

Paper's public notices important

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Posted: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 2:00 pm

Paper's public notices important BY WILL CHAPMAN, THE DAILY IBERIAN The Daily Iberian | 0 comments

Paul Allain, Gerald Babineaux, Clementines, Pat Caffery, Evelyn Gonzales and hundreds of other local individuals or businesses may have some windfall of cash awaiting them, after their names were listed in a public notice Tuesday from the Louisiana Department of the Treasury, as being the owners of abandoned or unclaimed property.

State Treasurer John Kennedy's office publishes this notice in official journals like The Daily Iberian around the state, to help call attention that the state is holding property, mostly cash, that belongs to Louisiana residents but they need to find you so it can be distributed to you.

The money is from business or government sources. Perhaps it's some money left in a forgotten bank account, or a credit balance you had with a business, or a tax refund that got misdirected and never was received.

Kennedy says there is more than \$500 million in unclaimed property his office is trying to distribute to the more than 500,000 names on their master list. He says his office has returned more than \$270 million through efforts like this.

The list in Tuesday's paper only includes "new" names according to Kennedy, so this list reflects new unclaimed property discoveries involving locals.

There's a chance you aren't on the list but might still have unclaimed property from some previous year, so you might check the department's website at

LATreasury.com to access the complete list.

Who knows, just finding your name in Tuesday's paper might be worth a couple of hundred dollars. If you didn't pay attention, dig in your recycling box and check it now.

This is a great program offered by the state, and is a great demonstration of the benefit of public notices in local newspapers.

Sure the department has the whole list on its website. But in just a quick glance at Tuesday's paper, I not only have this program called to my attention and could quickly scan for my name, I also in a quick glance found the names of at least a dozen people I know that I can alert that they might want to check because it appears the state is holding money that belongs to them.

The public notice in the newspaper offers the power of the community, where you get this info put right under your nose and don't really have to do much to see if you're on this year's list, and it also offers the benefit that friends or family can easily see your name and alert you that you're on this list, even if you're oblivious to the whole thing.

And let me work in a plug for this being another example of why you ought to read your local paper every day, including the public notices that carry important information that affects you, and how for the less than 40 cents a day subscribers pay, some on this list will discover they're owed several hundred bucks, a pretty nice return on that less than a half-dollar investment.