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The Oregon State Lottery is in the process of upgrading its video gaming terminals, which provide the majority of its revenues.

Lottery works to upgrade gaming terminals

By STEVE FORRESTER

Capital Bureau and The Daily Astorian

SALEM — The Oregon Lottery is taking steps to raise its game.

"We are trying to keep up with the market," Executive Director Jack Roberts told Oregon Capital Insider. "We're upgrading the video lottery terminals, which are a decade old. Also we're getting a new network system that will allow us to upgrade games more simply."

Unlike other states with video lotteries, Oregon owns and repairs its terminals. Thus Oregon has a higher net off gross revenues.

Also under review for upgrade, says Roberts, are the more traditional games. Oregon's biggest seller are Scratch-it tickets. The second largest is Keno.

"We don't make as much per capita on our traditional games as other states do," Roberts

'We are trying to keep up with the market.'

— Jack Roberts
executive director of the Oregon Lottery

says. "There's no reason why we can't reach out to more people on the traditional games. About half of Oregonians play the lottery in a given year. Only 12 percent play video lottery. But most of our revenue comes from video lottery."

The Oregon Lottery's annual transfer to the state is north of \$1 billion. The Lottery is a major employer, with 400 full time equivalents.

Roberts, 62, has run the Oregon Lottery for one and one-half years.

This story first appeared in the Oregon Capital Insider newsletter. To subscribe, go to oregoncapitalinsider.com

Unearthed fuel tank a reminder of '70s slide

ODOT removes long-buried steel cylinder from Silver Point beach

By ERICK BENDEL
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — The Oregon Department of Transportation recently unearthed a rusted remnant of North Coast history: an empty 1,000-gallon fuel tank buried during the legendary landslide of Feb. 3, 1974, at Silver Point.

First reported by a man walking along the beach last month, the tank could be seen jutting up from the soil, having resurfaced just above the high tide line, according to Kevin Werst, the department's transportation maintenance manager for the Warrenton Section of District 1.

At first, the ODOT personnel sent to inspect the large steel cylinder thought it was a septic tank. But when the four-man crew went to dig it out the morning of April 21, they could smell the residual oil, according to Felix Martinez, the coordinator for the Warrenton section who led the operation.

"Once we got in there and realized what it really was, we were worried about spillage," Martinez said. But after he and his team took a peek inside the tank, they reckoned it was safe to move, he said.

Jim Crowell, a part-time Cannon Beach resident since 1962 who lives north of the site, took photos as the men wrapped the artifact in a chain sling, pulled it from the earth with a backhoe, loaded it onto a trailer bed and hauled it away.

The tank is now at ODOT's maintenance yard in Warrenton, where it is waiting to be recycled, Martinez said.

'Nature of the beast'
The Silver Point landslide,



Photo courtesy of Jim Crowell

An Oregon Department of Transportation crew pulls a 1,000-gallon fuel tank from the earth near the vegetation line at the Silver Point beach. The tank was buried during the landslide of 1974.



Photo courtesy of Jim Crowell

The empty fuel tank is placed atop a trailer bed after being pulled from the Silver Point Beach in the early morning hours of April 21. The ODOT crew could still smell the residual oil, even after all these years.

which occurred roughly at milepost 32, involved more than 1.5 million cubic meters of material that slushed across the highway down to the beach and "damaged or destroyed at least four houses," according to the book "Volcanoes to Vineyards: Geologic Field Trips Through the Dynamic Landscape of the Pacific Northwest."

The slide "closed the highway for several days" and resulted in reconstruction costs of more than \$1 million, the books reads.

Crowell said the slide knocked two beachfront houses off of their foundations. The structures were removed and never rebuilt.

Since then, "there have been no dwellings built on

that entire stretch along the beach," he said.

But leftover debris from the houses, has, over the years, "periodically kind of squirted out down near the edge of the vegetation line," including pieces of a river-rock fireplace, he said.

After the landslide, the state installed drain pipes to collect water accumulation. But sections of pipe have apparently become disconnected, and some have emerged from the ground "in a kind of haphazard appearance," Crowell said.

Local historian Peter Lindsey noted developers have had trouble building on the "somewhat mobile ground" from Silver Point to Hug Point.

"We have a long history of slides in that area south of Cannon Beach," though most are small slides, said Lou Torres, an ODOT public information officer. Every winter, "we're always dealing with some mud or dirt that comes down. That's just the nature of the beast there."

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