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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FAIRGOERS URGED TO SEARCH FOR UNCLAIMED PROPERTY AT MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR
LAST YEAR ONE FORTUNATE FAIRGOER FOUND MORE THAN \$71,000**

TIMONIUM, MD -Last year, one fortunate Maryland State Fair visitor walked up to the Comptroller of Maryland's Unclaimed Property Booth and walked away with the knowledge that \$71,500 was owed to them in unclaimed funds. This year, the Unclaimed Property Booth will return to MY Maryland State Fair, Friday, August 25 - Monday, September 4, 2017. The Exhibit Hall hours are Weekdays, Noon to 10 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Labor Day Monday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

State Comptroller Peter Franchot's representatives will be on hand with computer hookups that allow fairgoers to enter their names and find out if they are the owners of unclaimed funds being held by the State. In 2016 alone, more than 200 fairgoers discovered nearly \$280,000 in unclaimed funds.

"Financial institutions, insurance companies and corporations are required to report bank accounts, contents of safe deposit boxes, wages, insurance benefits, security deposits, stock dividends and other funds to our office if they remain unclaimed for three years or more," said Comptroller Peter Franchot. Since 2007, the Comptroller's Office has returned more than \$585 million in unclaimed property. "In Maryland, there is no statute of limitations, which means there is no time limit under which the property may be claimed," said Comptroller Franchot. "You or your legitimate heirs may claim the funds at any time."

The unclaimed property booth is just one of the many ways in which the Comptroller's Office attempts to locate rightful owners. The Comptroller's Office honored nearly 43,225 claims totaling more than \$62 million in Fiscal Year 2016. In total, the agency has more than 1.2 million accounts worth more than \$1.5 billion in its Unclaimed Property accounts.

"more"

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The 136th unFAIRgettable MY Maryland State Fair presented by Toyota is a fun and educational destination complete with daily exhibits, presentations and entertainment that are sure to captivate visitors of all ages. No other event provides so much food, fun, family entertainment and education for so little. The Maryland State Fair, located in Timonium in Baltimore County, opens **Thursday, August 24 with a Ridemia Preview night and runs through Monday, September 4, 2017. General Fair hours are Noon to 10 PM, Monday through Friday and 12 Noon to 10 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day Monday. See below for detailed Fair Hours.**

Hear **Live National and Local Entertainment** featuring **Halestorm** with opening act **Fatally Yours**; and, **Sabrina Carpenter** with opening artist **Alex Aiono**. Enjoy **thrills & chills on the Midway or Kiddie Land tame rides**. Taste a **feast of Fair and farm foods**. Experience **Live Thoroughbred Horse Racing**; Explore the **4-H/Home Arts, Farm & Garden, Exhibition Hall and the Mosner/Miller Museum/DNR Buildings** for thousands of the best-of-the-best of Maryland creations and exhibits. See all kinds of **livestock and horses in the Cow Palace, Barns, Show Rings and Birthing Center**. Participate in **U-Learn Farm agriculture education activities, Nature Play Space** and more.

The 4-H/Home Arts, Farm & Garden and Exhibition Hall hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 10 PM, Saturdays – Sundays, 10 AM – 10 PM, and Labor Day Monday 10 AM – 8 PM. Mosner-Miller Museum/DNR Building hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 8 PM and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM. Main Midway and Kiddie Land rides, games and food stands area hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – Close and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10AM – Close. Early risers are welcome to arrive early to attend livestock and horse shows in the various livestock barns, buildings and show rings. Go to www.marylandstatefair.com for schedule.

Admission to the Fair is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (62 and older) and \$3 for children (6-11). Children five-years-old and younger are admitted free. Rides are individually priced. Limited parking on the Fairgrounds is available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$5. Taking the Light Rail is recommended. Visit www.marylandstatefair.com.

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