



## WINNER NEWS

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Contact Tiffany McNeal at 501-683-2055 for more information.*

### **Camden Man Claims \$420,000 in Lottery's Natural State Jackpot**

Oct. 22, 2020

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – A Camden man claimed a lottery prize worth \$420,000 yesterday at the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Claim Center. Kenneth Launius purchased the winning \$1 Natural State Jackpot (NSJ) ticket at Sparky Food Mart located at 504 West Main St. in Sparkman for the Oct. 16 drawing.

The winning numbers were 9, 17, 20, 33, and 39.

Launius' wife, Amy, went to the lottery's website to check the winning numbers after the drawing was held Friday night. She discovered that the jackpot amount had re-started at \$50,000 and immediately told her husband, "Somebody got it!"

Launius had bought three Quick Pick NSJ tickets earlier that day.

"I tried to buy some tickets the day before but couldn't because the machine wasn't working," he told lottery officials. "I called Sparky's the next day to see if the machine was operating, so I could stop by to purchase some tickets for Friday's drawing."

Launius was able to make his purchase and traveled home to spend time with his family. When Amy told him the news that someone had won the jackpot, he began to check his tickets.

"This can't be real," was Launius' first thought when he realized he had a winning ticket. "I couldn't wrap my head around it, so I asked one of my daughters to double-check the numbers."

Launius' daughter, a lottery-scholarship recipient, started to cry while comparing the winning numbers to her father's ticket. She didn't say anything, but everyone knew what was behind those tears.

“My family began crying and hugging each other,” he said. “I have two other daughters, and we’ve been praying for financial relief. I’m always working on the road, but I want to be home more to spend quality time with my family.”

Launius is a truck driver and plans to pay off debt with his winnings. He also wants to purchase a swimming pool.

“This is my chance to start a new life,” Launius says with a smile. “We purchased our house ten years ago. Now, we can finally pay it off and get the swimming pool that we’ve always wanted!”

The Natural State Jackpot is at \$70,000 for tonight’s drawing. Friday’s Mega Millions® jackpot drawing is for \$97 million, and the Powerball® jackpot is \$102 million for Saturday night.

### **About Natural State Jackpot**

Natural State Jackpot (NSJ) is a drawing game exclusive to Arkansas. NSJ drawings are held Monday through Saturday at 8 p.m. CST. The jackpot starts at \$50,000 and increases by \$5,000 every draw until it hits \$150,000. After that, it increases by \$10,000 every draw until it’s won. Five numbers are drawn from 1 to 39. If all numbers match those that are chosen, the player will win the jackpot. If other players also match all five numbers, the prize will be shared in equal amounts. Each play is \$1.

### **About the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery**

More than 92 cents of every dollar of ASL revenue goes to prizes, scholarships, retailer commissions, and other expenses in Arkansas. Since 2009, the lottery has raised more than \$993 million in proceeds for scholarships. More than 542,000 college scholarships have been awarded to Arkansans. The lottery has awarded more than \$3.3 billion in prizes to players, about \$291 million in retailer commissions and provided more than \$138 million in state and federal tax revenue.

Follow the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Visit [MyArkansasLottery.com](http://MyArkansasLottery.com) for more information on scholarships, winners, games, odds, promotions – and to join The Club for free. To hear winning numbers, call the Winning Numbers Hotline at 501-682-IWON (4966). To get help with problem gambling, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.



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