usually buy them, put them in my pocket, and wait,” he explained. “I didn’t scratch this one until midnight.”

Peramaki elected to take the \$2.9 million lump sum and says it’s a life-changing amount of prize money. “I showed someone at work the \$5,000,000. He said, ‘Oh congrats, five thousand,’ and I said, ‘That’s a comma, not a decimal!’”

Peramaki bought his *Neon Cash Party* ticket at Star Liquor on South State College Boulevard in Anaheim. This lucky Lottery retailer partner receives a \$25,000 bonus for selling the winning ticket.

Elsewhere, **San Saelee** won the \$1 million top prize playing a *\$1,000,000 California Road Trip Riches* Scratchers game after stopping to buy gas at a Circle 7 on Bardsley Avenue in Tulare.

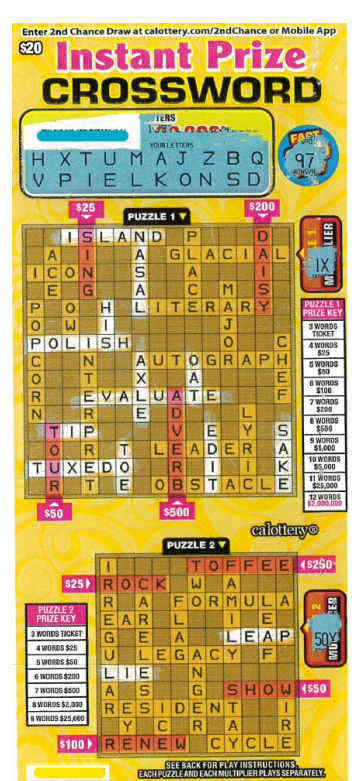
"I thought I'd try a Lottery ticket, and what do you know? I won a million dollars," Saelee said. Although he won big, Saelee told the California Lottery he's going to continue playing Scratchers after learning the Lottery's reason for existence is to raise supplemental funding for California public schools.

"It's good to know I'm contributing to something good for kids. More people should buy Lottery tickets. I'll keep playing now and then," he said. The owner of the Circle 7 where Saelee stopped gets a \$5,000 bonus.

Raul Reyes Arreola won the massive top prize of \$20 million playing a *\$30 Set For Life* Scratchers ticket. He joins the list of players to win the largest cash prize the California Lottery has ever paid out for a Scratchers win. Big A Liquor on East La Palma Avenue in Anaheim wins as well, earning \$100,000.

Cheryl Nolan took home the \$5 million top prize on a *Premier 7's* Scratchers game. The Ralph's at 25930 McBean Parkway in Valencia is receiving a check for \$25,000 for selling that winning ticket.

James Holder won the \$2 million top prize after matching all 12 numbers on an *Instant Prize Crossword* Scratchers. That ticket was bought at Rancho Food and Spirits in Rancho Santa Margarita (Orange County). This store gets a \$10,000 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 more than \$2.07 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 \$8.85 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.

www.calottery.com