

Comptroller Urges Texans To Claim Forgotten Money

The annual Unclaimed Property List in last Sunday's newspapers brought good news to about 130,000 Texans: they have money waiting to be claimed.

"Many family budgets are tight and most folks could use some extra cash right now," Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said.

"Everyone on the Unclaimed Property List has at least \$250 they can claim."

The Unclaimed Property List is the Comptroller's yearly reminder to Texans that banks and businesses holding forgotten funds whose owners cannot be found are required to turn the money over to the state, where it

is held until the owners or their legal heirs claim it.

The newspaper list contains the names of owners of at least \$250 in unclaimed property reported to the state within the last year, though many more people have lesser or older amounts waiting to be claimed.

Combs encourages those who do not find their name on the list to search the complete unclaimed property database at www.ClaimItTexas.org.

"Our new Web address this year is a call to action, it is your money; it is up to you to claim it," Combs said.

"The online search is easy, and if you find your property, you

can start the claim process immediately.

"The average claim by an original owner takes fewer than 30 days to process."

The Comptroller's office is holding nearly \$2 billion in unclaimed property, in amounts

ranging from less than \$1 to more than \$1 million.

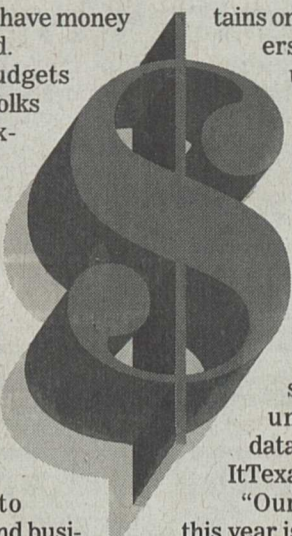
Some of the property has remained unclaimed for many years.

Forgotten bank accounts, uncashed paychecks, dividends,

insurance proceeds and abandoned safe deposit box contents are just a few of the assets turned over to the state.

To find out if any unclaimed property may be yours, check the Unclaimed Property List that was

published in more than 30 Texas newspapers on Oct. 19, search the unclaimed property database at www.ClaimItTexas.org or call (800) 654-3463 during business hours to speak to a customer service representative.



Emissions Reduction Program Underway

By Todd Staples
Texas Agriculture
Commissioner

A greener Texas is a cleaner Texas.

That's why I'm excited we're "greening" our state in two ways: growing agricultural crops and reducing environmental emissions.

The Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP) funds money to machine operators to

upgrade their old equipment.

Because agricultural producers use machines like trucks and tractors that are eligible for this program, we can grow green and go green in a responsible way.

These grants are smart: they help the producer and benefit the environment by funding up to 80 percent of the cost to replace a vehicle or up to 100 percent of the cost to replace an emissions-producing engine.

This creates a win-win for the agricultural producer and the environment because the farmer or rancher can upgrade equipment at reduced cost, and the Texas environment wins because we reduce harmful emissions released into the air.

Right now, air quality in Texas is a serious issue, one in which all Texans have a stake.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) tells us most urban areas in Texas do not meet air quality standards, so TCEQ is funding this program

to get rid of or upgrade older industrial equipment in most urban and near-urban areas.

I'm excited about this program because not only can agricultural producers grow green while going green, we can save green by replacing machinery at a low cost.

In a time when each dollar makes a difference, this just makes sense.

To find out if you or someone you know is eligible, call TCEQ at 1-800-919-TERP, or type TERP into your Internet search browser.

Tim Kleinschmidt Sold Out Our Water

Kleinschmidt Signed A Lease To Sell His Water

In 2006, Tim Kleinschmidt signed a lease with a water wholesaler – WaterTexas – for the water beneath his property in Lee County. His water comes from the same aquifer that supplies Bastrop and is threatened by over-pumping.

Kleinschmidt's Water Headed For Trans-Texas Corridor Developments

The WaterTexas president bragged in a news article that his company was sewing up Lee County water rights – such as Kleinschmidt's – for development along the Trans-Texas Corridor in Travis and Williamson counties.

Trust Donnie Dippel

"To protect our economic future, we must protect our water. We need a common-sense water policy that puts our communities first."



Pol. Adv. pd. for by Donnie Dippel Campaign, Kay Dippel, Treasurer, 145 W. Travis La Grange, TX 78945 (979) 968-1014

Unemployment At 4.1 Percent

The unemployment rate in Colorado County for September 2008 was 4.1 percent, figures from the Texas Workforce Commission show.

This figure compares to the statewide unemployment rate of 5.2 percent for the month of September.

For September in Colorado County, 10,709 persons were employed, and 459 were seeking work.

In Fayette County, the September unemployment rate was 3.8 percent, with 11,962 employed and 475 seeking work.

Lavaca County had an unemployment rate of 3.7 percent, with 10,189 employed and 388 seeking work.

In Wharton County, September unemployment totaled 4.8 percent, with 20,246 employed and 1,018 seeking work.

Pumpkins Account For \$7 Million Annually

By Todd Staples
Texas Agriculture
Commissioner

Whether serving as a decoration on your front porch welcoming fall or served as a delicious Thanksgiving pie, pumpkins are a hallmark of a new season.

Lucky for us, they are also a staple for the Texas economy with an economic impact of \$7 million every year.

About 6.7 million pounds of the fruit are planted annually in Texas on roughly 3,300 acres.

If you lined up all the pumpkins grown in Texas side-by-side, they would probably go from Austin to Houston.

Now that's a lot of jack-o-lanterns!

About 90 percent of pumpkins grown are strictly for ornamental use.

But pumpkins can be used for a wide array of foods.

Pumpkins can be used to make soups, pies and bread and even for animal feed.

Pumpkin seeds can also be roasted for a salty snack.

Native Americans valued pumpkins as a delicious food and thought the seeds possessed medicinal powers.

Native American people also used them for home decorating by drying strips of pumpkin and then weaving them into rugs.

Not only versatile, pumpkins are also good for you.

They get their bright orange color from the high amounts of the antioxidant, beta-carotene.

Pumpkins are also rich in Vitamin A, potassium and fiber.

Just like the great state of Texas, the pumpkin has a long and rich history, and pumpkins have been giving Texans enjoyment throughout the years, as tasty treats or as spooky decorations.

This fall, take the time to appreciate the versatility of the Texas pumpkin.



Texas Citrus Forecast Down 13 Percent

The Oct. 1 Texas grapefruit production is forecast at 5.3 million boxes for the 2008-2009 season, down 13 percent from last year's 6.1 million boxes.

All orange production is estimated at 1.5 million boxes, down 13 percent from last year and 24 percent lower than the 2006-2007 utilization, reports State Director Dave Abbe.

Early and midseason oranges

account for 1.3 million boxes and Valencia's for 200,000 boxes. The production of all oranges totaled 1.7 million boxes last season.

United States grapefruit production is forecast at 34 million boxes, down 1 percent from last year.

All orange production is forecast at 121.5 million boxes, down 12 percent from last year.

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