

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 16, 2011

TREASURER NAPPIER TO RELEASE LIST OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY OWNERS

- More Than 49,000 Names Printed in CT Big List -

HARTFORD, CT -- State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier announced that Thursday's publication of the updated *CT Big List* will feature the names of more than 49,000 people and businesses, as part of her office's effort to return millions of dollars in unclaimed funds.

"Often, people are unaware they have inherited money, or they may simply have forgotten about an old savings account, utility deposit or payroll check," Treasurer Nappier said. "That's why we strongly encourage people to look at *CT Big List* and check for their name. With more and more people struggling to make ends meet, I can't think of a better time to learn that you may have unclaimed property."

The 152-page *CT Big List* is one of the tools Nappier's office uses to reunite owners with their unclaimed property. Along with being published tomorrow in newspapers across the state, copies of the insert have been distributed to Connecticut town halls and public libraries.

Every two years, state law requires the Treasury to publish names added to its unclaimed property database. This year's list includes 49,770 additional names of individuals, businesses and organizations.

The Treasury also has an interactive website, <u>www.CTBigList.com</u>, which details more than 966,000 names and businesses that could be entitled to as much as \$527 million. The website features a searchable database -- updated weekly -- making it easy to look for a name.

(Continued.)

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Searching the unclaimed property website and filing a claim is free. It is unnecessary to hire outside consultants -- sometimes called "finders" -- to pursue a search or claim.

Since taking office in 1999, Treasurer Nappier's office has returned more than \$274 million to approximately 178,000 individuals and businesses. "This represents more money to more people and businesses in any 12-year period in the program's 80 year history," Treasurer Nappier said.

During Fiscal Year 2011 alone, the Treasury returned a record \$51.9 million, paying nearly 18,000 claims. Also during this same time period, the Treasury collected roughly \$125 million in unclaimed assets for deposit in the state's General Fund, which exceeded the state's projections by more than \$75 million.

"While the state and its citizens benefit from unclaimed revenues deposited into the General Fund, we never lose sight of the fact that this money rightfully belongs to someone. We take seriously our obligation to return property to its rightful owner," Treasurer Nappier said.

Treasurer Nappier said some people could be entitled to a real windfall. In the current *CT Big List* database, there are 134 people or businesses with unclaimed property valued between \$100,000 and \$199,999, and 58 with property valued at more than \$200,000.

Nearly 15,000 others may have a bonanza waiting for them. *CT Big List* also includes:

- 452 names with property valued between \$50,000 and \$99,999;
- 1,336 names with property valued between \$25,000 and \$49,999;
- 4,576 names with property valued between \$10,000 and \$24,999; and
- 8,566 names with property valued between \$5,000 and \$9,999.

There are thousands of additional individuals and businesses waiting to be reunited with their property.

The two ways to file a *CT Big List* claim are:

- Go to the Treasury's website, <u>www.CTBigList.com</u>, download a claim form and follow the instructions; or
- Call 1-800-833-7318, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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