



PRESS RELEASE

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Another Lucky Lompoc Player Spells Out a Big Win

“A Scratch Of a Penny Makes a Millionaire,” Says Store Owner

SACRAMENTO – A lucky player from Lompoc, California, became a millionaire after purchasing a [Crossword Xtreme Scratchers®!](#) at Liquor Emporium in Lompoc, 1200 East Ocean Avenue. The \$7 million win has generated excitement throughout the community.

“It was awesome to see somebody win and become a millionaire... Imagine, a scratch of a penny makes you a millionaire,” said store owner Simon Kassis, who has been serving the Lompoc community since 1986.

Kassis added that the store plans to invest its retailer bonus into inventory upgrades and equipment renovations, reflecting its commitment to customer service and community engagement.

Liquor Emporium is well known locally for its welcoming atmosphere, attentive staff, and longstanding reputation as a “lucky spot” for California Lottery players.

Kassis also praised the California Lottery’s support for public schools, noting, “That’s the best thing the Lottery did... putting a percentage toward the community and the schools. Our customers know part of it is going to a good cause.”

In August 2025, another Lompoc resident also won \$7 million on a [Crossword Xtreme Scratchers](#) ticket [purchased at Carbaugh's Market](#), just a mile away from tLiquor Emporium.



Liquor Emporium, 1200 East Ocean Avenue, Lompoc

More Million Dollar Winning Words

- **Lori Rico** won \$2 million on a [Instant Prize Crossword](#) Scratchers game purchased at Hanshaw Liquor, 3022 E. Chapman Avenue in Orange.
- **Saly Phachanh** won \$2 million on their [Instant Prize Crossword](#) Scratchers ticket



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purchased at Country Store Food & Liquor, 5187 E Kings Canyon Road, Fresno.

Every Ticket Powers Student Success

Beyond the excitement of big wins, California Lottery funds provide critical support for public schools across the state – from elementary classrooms to community colleges. The supplemental funding helps launch and grow programs like career technical education, giving students the tools and opportunities they need to thrive. California Lottery funds purchase of [science lab equipment](#), [upgraded technology](#), and [career readiness programs](#). Each individual school directs the use of their California Lottery funding where they see a need for instructional support.

To learn more about how California Lottery proceeds benefit public education and the millions of students it serves, visit calottery.com/who-benefits.

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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 \$48 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 gambling 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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