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

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Scratchers® Player Asks Store Clerk to Choose Which Game to Buy – Ends up Walking Out the Door a Multimillionaire!

Plus Six Additional Scratchers Winners Join the CA Lottery Millionaires Club

SACRAMENTO – It's not unusual to hear California Lottery players say they have a bit of trouble

deciding which Scratchers games to play. After all, there are more than two dozen fun games to pick from at any given time.

That's the situation Brent Young found himself in as he looked at the wide selection of Scratchers inside Prince Food & Gas in Visalia. Unsure which game he wanted to buy, he asked the clerk for help.

"I was like just pick whichever one; I didn't care," said Young. The clerk reached across the counter and handed Young a sharp-looking [California 200X game](#).

After paying for his gas and the game, he started scratching. About halfway down he couldn't believe his eyes. He was looking down at a square with **\$10,000,000** written in bold numbers. He'd uncovered the game's top prize amount!

"When I saw all those zeros, I was like 'no way, this doesn't happen to people like me,'" Young told the California Lottery. "It's crazy. Out of all those options, the clerk could have picked a different game. But he didn't. He grabbed a winner."

Young said he shouldn't even have been there in the first place. The gas station where he usually fills up and buys lottery tickets was closed that day.

"It's almost like God's intervention. I didn't have a specific ticket I was going to buy, so I let someone else decide," he explained. "I had no choice but to go to Prince's. My usual stop was closed. If it had been open, none of this probably would have happened."



Young decided to take the lump sum prize amount of \$5.8 million, less federal taxes. Prince Food & Liquor won as well. The owner is collecting a \$50,000 bonus for selling that winning ticket.

Young isn't the only California Lottery player to score big.

Daryl Knighten won \$2 million playing an *Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers* game. He bought his lucky ticket at the Stage Shop III Chevron station on Highway 3 in Fort Jones (Siskiyou County).

Marco Matiasic won the top prize of \$1 million playing a *Show Me \$1,000,000* game that was purchased at Speedy Spot in San Bruno (San Mateo County).

Reyna Gomez also became an instant millionaire playing a *Show Me \$1,000,000* game. That one was purchased at Campus Plaza Shell in Moorpark (Ventura County).

Guillermina Perez won the top prize on a *\$1,000,000 California Road Trip Riches* game that was purchased at World Donuts & Ice Cream in Pomona (Los Angeles County).

Felix Arambula struck it rich on a \$1,000,000 *Cloud 9 Scratchers*. It sold at Shop N Go in Kingsburg (Fresno County).

Jaime Medrano also hit it big on a \$1,000,000 *Cloud 9 Scratchers*. He bought his lucky game at a Vons in Lakewood (Los Angeles County).

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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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