



PRESS RELEASE

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Lucky Player's Scratchers® Winning Streak Hits \$1 Million

After 5 Wins, a Change of Venue Delivers the Big One

SACRAMENTO – Scratchers games have been good to **Javier Sanchez** this past year. Five times he scratched and won \$1,000, from May 2024 to February 2025. Then one morning, on his way to work, he stopped at the usual spot to fill up and buy Scratchers.

"The attendant was there," said Sanchez, "but she told me they weren't ready. So, I went to another gas station, filled my gas, and went in to purchase some of the Scratchers."

The *\$100 Million Mega Cash* game he purchased from the Circle K at 221 Airport Blvd. in South San Francisco turned out to be the one he was looking for all along. It was worth \$1,000,000!

Javier plans to pay off his house now. He also hopes for another big win again one day.

Sometimes, a Big Win is Just Another Day, Until It Isn't

Candice Stephens has been playing California Lottery games for some 15 years. She's won a couple of times, all the way up to \$2,000. On many days, when she's on her way home from work, she'll stop at her regular California Lottery retailer, pick up and play some Scratchers.

On one of these recent trips home, she picked up an *Instant Prize Crossword* Scratchers game from Sherman's Liquor & Food on Monroe Street in Indio. At that moment, her day turned away from "just another day."

"I had to grab my glasses because I didn't have my glasses on," remembers Stephens. But she still couldn't believe what she was seeing. "Wait," she said, "is that \$2,000?"

She scanned the game with the California Lottery App, wrote down what she saw, and called her son into the room to look at it and tell her if she was reading it right.



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Candice's son confirmed she was reading it right. She'd actually won \$2 million!

"Honestly, it came right on time because I'm expecting a grandchild. So I'm able to put something up for her," said Candice. She also intends to buy a house and put the rest aside for her retirement.

Candice wasn't alone in her *Instant Prize Crossword* win. **Shawntwayne Cannon** also spelled out a \$2 million win with the same game, purchased from the Saddleback Market in Palmdale.

As of this writing, there are only six of the nineteen \$2 million top prizes left for *Instant Prize Crossword*, and, for *\$100 Million Mega Cash*, only one \$1 million top prize remains. Players can check for updates on how many top prizes for any given game are left to be claimed at www.calottery.com/scratchers.

California Lottery Funds Add Support to Programs of All Kinds

California Lottery funds provide support for public education [athletics programs](#), [career development](#), [arts and music programs](#), and [more, all across California](#). Visitors to calottery.com/who-benefits can see an interactive map of where those funds go at the local level, as well as [the latest quarterly financial 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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