



PRESS RELEASE

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PIO@calottery.com
[@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

Lucky in a Weird Way to the Tune of \$7,000,000

Scratchers® Player's "Xtreme" Gift – Maybe a Day Late, but Not Even Close to a Dollar Short

SACRAMENTO – Jerry Herrejon doesn't really play Scratchers®. Once in a while, he'll get on board with a big jackpot ticket. When the jackpot is really high, he'll get a *Mega Millions*® or a *Powerball*® ticket, but otherwise, he doesn't really play the Lottery. He also doesn't recall knowing anyone who's ever won.

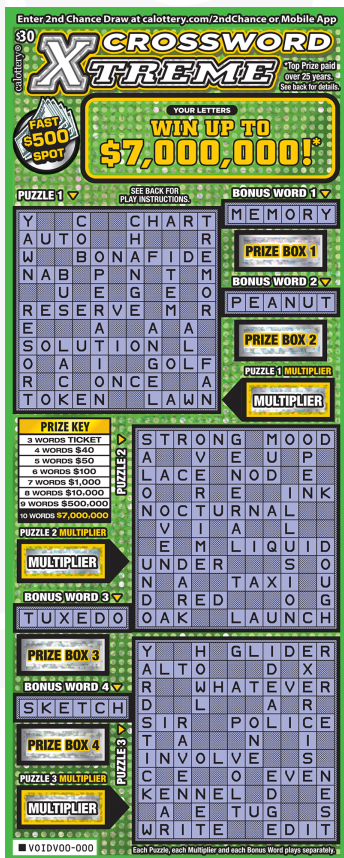
When asked if he considers himself a lucky person, Jerry said, "I feel like I have a history of lucky things happening, like in a weird way."

Case in point: last year, his father didn't get him a gift for Christmas, and to make up for it, the day after the holiday, his dad got him a *Crossword Xtreme* Scratchers® that he'd purchased from Louie's Liquor Market at the corner of Sherman Way and Varna Avenue, right next door to the Drunken Crab in North Hollywood. To make up for the missed gift, Jerry's father gave him the game and said, "Here, here's your gift for Christmas."

Jerry took the ticket home and played it. That's how he found out his day-after-Christmas present was worth \$7 million, the game's top prize!

"I was super excited," he remembers, "but I didn't do anything until I collected my thoughts and decided what I was going to do with it before I cashed it out."

Now that he's claimed the prize, he plans to keep things as they were before winning. He's happy to know that the California Lottery's mission is to provide extra



There remains only one \$7 million top prize for *Crossword Xtreme* Scratchers as of April 3, 2025.



money for California public schools. In the future, he'd like to hold on to his winnings, use them wisely, and continue working as if nothing happened.

"It's better that way," says Jerry. "Because if you start spending it, it goes away just as fast as you got it." He respectfully declined the offer to speak with the media about his big win.

More Really Big Scratchers Winners Celebrating Their Wins

No doubt these other incredible top-prize winners would benefit from Jerry's easy-going attitude. The California Lottery's latest big winners include **Ohanees Kandelyan**, whose *Royal Riches* Scratchers top prize of \$10 million came from Leo's Market & Liquor in El Cajon.

Not to be left out, there are also two winners of the \$5 million *100X* top prize celebrating this year: **Jose Morales**, who scratched the top prize for his *100X* Scratchers game to the tune of \$5 million with a ticket purchased at the Hayward Gas Mart on Foothill Blvd. in Hayward; and **Gary Barsegyan**, who uncovered his prize on a game he bought at the One Stop Food Mart on the corner of Palmdale Blvd. and 5th Street E. in Palmdale.

Programs Across California Benefit From Lottery Funds

"Last year, our entire budget was the Lottery," says Brooke Dexheimer, Principal at San Diego's DREAM Academy, [where the California Lottery supports a significant part of their innovative gardening program.](#)

The California Lottery's mission to provide extra funds for public schools also supports career readiness programs, like Downey Unified's [Career Technical Education program](#), where the focus is on making sure students are college and career ready.

The California Lottery maintains an interactive map at calottery.com/who-benefits where visitors can find out the funds allocated to specific school districts in the state. On the same site, there are also [links to the latest available quarterly 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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