

PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 10, 2025 <u>PIO@calottery.com</u> <u>@calotterypress</u>

Pizza Purchase Nets More Than A Winters Pie

Change For A Tip Turns Up More Than A Little Spare at Wine & Liquor

SACRAMENTO – Winters Wine & Liquor, on the corner of East Grant Avenue and Morgan Street in Winters, shares its building with, among other things, a popular Round Table Pizza. When **McKinley Nelson's** wife recently wanted a pizza, that's what he ordered. But once they arrived to pick it up, he needed some change for a tip.

"I had a \$100 bill. So, I got two tickets," recalls Nelson. "I think it was \$20, and I went to the truck and started scratching."

Next, he remembers telling her simply, "I think this one's a million, but I'm not sure."

Still in the truck, he checked it with his <u>California Lottery App</u>, which verified the <u>LOTERIA™ GRANDE Scratchers®</u> game he'd just played was, indeed, a million-dollar winner.

"So, my wife almost had a heart attack," said Nelson, "and then we had to go in and buy the pizza. It was all because of her, she's the one that likes the pizza."

McKinley, a 72-year-old retired veteran, has been playing the California Lottery since its inception, 40 years ago this year. "It took a long time to win," he laughed.

Nelson plans to pay off his home, put a little away, and find a camper van. Then he and his wife can drive out to visit his family who live in the South, just before they travel to visit his wife's family who live even farther away.



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Another Big Winner: Nothing Like a Couple Million to Cure Boredom

It was March 5 and **Rwhi Zeidan** was bored. To pass a little time and have some fun, he scratched an *Instant Prize Crossword* Scratchers from Discount Cigarettes and Cigars. The shop is on the corner of Kearny Street and Commercial Street in San Francisco, just across the street from the Good Luck Café.

"I didn't read the number correctly. Twice I read it was \$2,000. Maybe the third time I read it, I found too many zeros, so I counted them one by one," laughs Zeidan. "That's when I got really shocked."

Zeidan wound up finding six zeros on the Scratchers board he was counting. He had uncovered a \$2,000,000 prize.

"I texted my kids, and they said, 'Who was that, you?' and I said yes," said Zeidan. "Until that moment, it was hard to believe."

Like the Nelsons, Zeidan plans to pay off his home, which will give him some peace of mind.

California Lottery Funds Public School Program Expenses

When people play the California Lottery, public schools at every level win. Several schools in California use those funds to enhance their career technical education programs, at both the high school and community college level. Lottery funds provide critical program support, as well as funding that eases the material burden for students so they can stay in school.

To find out more about the funds distributed by the California Lottery to public education across the state, visit <u>www.calottery.com/who-benefits.</u>

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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 <u>draw games</u> and dozens of new instant <u>Scratchers</u> games each year. More than 95% of California Lottery sales revenue goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, <u>retailer commissions and bonuses</u>, and contributions to education. More information about who benefits can be found <u>here</u>. California Lottery is also committed to promoting <u>responsible gaming</u>. 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.

