



PRESS RELEASE

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Tehachapi Player Turns Roadside Stop and Roadrunner Sighting Into a \$1.5 Million Powerball® Win

Powerball Jackpot Reaches \$1.5 Billion for Saturday's Drawing

SACRAMENTO – Excitement surrounding *Powerball* continues to grow as the jackpot reaches an estimated \$1.5 billion for Saturday night's drawing. While players across California dream big, one lucky winner is already celebrating: **Joshua Schwartz** of Tehachapi, who scored a \$1.56 million prize from a ticket purchased at [Love's Travel Stop, 2000 E Tehachapi Blvd. in Tehachapi](#).

It all began with a sign. The day before the drawing, Joshua's girlfriend had a close encounter with a roadrunner at work, something she later learned is often considered a sign of luck. What kind of "close encounter?" The bird had run inside her office and jumped on her desk.

"She told me, 'Babe, we gotta buy *Powerball* tickets,'" Schwartz said with a laugh. "We were already planning them, but she said we really need to buy them now!"

Schwartz discovered his win the morning after the drawing, thanks to a news alert his girlfriend spotted. When she mentioned the winning ticket had been sold at Love's, one of the stops Schwartz had made that evening, the couple rushed downstairs to scan their tickets with the [California Lottery Mobile App](#).

"I was down to the last few tickets and thought, 'We're running out of chances here,'" he said. "Then I scanned the next one and it just showed this huge number. We were freaking out."

An occasional *Powerball* player, Schwartz usually buys tickets only when the jackpot reaches hundreds of millions. He says the win has shifted his perspective not just financially but personally.

Schwartz shared, "I was talking to God and I was like, if I win this *Powerball* or even any amount that's substantial, I will donate a very good amount of it to charity." Schwartz says he plans to donate a portion of his winnings over time, supporting charitable causes that are meaningful to him.



Education Wins Every Time

The California Lottery exists for one purpose, and that is to generate additional funding for public education. Proceeds from ticket sales benefits schools statewide, from kindergarten classrooms to California's public colleges and universities.

Games like [Scratchers](#), [SuperLotto Plus®](#), [Fantasy 5®](#), and all the other California Lottery games help support schools in every county throughout the state. The funds help [fund classroom resources](#), [technology upgrades](#), and [career training programs](#).

For every \$2 *Powerball* ticket sold in California, approximately 80 cents goes right to schools. So far, since the last time the jackpot was hit, *Powerball* sales alone have raised more than \$90 million for California education. To see how Lottery funds support schools in communities across the state, visit calottery.com/who-benefits. There people can find interactive maps, reports and videos showcasing how schools use Lottery funding to enhance student learning.

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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 \$48 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](#). As jackpots rise, the California Lottery would like to remind players that gambling should be fun. Borrowing money to play, spending above a person's budget, or using money intended for other purposes can ultimately lead to significant problems for players and their families. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem or if someone knows of someone who may have a problem, the Lottery recommends calling the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.



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