

Oregon games not implicated in lottery fixing scandal

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The likelihood of winning a lottery jackpot is less than dying in a plane crash, catching a flesh-eating bacteria or being duped by a corrupt lottery employee.

The integrity of lottery games nationwide are in question amid an investigation into jackpot fixing that started in Iowa and has spread to at least four other states — Colorado, Wisconsin, Oklahoma and Kansas, according to The Associated Press.

There is no information that games offered in Oregon have been compromised, said Oregon Lottery spokesman Chuck Baumann.

The investigation stems from accusations that a former security director at the Urbandale, Iowa-based Multi-State Lottery Association installed root kit software on the association's random number generators to find out winning numbers in advance, The Associated Press reported.

Former security director Eddie Tipton, who worked for the lottery association for 11 years, was convicted in July of fraud for working with associates to try to claim a \$16.5 million Hot Lotto jackpot he had rigged in Iowa. He has since been charged with criminal conduct and money laundering involving lotteries in Colorado, Wisconsin and Oklahoma, The Associated Press reported.

Games in 44 states

The nonprofit lottery association administers a variety of lottery games in 44 states, including Hot Lotto, Wild Card, Powerball and Mega Millions.

The only Multi-State Lottery Association-administered games Oregon participates in are Powerball and Mega Millions, Baumann said. The winning numbers for those games are selected in a live televised drawing. The Powerball drawing is held at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida. The process is the same for Mega Millions except that the drawing takes place in Atlanta, Georgia.

Idaho Lottery Director Jeff Anderson, chairman of the lottery association board, did not immediately respond to messages inquiring whether



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There is no information that games offered in Oregon have been compromised by a lottery fixing scandal involving the Multi-State Lottery Association.

er Tipton had access to lottery equipment or computers outside of Iowa, where the association is based.

Security precautions

Oregon's Game Megabucks uses an International Game Technology random number generator to yield winning combinations. That computer is housed at the Oregon Lottery headquarters in Salem. The random number generator is a stand-alone computer under 24-hour video surveillance and is not part of the Oregon Lottery's central computer system, Baumann said.

International Game Technology and the Oregon State Police Lottery Security Section evaluate and monitor the security controls, he said.

The random number generator "has no knowledge of the ticket number combinations that have been purchased for any of the drawings," Baumann said.

At draw time, the lottery's central computer system, with no human involvement "asks" the random number generator for the set of winning numbers, he said.

An independent testing

laboratory also certifies the number generator at random, he said.

He did not immediately have information about how many people have access to the random number generator.

Geoff Greenwood, spokesman for the Iowa Attorney General, said that office would notify proper authorities of any alleged illegal activity in other states that might be discovered during the course of its investigation.

Tough odds

What are the odds of winning the lottery in Oregon? The odds of winning the jackpot in any of the three games offered in Oregon are dismal, but players have better chances winning at the state's homegrown game, Megabucks. According to the Oregon Lottery, the odds of winning that is 1-in-6.1 million compared with winning Powerball, 1-in-292 million, and Mega Millions, 1-in-258 million.

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Federal hydrologist says Oregon's snowpack in good shape for summer

Associated Press

SALEM — While it's too soon to say Oregon's drought is over, experts say they're relieved by December's abundant snowfall.

"It's so awesome to see the snow hanging on the trees. We sure didn't see that last year," hydrologist Julie Koeberle of the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Station in Portland told The Capital Press.

Koeberle was at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, trekking through the snow on cross-country skis to take measurements. She learned that as of Dec. 29, 7 feet of snow had accumulated there.

What's more, she said it contained 21.5 inches of water on Dec. 29 — already more than the 20 inches measure at the peak snowfall in April.

"Snowpack is the lifeblood of the West. This is such a relief from last year," she said. The mountain snow stores water that will help irrigate crops, cool salmon and spin turbines come summertime.

The past season's Northwest snowpack was mostly gone by May. The drought stunted crops, killed fish and left the land dry and vulnerable to fires.

The NRCS maintains 82 monitoring sites in Oregon that electronically report snowfall and water content

information. At the end of December, they were reporting water levels that were 150 percent of normal for that date. But last year, nearly half of the long-term locations were reporting the lowest snowpack on record.

"This is a great way to start," Koeberle said. "To be already better than last year is a little bit comforting."

Some complications remain, though. The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center said the rest of the season should be warmer than normal in the Pacific Northwest.

Koeberle said by email that the forecast makes her worried that January could be warmer and drier.

Slope: City staff was surprised by developer's interest in area

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"The way our code is written, it would be difficult for the city to say 'no' if they had an engineer — a geotechnical engineer — who said they felt it could work," Estes said.

The property in Uppertown might be in the unmistakable risk category, both geologically and politically.

Skip Hauke, who is now the executive director of the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce, had sought to build a commercial project on the land after the new Safeway went in across the street at the site of the old Hauke's Sentry Market.

Neighbors complained when excavation work at the foot of the slope by Jim Wilkins, a local contractor, caused slides that damaged

property. Lawsuits over the damage were eventually settled, but the experience has become a cautionary example of the risks of building on or near hillsides.

Hauke eventually donated the property to Clatsop Community Action, a nonprofit that intended — but was never able — to establish a community garden.

A surprise

Given the turbulent history, and the idea that the property would be used as a community garden, city staff was surprised that a commercial developer was interested in building.

Both the city and Clatsop Community Action declined to identify the developer.

Clatsop Community Action has sought to sell the property because the non-

profit has to pay property taxes and liability insurance on the land, which is not being used to advance the nonprofit's mission.

"We're not wanting to promote any development," said Elaine Bruce, the director of social services at Clatsop Community Action. "We just want to be released of the property."

"We're a nonprofit organization. We'd rather use the money to help low-income clients."

Estes said the city would work with Bruce and Clatsop Community Action on options to potentially reduce the nonprofit's tax liability and ease the pressure to sell.

"They understand the city's concern," he said. "And they don't seem to be wanting to get sideways with the city on this, either."

Neighbors: Couple finds a place to grow in Astoria

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masculinity, along with the rustic, outdoorsy feel of the store and her appreciation for Native American culture.

She primarily runs the shop, handpicking the eclectic array of clothing, grooming and hygiene products, from mustache wax to fleece Nordic leggings. Conn handles the expansive vinyl record collection and helps source the menswear. In his day job, he is one of several commercial brewers at Buoy Beer Co., where he started in June.

Moving up the West Coast

Johnsen and Conn originally met as teenage undergraduates in San Francisco.

"I was going to art school, and I decided that wasn't for me," said Conn, who eventually found his calling in brewing.

Shortly after meeting, and after bouncing some around California, the two moved north to Portland.

"Without even visiting Oregon, I knew I wanted to live up north," Johnsen said, adding there was a more supportive artistic community and a better brewing culture than in California.

After growing up in the deserts of eastern San Diego, the rain and trees also appealed

to Johnsen, who said the only thing she misses about home is the burritos.

The couple went through a separation and Conn left Portland for Chicago, where he earned a brewing degree from the Siebel Institute. After school, he moved back to the Bay Area and worked at Trumer Pils in Berkeley, not returning to Portland until summer 2012, when he started working at Laurelwood Brewing.

Johnsen said she stayed in Portland to become a resident while studying at Portland State University. College was on-and-off for Johnsen, depending on job opportunities. About four years ago, she started thinking about Doe + Arrow, after gaining enough experience working in boutique shops, but said much of her initial savings for a shop went into a backpacking adventure around Europe.

While she was gone, her parents moved from Rockaway Beach to Astoria, where she lived for a while a few years ago and said she had dreamed of opening her business.

Eventually, she and Conn came back together again in Portland. After an Easter visit to Astoria and getting in touch with Paul Caruana, owner of the Astor Hotel building, they moved to the coast last spring.

Weaving into local fabric

"It's rewarding to be in a town with so much history, and slowly interweaving into that fabric," Conn said, adding he gets dual exposure through the brewery and Doe + Arrow.

Much of the couple's community involvement has come through their business. At Doe + Arrow, they sell Sackcloth & Ashes Blankets. For every one sold, another is donated to the Astoria Rescue Mission. Both music connoisseurs, they sell vinyl records at the store and recently joined an inaugural vinyl record exchange at the Commodore Hotel. Johnsen said they eventually want to do record nights at Doe + Arrow, gathering people to eat, drink and enjoy music — "like a record happy hour," added Conn.

In their spare time, Johnsen and Conn said they enjoy exploring the outdoors and spending time with their pug, Oliver, and a black lab-shepherd mix named Barry Manilow. Johnsen said she and other female business owners also gather to talk about their challenges and successes.

"I haven't had a bad day," Johnsen said, feeling as if she's reached her dream. "We receive a lot of positive support. I've woken up happy and excited for what the day holds."

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