



By ROBERT PIERCE

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The Kansas State Treasurer's office sees its share of abandoned bank accounts, wages, stocks and dividends.

Businesses in the state notify the department of the names of people who have, for one reason or another, abandoned this money. That notification comes after attempts by the businesses themselves to return the money to the people it belongs to.

As part of a tour of Kansas' 105 counties, State Treasurer Jake LaTurner was at Liberal's Memorial Library Tuesday morning, along with some of his staff, to help people search for any

unclaimed property they may have.

LaTurner said since the beginning of the current fiscal year on July 1, a record amount of unclaimed property has been returned to Kansans.

“We’re going to continue to hustle on our 105-county tour, making sure that we’re coming to folks’ home county,” he said. “We’re going to have a presence on social media to make sure that we’re returning people’s money to them.”

LaTurner said the record returns, he believes, are due to the treasurer’s office’s presence on social media and the state itself.

“We do our best in the treasurer’s office to meet people where they are,” he said. “We don’t expect them to come to us. I think that’s what has caused it.”

Other kinds of unclaimed properties include court deposits, dormant checking and savings accounts, insurance benefits, oil and gas royalties, safety deposit box contents and utility deposits.

LaTurner said stops like Tuesday’s are simply an attempt made by the state after a business tries to do the same to return money to its rightful owners.

“Companies try to return money to individual, and when they are unable to do that after five years, the law requires them to turn it into the state, and it could be anything,” he said. “It could be a dormant checking account. It could be an old utility deposit. Some of the more interesting ones, we get safety deposit boxes in the office. That can be very interesting.”

LaTurner said Kansas currently has about \$350 million statewide in an unclaimed property.

State Treasurer shares local unclaimed property

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“In the last couple months, we returned over \$400,000 to one individual,” he said. “I made a call for about \$60,000 to an individual the other day. There’s money out there for folks. This isn’t the state’s money. This is the people of Kansas’ money, and it’s our job to return it to them.”

LaTurner said tours of all of Kansas’ counties have been done in the past, and he looks forward to continuing the current tour.

“We’re doing it now, and we’re promoting our stops in a different way,” he said. “What you’ll find on social media is we’ll post a link to search for unclaimed property, and people will go on there and search for family and friends. They’ll tag their family and friends in the post. It’s an interactive thing. It’s really interesting to see.”

LaTurner said individuals themselves can likewise do searches for unclaimed property.

“In most cases, you can go online to kansascash.com,” he said. “You can search your name, verify that you are who you say you are and the state will send you a check within a couple of weeks. You can call the office in Topeka, and an individual will walk you through that.”

The treasurer’s office can be reached at 800-432-0386 or 785-296-4165.