



PRESS RELEASE

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Last December Was a Super-Mega-Month

A Christmas Mega-Miracle and a Fresh Catch SuperLotto Plus® Jackpot

SACRAMENTO – Winning the California Lottery can be a process. It can take some time to find out who the winner of a prize is. Sometimes, the larger the prize, the longer it takes.

Last December turned out to be a very winning month in California. It began with one large \$47 million *SuperLotto Plus* win by **Fernando Diego** with a ticket caught at the Fresh Catch Seafood Market in Artesia. Diego elected to take the lump sum payment, which came to \$22,565,890, before federal taxes. The State of California does not tax any winnings from California Lottery games, including those from multistate lotteries or Scratchers® instant games.

In the same month, as the *Mega Millions*® jackpot grew toward \$1 billion, **Kyle Ramos** was standing in the checkout line at the Lemoore Save Mart. He and his family had traveled there to be with family for the holidays.

“I just happened to look straight ahead, and there was a Lottery machine,” recounted Ramos cheerfully. “I told my wife, ‘Oh yeah. The Lottery is up to like two billion or one billion,’ and she was like ‘Go get a ticket!’”

Then they went on about their holidays, visiting family in the town where he and his wife grew up. They eventually returned home for their own celebrations.

“I’m mainly a Scratchers person,” said Kyle, but he admits as he’s gotten older, when people at work are talking about the growing jackpot, he’s played the draw games more, especially the bigger jackpots in recent years.

Late on Christmas Eve, as he and his wife were about to go to bed, he was scrolling through social media and saw something that said no one had won the *Mega Millions* jackpot, which had just become \$1 billion, but that someone had won more than \$1 million.



“So I got my ticket out,” he recalled, “to see if I won, you know, like 10 bucks, 20 bucks, maybe 100 bucks.”

Kyle used the [California Lottery app](#) on his phone and scanned the ticket. Then he started to blink and rub his eyes. His wife didn’t believe it either.

“There’s gotta be a glitch,” she said.

They closed the app and restarted to scan again. The lucky couple had matched five numbers, missing just the Mega number, to win a whopping second-place prize of \$1,774,447. Three days later, at the other end of the Central Valley, in Cottonwood, [Rosemary Casarotti](#) would finally reel in the jackpot. But not before the Ramos family Christmas miracle.

The Miracle Part of the Story

Earlier that month, Ramos and his family, in the spirit of the season, took a ride to Candy Cane Lane in Clovis, as so many families do during that time of year.

“One of the houses has a huge, like, blank paper book where people can write their wish list or what they wish for,” Ramos told the California Lottery. “I remember writing on it that for Christmas I wished to win the lottery.”

Kyle’s wish came true, and the money has made more wishes come true as he and his family moved to a place in California they’d always dreamed of living. Soon, they plan to find the right house to buy.

With every daydream purchase, California Lottery players contribute to everyday student dreams by providing extra money to California public education. To see a series of videos highlighting programs supported through California Lottery sales, visit the [official YouTube account of the California Lottery](#). For information regarding specific schools and school districts, visit calottery.com/who-benefits for an interactive map, along with up-to-date reports on recent audits of the California Lottery.

Will We See Any Mega Miracles Tomorrow?

Tomorrow night, April 8, 2025, [Mega Millions](#) will hold its first drawing for the newly enhanced game. The jackpot is estimated to be \$54 million, and the new game promises better odds and prizes, higher jackpots that grow faster, and the end of the break-even prize. On top of all that, with the new ticket price, each game played will contribute nearly \$2 to California public schools. More information on the new *Mega Millions* game is available on the California Lottery’s website at calottery.com/new-mega-millions.

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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](#). As jackpots rise, the California Lottery would like to remind players that ambling 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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