



PRESS RELEASE

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Hey 19! **Scratchers® Winner Discovers His New Lucky Number**

\$1 Million Prize Win in San Jose, Courtesy of the Number 19

SACRAMENTO – Jess Daniels had a long day of errands that ended with a snack, a skipped nap, and an astonishing win of \$1,000,000 from a [\\$100 Million Mega Cash Scratchers](#) game.

During a pause in his errands, he decided to pick up some Scratchers from Gateway Food & Liquor store in San Jose.

After some grocery shopping, Daniels returned home. He had a snack and sat down, contemplating, “Should I take a nap or scratch these tickets?”

Daniels decided to play. He grabbed a piece of chicken and, joined by his granddaughter as a spectator, began scratching.

“I got to the first ticket, the sister to the winning ticket, and saw number 43; it was twenty bucks. Ok, cool,” he said. Next, he moved on to his second *\$100 Million Mega Cash Scratchers* and applied his unique scratching method.

“I scratch all the winning numbers first, then all the player’s numbers. Then I start checking them,” Daniels explained. “So I went down the rows, first row—43? Nope. 27? Nope. 16? Nope.” Then he moved to the next row.

“OH! I’ve got number 19! So, I started to scratch it,” he continued. Having won \$1,000 before, he initially thought, “Hey, maybe it’s \$1,000,” as he uncovered the first few zeros. It wasn’t until he finished scratching that he realized he had won a \$1 million prize.

“Oh my God, Grandpa! Oh my God!” his granddaughter exclaimed as she



watched him uncover the winning amount. For Jess, however, that moment was just part of a bigger story.

“So, check this out,” he said, “It was December 19th, the winning number was number 19, and the matching number was also 19. When I filled out the paperwork, it required a 19-digit number, and on the 19th of February, I received my check. So, number 19 is now my lucky number.”

“Needless to say, I didn’t get a nap that day,” he laughs.

Daniels has been a long-time player, having played since the California Lottery’s inception 40 years ago. He recalls winning \$25 in 1986 by uncovering “a gold nugget.” He was pleased to learn that California Lottery funds, though only a small part of the overall education budget, are spent in ways he would approve of. He plans to [check out the videos on the official California Lottery YouTube](#) account that highlight how lottery funds support public education.

Daniels is thrilled about his win and feels confident in his plans to employ professional assistance to manage his Scratchers windfall responsibly.

Find out more about how California Lottery funds are used by visiting <https://www.calottery.com/who-benefits>.

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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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