



PRESS RELEASE

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Four Scratchers Players Win Top California Prizes

Retired Player Thought He Won \$2,000 – Then He Looked Closer

SACRAMENTO – A routine stop on the way to the gym spelled out a life-changing moment for **Brian Crandall** of Los Angeles. Crandall initially believed he had won \$2,000 only to learn from the retailer that his prize was actually much more.

“I was on my way to the gym, and I had a few dollar bills in my pocket,” Crandall said. “I went to the store on the corner and bought a bottle of water, which was a dollar. And I realized, oh, wait there’s also another bill, a \$20 bill.”

Rather than risking losing the extra cash, he decided to try his luck. He stuck the \$20 bill in the machine and bought an [Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers](#)® ticket. After playing the popular game, Crandall thought he had won \$2,000. Taking a closer look, he realized it was more.

“I thought, oh, wow, I won \$2,000. Then I squinted and thought that it was \$200,000. Then I went to the counter and confirmed with the clerk who got so excited and said ‘no, it’s \$2 million!’” Crandall said.

Crandall purchased the winning ticket at Nite Mini Market, located at 5101 Santa Monica Blvd. in Los Angeles.

Having retired a little over a year ago and Crandall had already planned carefully. Now his \$2 million prize will help him purchase a home in Houston and relocate to be closer to his children.

Joining Crandall as a top prize winner is **Lydia Alvarez**, who also won \$2,000,000 playing [Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers](#). Her ticket came from Party Time Liquor, 460 North Mountain Avenue, in Ontario.



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Other big winners include **Elias Hernandez** and **Adan Castillo Nares**. Both won \$1,000,000 playing [Merry Multiplier Scratchers](#). Hernandez won with a ticket from Arco, 10610 East Garvey Avenue in El Monte. Castillo Nares' winning game came from the Chevron at 5869 Antelope Road in Sacramento.

Remember to Always Play Responsibly

The California Lottery has been [certified by the World Lottery Association at the highest level for its commitment to responsible gaming](#). It has maintained this certification for a decade. Players are reminded to [play responsibly](#) and that help is available from several sources if you or someone you know is experiencing a gambling problem.

- Resources for Recovery:
[California Problem Gambling Helpline](#)
1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537)
- Text "SUPPORT" to 53342 to get more information about problem gambling behavior. Normal text messaging rates apply.
- [Gambler's Anonymous, International Service Office](#)
1-855-222-5542 (1-855-2-Call-GA)

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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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