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PRESS RELEASE

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Morro Bay *Powerball*® Jackpot Winner Comes Forward to Claim Record \$699.8 Million Prize

Emphasizes Delight That Win Generated Roughly \$78 Million for CA Public Schools!

SACRAMENTO – The waiting and wondering is over; we now know it was Scott Godfrey who walked into a Morro Bay Albertsons (730 Quintana Road) a few months ago, purchased 10 lines of *Powerball Quick Picks*® for \$20 and walked out of the grocery store completely unaware that the small orange slip of paper he was holding would end up winning a jackpot of almost three-quarters of a billion dollars on October 4!

Not too shabby of an investment. Imagine – twenty bucks in exchange for a \$699.8 million payday! “It feels great to win big, of course, but I’m especially happy that this jackpot means \$78 million was raised for California public education,” Godfrey said. “Even the times I’ve played in the past and didn’t win, I always felt, well, at least a few bucks of this will be going to help schools.”

Godfrey’s winning ticket matched all six numbers (66-12-22-54-69 and the *Powerball* number 15) drawn on October 4, 2021. Godfrey may have had 10 lines of random numbers on his slip to browse through to see if he was California’s latest multimillionaire, but it took him only seconds. That’s because, interestingly, the winning numbers were the first ones – printed on the very top row of 10.

“I definitely looked at it more than once and even had someone else check to make sure I wasn’t just seeing things,” Godfrey said.



The \$699.8 million prize is the largest jackpot won in California Lottery history. It is the 5th largest jackpot in *Powerball* history and the 7th largest jackpot in U.S. lottery history. California now owns the distinction of being the first state to win a *Powerball* jackpot on a Monday, since a third draw was launched on August 23rd.

Godfrey, who overcame staggering odds of 1 in 292,201,338 million to win the jackpot, has elected to take the lump-sum prize amount of nearly \$496 million (less federal taxes). Albertsons receives the maximum retailer bonus of \$1 million just for selling the winning ticket.

The *Powerball* draw on October 4, when Godfrey hit the jackpot, was the result of a jackpot run which began on June 9 and lasted a record 41 draws. That run alone generated an estimated \$78 million-plus in much-needed supplemental funding for more than 10,000 public schools throughout California, including those in San Luis Obispo County! Californians purchased more than 97 million *Powerball* tickets during the historic four-month jackpot run.

“The sole mission of the California Lottery is to raise extra money for California’s public education programs,” said Alva V. Johnson, Lottery Director. “It’s always fun to have a big winner in our state, and it’s especially nice when they recognize the importance of why we do what we do. I’m proud that the Lottery has given schools more than \$39 billion since we began the very first games back in 1985.”

Godfrey tells the California Lottery that he and his family are private people and intend to remain that way; they have already been involved in charitable work throughout their lives and plan to scale those efforts with their new wealth.

[Click here to listen to an audio clip from Godfrey about his win](#); See full transcript of audio below.

Godfrey is declining all further media interviews at this time. To request an interview with a California Lottery spokesperson, please refer to the media contact at the top of this news release.

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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 \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2020-21, which amounted to a modest percentage of education’s overall budget. However, this funding is largely nondiscretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period, the Lottery generated almost \$8.4 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. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly. Problem gambling resources are available to anyone at 1-800- GAMBLER.

www.calottery.com

SCOTT GODFREY AUDIO STATEMENT TRANSCRIPT

You never really expect to win the Lottery, let alone a jackpot this big. And – as you can imagine – I did a double take, no, more than a double take – a triple take, and when I saw I won, in fact, I asked someone to take a look and confirm what I was seeing. The funny part is I spent 20 dollars, so 10 of the quick picks, and of course it was the very first one – on the numbers on the ticket – that were the winning numbers. The only person in the country to have the whole jackpot.

And, of course, it feels great to win big, but I’m especially pleased that this jackpot resulted in 78 million dollars for California public education. Even the times I’ve played in the past and didn’t win, I always felt, well, at least a few bucks of this will go to help the schools.

We are private people, and we intend to stay that way. We've also, for a long time, been involved in charitable activities and now we can really scale those efforts to take full appreciation of this blessing. This money is not about me. It's about all of the good that can come from it.