

Dear Fellow Floridians:

My Division of Unclaimed Property is one of the few programs in the country that proactively reaches out to unclaimed property account holders. We do this because it is not just our role, but it is our mission to return every penny of unclaimed property back to its rightful owner.

In addition to various outreach events and activities, we frequently partner with local media to host phone banks to proactively return even more to Floridians. In January, we partnered with WFLA in Tampa and together we returned \$865,196 in just 24 hours to Tampa Bay area residents and businesses.

These accounts and items belong back in the hands of Floridians so help us reach even more people in 2018. Go to www.fltreasurehunt.gov to check if you have unclaimed property, and share the website with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Patronis Chief Financial Officer State of Florida Stay Connected

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Cities drop opposition to workers' comp changes

Hours after a top state Republican blasted the group for "knowingly peddling a deceptive report," the Florida League of Cities on Monday said it no longer opposes a workers' compensation insurance bill that could provide expanded benefits to first responders with job-related post-traumatic stress disorder ... Cruz's announcement came hours after state Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis sent an email to members of the House Government Accountability Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is expected to take up the bill Tuesday, blasting the report.

Read more

News of Interest

News 4 JAX: CFO Patronis discusses Hurricane Irma insurance complaints

WMBB Panama City: CFO Patronis discusses MSD shooting and legal issues in the news

Tampa Bay Times: After Parkland, admissions to mental health treatment centers in Florida spike

Sun Sentinel: Top tech employers step up hiring in South Florida

Florida Trend: Fort Myers, Orlando will be top growth markets in Florida in 2018

Florida Economic Briefs

Florida's Population Expected to Rise

Global real estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield forecast Florida's population will increase from 21 million to 23.3 million over the next five years. The cities with the highest projected growth rates are Fort Myers (3.6 percent), Orlando, (3.2 percent), and Palm Beach (2.8 percent).

Source: Cushman & Wakefield

Florida's 2017 Average Unemployment Rate Down

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics stated Florida's average unemployment rate for 2017 was 4.2 percent compared to the U.S. rate of 4.4 percent. Florida's rate dropped .6 percent from 2016's average of 4.8 percent.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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