



PRESS RELEASE

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July 14, 2025

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It's Lottery Week All Year for this Lucky Scratchers® Winner

Store Manager Helps Player Claim His Prize

SACRAMENTO – Today marks the first day of the annual [National Lottery Week](#), and for many players, the journey to their win is something we can celebrate along with them.

Armando Vidal's travels began with a move to the Central Coast from the Bay Area. After moving from Santa Clarita to Santa Maria many years ago, he shared with the California Lottery that an injury left him unemployed and then homeless in 2008. As he worked to restore his living situation, he moved to San Luis Obispo and became a regular Sandy's Deli & Liquor.

One mid-April day, Vidal purchased two [Triple Red 777](#) Scratchers at Sandy's. Out of the two games, he originally thought only one was a winner for \$200. To be sure, he brought his Scratchers into the store, so the retailer could scan it as well.

Even after scanning the ticket, he thought he'd only won \$100,000. It wasn't until Vidal was chatting and high-fiving with the store manager, Wilson Samaan, that Samaan asked, "What are you going to do with a million dollars?"

"I was like, huh?" recalls Vidal. "And that's how I found out that I'd won a million dollars."



Sandy's Deli & Liquor, 586 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.



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Samaan helped Vidal by making a road trip with him to the California Lottery office in Fresno, so he could safely claim his windfall.

Now, Armando Vidal is working to secure a place to go home to, with a bed, a couple of dogs, and he also plans invest his winnings to keep the money coming in. [After his win went viral in April](#), Vidal also plans to keep a much lower profile in the future.

Out and About in California

In addition to celebrating [40 years of the California Lottery](#) and [National Lottery Week](#), it's fairs and festivals season for the California Lottery. A list of CA Lottery Live! events, including the California State Fair, can be found on the California [Lottery events page online](#).

Anyone can see how much has been raised for schools in California by county or by school district at www.calottery.com/who-benefits.

From the City to The Country, When You Play Schools Win

Armando Vidal was a lucky player, but his story is just a highlight to the stories of California Lottery funds in action at schools across the state. This entire week, the California Lottery is celebrating the many ways public schools use Lottery funding to support programs like the [Verdugo Fire Academy at Glendale Community College](#), and provide academic resources for schools like [Burrel Elementary in Fresno County](#).

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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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