

West Virginia Currency Notes

Harvest season a busy one at Treasurer's Office



Treasurer Perdue

By the time you read this, the weather should be cooling, the first leaves ready to fall and the crack of football pads punctuating our weekends.

Here at the Treasurer's Office, we've wrapped up a busy summer, one in which some of the details may be found in this issue of Currency Notes.

We're proud of our role in a new pay card system. It will allow those state employees who do not choose direct deposit to still be paid electronically. That program will launch in October and you can read all about it here.

The rest of this issue is a smorgasbord of what we've been up to: a rundown of our State Fair activities; the story of a truck driver who cashed in nicely with an unclaimed property check; and, among other items, an account of how we help municipalities with bill payments.

No matter the season, we are here to serve you.

John D. Perdue

West Virginia Pay Card to replace employee checks

West Virginia state employees will soon be required to receive their paychecks electronically. In an effort to make receiving wages easier, safer and more cost effective, State Treasurer John D. Perdue and State Auditor Glen B. Gainer III have joined together to implement the West Virginia Pay Card system for all state employees who are currently receiving paper payroll checks.

"This is going to streamline the process and make it easier and faster for state employees to access their paychecks," said State Treasurer Perdue. "Those workers who don't use direct deposit will now have an alternative way to access their money immediately, with no additional costs or hassle."

State employees who have not signed up for direct deposit through their payroll administrator by Oct. 1, 2013 will automatically receive a West Virginia Pay Card. The first pay date on which the employee's pay will be loaded onto the Pay Card is Oct. 31, 2013.

The West Virginia Pay Card is a prepaid Visa® card that can be used wherever Visa debit cards are accepted, including ATMs. Each pay period, the state worker's wages will be deposited onto the card and all transactions will automatically deduct from the card balance. The program will be administered at no cost to state taxpayers.

"The process to receive your full wage to the penny won't be any different than taking a paycheck to a bank teller window, except the Pay Card avoids your check cashing fee," said Auditor Gainer.

Currently, the state writes approximately 4,000 state payroll checks per pay period, which is less than eight percent of the total payroll distributed.

Phasing out inefficient, costly and time-consuming processes, such as a paper-based payroll, is part of the state's transition to a fully integrated administrative system, which is known as wvOASIS.



Treasurer Perdue chats with two state fair attendees.

Fair a success on two fronts

State Treasurer John Perdue met constituents on two fronts at this year's State Fair, at an exhibit dedicated to SMART529 college savings and in his traditional spot in the West Virginia Building.

On the SMART529 front in the WVU building, staff answered questions on the plan's matching grant program. A new provision opened up matching funds to those who already had

529 accounts, provided that certain income guidelines are met. For more information on plan stipulations, go to www.SMART529.com.

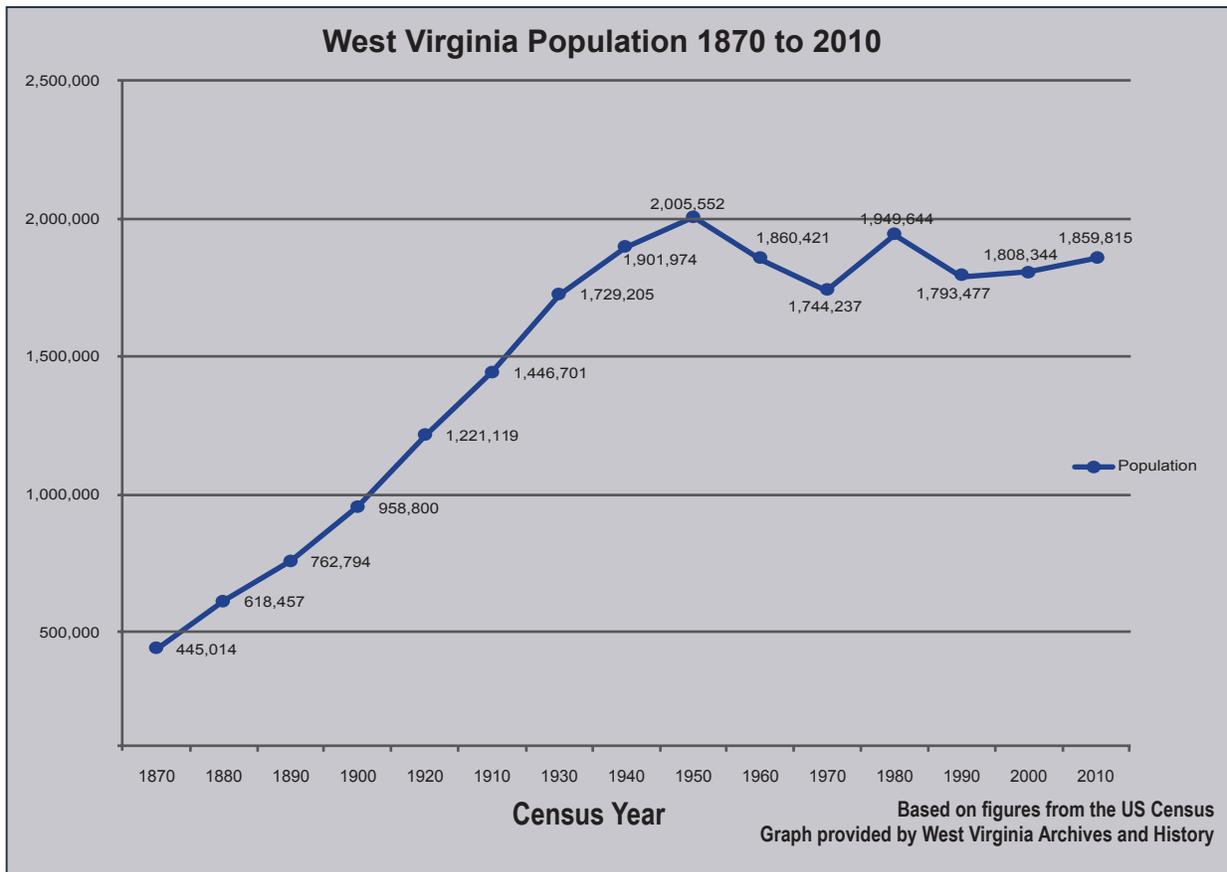
Assisted unclaimed property searches are a yearly staple of Treasurer Perdue's West Virginia Building booth. West Virginia has returned more than \$120 million to rightful owners since Treasurer Perdue took office in January of 1997.

For more information go to www.wvpaycard.com

Go to Fair, page 4

West Virginia – a century and a half

The state officially celebrated its sesquicentennial earlier this year. The graph below shows the ups and downs of our population cycle. Happy Birthday, Mountain State!



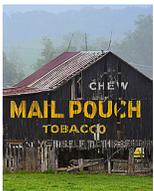
The Golden Delicious apple originated in Clay County. The original Grimes Golden Apple Tree was discovered in 1775 near Wellsburg.



Danny Heater, a student from Burnsville, earned a place in the Guinness Book of World Records, by scoring 135 points in a high school basketball game on Jan. 26, 1960.



West Virginia has the oldest population of any state. The median age is 41.3.



Outdoor advertising began in Wheeling when the Block Brothers Tobacco Company painted bridges and barns with: "Treat Yourself to the Best, Chew Mail Pouch."



West Virginia is the only state in the Union to have acquired its sovereignty by proclamation of the President of the United States.



Nearly 75% of West Virginia is covered by forests.



One of the nation's oldest and largest Indian burial grounds is located in Moundsville. It is 69 feet high, 900 feet in circumference.



The first federal prison exclusively for women in the United States was opened in 1926 in West Virginia.



The first brick street in the world was laid in Charleston on Oct. 23, 1870, on Summers Street.

Ellis to retire; Stowers will assume assistant post



Stowers

West Virginia State Treasurer John D. Perdue announced that Assistant State Treasurer Danny Ellis will retire at the end of the year. To prepare for the administrative change, Treasurer Perdue has hired West Virginia House of Delegates

Representative Josh Stowers (D-Lincoln) to train as Mr. Ellis' successor.

"We will lose a tremendous amount of knowledge and skill here in the Treasurer's office when Danny leaves," said Treasurer Perdue. "That's why I feel it is appropriate to allow time to prepare his successor and my staff for this adjustment."

Ellis, a Logan County native, joined the Treasurer's staff in April 2010. Before that, he spent more than 12 years as the chief financial officer and business manager at the West Virginia Department of Transportation. Prior to his time at the DOT, Ellis served 11 years as the Logan County Administrator.

"For the past several years, Danny has developed strong policies and procedures to help guide our government functions," Perdue added. "His positive presence in our office will be missed. However, I know he will enjoy spending additional time with his wife, children and grandchildren. I wish him and Cindy the very best."

Stowers will be promoted to Assistant Treasurer effective Jan. 1, 2014, immediately following Ellis' retirement.

"I am always looking ahead in my office, and I have put a lot of thought into this decision," Treasurer Perdue said. "It is my intention to replace Assistant Treasurer Ellis with someone who is equally committed to this Office."

Stowers resigned from his elected position as a member of the House of Delegates. He also resigned from his position as assistant principal at Horace Mann Middle School.



Robbie Hull accepts a check from Treasurer Perdue.

Trucker gets handsome U.P. check

Like most folks, every once in a while Robbie Hull of Kanawha County stumbles upon a bit of luck.

Hull said that's exactly what happened the day a representative from State Treasurer John Perdue's office called him to say he was due a sizeable sum of money thanks to West Virginia's Unclaimed Property program.

Hull was not shocked by the news -- one of his sons and a friend told him they had seen his name among listings put out by Treasurer Perdue's office.

He did not expect to receive his \$25,803 check in such grand style, however. Turns out the ABC News

magazine 20/20 heard of Hull -- a slightly built, energetic truck driver from Chelyan -- and his belated windfall. So not only did Hull, 57, get his money but a 20-20 crew filmed all his comings and goings on that steamy summer day.

**"What impressed me was that the state had people that tracked folks down."
- Robbie Hull**

The segment ran on ABC News' website a few weeks after filming.

"I had fun the whole day long, really," said Hull. "I had never been on TV before and I thought I'd be a nervous wreck, to tell you the truth. I wasn't a bit nervous."

After the crew finished taping Hull, the Treasurer presented him with a ceremonial check, along with the actual check. The Treasurer also supplied him with a check-in-cake replica.

Treasurer Perdue's office also impressed Hull by finding him when he had failed to come forward.

"What impressed me was that the state had people that tracked folks down," Hull said. "That was kind of shocking."

SMART529 match program expanding

The SMART529 Matching Grant Program has expanded and is now open to all eligible families, including those who already have a SMART529 college savings account.

Families who qualify may be eligible to receive a savings match of up to \$500 a year, and up to \$2,500 lifetime per child. The funds may be used to pay for higher education expenses at any eligible institution.

To qualify for the West Virginia Smart Savings Match:

- The beneficiary must be a West Virginia resident and must be 12 years of age or younger.
- The account holder (parent/grandparent) must have filed a West Virginia state income tax return as a state resident in the year prior to opening a SMART529 account.
- The family must meet the income requirements (go to www.SMART529.com for detailed information).

L-gov offers helping hand to cities

State Treasurer John Perdue's office processed \$2.4 million in payments to municipalities and other entities in fiscal 2013, freeing up staff in cash-strapped towns for other purposes.

The Treasurer's program, known as L-gov, has catered mainly to towns and public service districts. Whether payments arrive by check or are processed through credit cards, Treasurer's Office staffers are willing to take that burden away.

"This is a fairly unique service we are offering to cities and other political bodies," Treasurer Perdue said. "We feel L-gov is a great, ground-level service for cities, PSDs and others who have little staff and little time to deal with such matters. We're always trying to

spread the word on L-gov."

Treasury staff processed nearly 4,700 items in utility payments by Fairmont residents, at a value of \$747,000. Fairmont easily outpaced the second-highest user of L-gov, the city of Hurricane, whose residents funneled nearly \$400,000 in utility payments through the Treasurer's system.

The system works like this: a Fairmont citizen, for instance, logs onto the city's website. The transaction is processed through the Treasury's secure portals and deposited in a Board of Treasury Investments account. The board, otherwise known as the BTI, oversees a low-risk plan which serves state and local governmental agencies.

"This is a fairly unique service we are offering to cities and other political bodies."

- Treasurer Perdue

Fair, from page 1

In honor of the state's sesquicentennial year, meanwhile, the Treasurer's traditional display included a history quiz. Those who took the quiz were eligible for a daily prize drawing and received a commemorative sesquicentennial coin.

A sample question: "The dome on the State Capitol is 292 feet high, higher than the dome of the national capital in Washington D.C. True or false?" The answer is true.

"We had a great time and I urge as many West Virginians as possible to join me in beautiful Greenbrier County next year," Treasurer Perdue said. "I've been coming to the fair since I was a child. It's truly a special place."



Fall 2013 - 4 - Currency Notes

PRRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1269
CHARLESTON, WV

West Virginia
Currency Notes