



Two, then 4, then 30, 34 and ... OMG!!!

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NEW PHILADELPHIA — Winning a \$100,000 jackpot in the Ohio Lottery came at the perfect time for Steve and Tandi Slentz of New Philadelphia.

Steve Slentz, who is self-employed, had been off work for three weeks because he was sick.

The couple had been scraping by, trying to find enough money just to keep the utilities in their home on. And his car, which has 180,000 miles on it, had been broken down for five weeks.

Then, on Friday, he was online checking the winning numbers in the lottery's Rolling Cash 5 game. He was delighted to learn that the five numbers he had been playing for several weeks — 2, 4, 30, 34 and 38 — matched the numbers picked in Thursday's drawing.

The odds of matching all five numbers is one in 575,757, according to the Ohio Lottery.

"I felt my heart going thump right through my chest, and I started crying," Slentz said.

Then he called to his wife, who was in another room trying to decide which bills they could pay and which they could not. "I hollered for her," he said. "I told her to come here now."

When she found out the news, she started crying too.

Slentz purchased the winning ticket Thursday at Cheap Tobacco on W. High Avenue. Cheap Tobacco will receive a \$500 agent sales bonus for selling the winning ticket, according to the Ohio Lottery.

"Those are not even the normal numbers I play," he said, "but I had a weird feeling about this ticket. I kept replaying the same ticket, and I kept winning a dollar or \$10 four times in two weeks. Something was telling me to do it."

Slentz is a self-employed part-time photographer who takes photos of automobiles for car dealers to put on their websites. He also remodels houses, does maintenance work for people and mows lawns.

After mandatory federal and state taxes totaling 31 percent, the couple will received \$69,000. They plan on paying off all of their bills and will use the money to help pay college tuition for their daughter Danielle, who just graduated from high school. And Slentz said he also plans on replacing his lawn mower, which is 30 years old.

"It's still sinking in that this has actually happened," he said. "It will make things a lot easier, but we won't be extravagant. We're going to put some money back."

But Slentz did buy his wife a new car.

He plays the lottery frequently and won \$1,000 a year ago last Christmas.

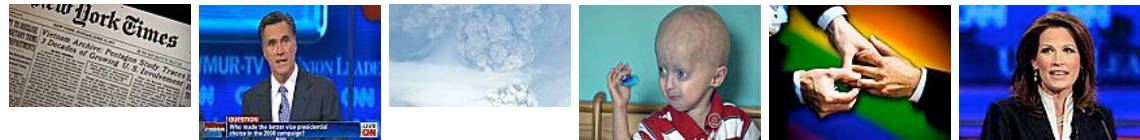
"My biggest win was 20 years ago when I married my wife," he added. "There's nothing to equal that."

The couple has two other children, Tyler Slentz and William Pringle and one grandchild.

They remain grateful for their good fortune. "Someone's looking out for us," Slentz said. "We thank God every day for it."

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