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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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‘Quirky’ Method of Playing California Lottery Scratchers® Finally Pays off With Exciting \$5 Million Win!

SACRAMENTO – Clyde Stokely had been trying for many years to win big, playing a wide selection of California Lottery Scratchers games. All that persistence literally paid off when number 28 on his 100X Scratchers ticket matched the top prize amount of \$5 million.

“I was excited, of course. I had to look at it a bunch of times in my vehicle to make sure I wasn’t seeing 26 instead of 28,” Stokely told the California Lottery. “I also looked at it a bunch of times at home and had the confirmation I needed. I won!”

How California’s latest instant millionaire figured out he had won relates to the intriguing way he plays all Scratchers games.

Stokely said that he first scratches just the top of all 25 boxes to reveal only the numbers. When he discovered one of the numbers, 28, was a match, he knew he’d won but didn’t know how much. So, then, he scratched the rest of the box and found himself looking down in disbelief at **\$5,000,000**.

“I don’t consider myself superstitious. It’s just a funny thing to do. There’s no logic behind it. That’s how I play all of them. I guess you can say it’s just a quirky way that adds suspense,” Stokely said. “It just happened to be my lucky day.”

Stokely said he may continue playing Scratchers, and if he does, he doesn’t plan on fixing something that’s not broken. “I’ll keep playing the same way for sure,” he added.

The winning ticket was sold at Cambria General Store. The owner of this San Luis Obispo County business got a \$25,000 bonus for selling the lucky ticket.





Courtesy: Google

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The California Lottery's mission is to provide supplemental funding to California public schools, including kindergarten and grades 1-12, community colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and other California public educational entities. The funds the Lottery transferred to public education totaled more than \$2.07 billion for fiscal year 2021-22, which amounted to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely discretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period, the Lottery generated more than \$8.85 billion in sales, more than 95% of which went back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. If you feel you have a gambling problem or know someone who does, you can get free confidential help by calling the California Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER.

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