



PRESS RELEASE

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Sold Out Event Leads to \$1 Million Top Prize Payday for One Lucky California Lottery Scratchers® Player

SACRAMENTO – For as long as he can remember, Thomas Shellabarger has been taking his family to the Orange County Fair and buying Scratchers at the CA Lottery LIVE! booth. This year was excitingly different.



“We always play the Lottery. Sometimes I win, sometimes I lose,” Shellabarger said. “I think the most I’d won before was a hundred bucks, but this time we won pretty good.”

That may be an understatement. This past August, Shellabarger scratched his way to a \$1 million fortune after investing \$10 on a *Multiplier Craze* game. Suddenly, he had enough money to buy deep-fried fair goodies for everyone in attendance – and then some.

“At first, I thought I’d won a hundred thousand, and I told my wife that we were finally out of debt. She said, ‘Let me see that. That’s a comma right there!’ My knees buckled, and I had to sit down,” Shellabarger remembers about the day he won.

After Shellabarger came forward, the California Lottery processed his prize claim, which typically takes a couple of months as all big winners are vetted for legitimacy.

Interestingly, Shellabarger said he planned on taking his family to the fair the day before, but it was sold out. He realizes someone else probably would have won because his lucky ticket wouldn’t have been at the

top of the stack a day earlier.



“I’ve never thought to myself, ‘I’m going to win the lottery, I’m going to be rich.’ It’s always been I’ll put my dollars in and hope for the best. Looking back now, sometimes I’ll just chuckle. I honestly can’t believe I won the Lottery, Shellabarger said.

The owner of Five Star Liquor, the Westminster retailer that worked the CA Lottery LIVE! booth at the OC Fair receives a \$5,000 bonus for selling Shellabarger his winning ticket.

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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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