

8/1/18-ONEIDA COUNTY IS SEEING A STEADY INCREASE IN TOURISM. THAT'S ACCORDING TO A NEW REPORT THAT FOUND A NEARLY FIFTY PERCENT INCREASE IN HOTEL ROOM REVENUES OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS. IN THE SAME TIME PERIOD THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE ROOMS IN THE COUNTY HAS RISEN TO NEARLY THREE THOUSAND. THE COUNTY SAW MOST OF IT'S VISITORS ARRIVE IN THE SUMMER MONTHS, DRIVEN BY LARGE EVENTS LIKE THE BOILERMAKER AND THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY. FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE NEARLY A THIRD OF ALL VISITORS BOOKED ROOMS WHILE VISITING THE TURNING STONE RESORT AND CASINO.

8/7/18-IF YOU SWEAR YOUR POWER BILL GROWS EVERY MONTH, YOU'RE RIGHT. NEW YORK RESIDENTS ARE NOW PAYING MORE FOR ELECTRICITY THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. THE ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION SAYS THE AVERAGE PRICE PER KILOWATT HOUR IS 20-POINT-62 CENTS. THAT'S AN INCREASE OF OVER TWO CENTS IN JUST THE LAST YEAR. JUST ACROSS THE STATE BORDER IN PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS ARE PAYING JUST OVER THIRTEEN CENTS, AND WASHINGTON STATE HAS AN AVERAGE PRICE OF NINE CENTS A KILOWATT HOUR.

8/13/18-NEW YORK IS SITTING ON FOURTEEN BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF YOUR MONEY. THAT'S HOW MUCH IS CURRENTLY IN THE STATE'S UNCLAIMED FUNDS ACCOUNT. THE MONEY COMES FROM OLD BANK ACCOUNTS, BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS, AND PROPERTY SALES. CLOSE TO HALF A BILLION DOLLARS WAS CLAIMED LAST YEAR, BUT THE SIZE OF THE ACCOUNT CONTINUES TO GROW. TO FIND OUT IF THE STATE IS HOLDING ON TO ANY OF YOUR MONEY YOU CAN VISIT THE DATABASE AT THE COMPTROLLERS WEBSITE AT [OSC-DOT-STATE-DOT-NY-DOT-US](http://OSC-DOT-STATE-DOT-NY-DOT-US).

8/16/18-THE STATE IS PLANNING A MAJOR CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL TOBACCO SALES. OVER HALF THE CIGARETTES SOLD IN THE STATE ARE SMUGGLED IN AND DON'T HAVE TAX STAMPS, LOSING NEW YORK MILLIONS IN TAX REVENUE. THE SOURCE OF THAT MISSING MONEY IS THE \$4.35 TAX ON EVERY PACK OF SMOKES. THAT HUGE PREMIUM IS WHAT MAKES SMUGGLING CIGARETTES SO LUCRATIVE. THE NEW INITIATIVE WILL TEAM TWELVE DIFFERENT AGENCIES TO TRACK DOWN ILLEGAL SALES AND SEIZE FUNDS AND ASSETS CONNECTED TO SMUGGLING OPERATIONS.

8/23/18-THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR GOT UNDERWAY IN SYRACUSE YESTERDAY, AND GOVERNOR CUOMO MADE THE TRADITIONAL OPENING DAY APPEARANCE. DURING THE EVENT HE TOUTED UPGRADES TO THE FAIRGROUNDS DESIGNED TO MAKE IT A YEAR ROUND ATTRACTION. THAT INCLUDES THE NEW EXPOSITION CENTER DESIGNED TO HOST CONCERTS AND TRADE SHOWS EVEN IN THE DEPTHS OF WINTER. CUOMO ALSO SAID THE UPSTATE ECONOMY HAS BEEN SLUGGISH FOR DECADES BECAUSE LOCAL LEADERS WERE AFRAID TO TAKE RISKS.

8/27/18-BOOZE IS BIG BUSINESS IN NEW YORK. SINCE 2014 THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES PRODUCING WINE, BEER, CIDER, AND SPIRITS IN THE STATE HAS DOUBLED. MOST OF THOSE ARE SMALLER FARM-BASED OPERATIONS, BUT THE FIGURES ALSO INCLUDE MICRO-BREWERIES AND AN EXPLOSION IN CRAFT DISTILLERS LIKE UTICA'S OWN ADIRONDACK DISTILLING COMPANY. THAT MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY IS ABOUT TO GET ANOTHER BOOST. THE STATE WILL LAUNCH AN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF NEW YORK CRAFT BREWING AND WINERIES OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND.