Twain Country Summer Tours Return for 35th Season

The Twain Country Summer Tours launched last month after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. Formerly the Trolley into Twain Country Tours, the experience has offered a fascinating way for tens of thousands of tourists and locals to learn about Elmira’s incredible history and culture. “We know that out of town visitors enjoy the experience,” says Bruce Whitmarsh, Director of the Chemung County Historical Society, “But it is especially gratifying to have local residents get off and say that they have lived in this area all their lives and still learned something new.”

The guided tours will take place aboard an air-conditioned tour bus and depart on the hour from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays during July and August. All tours will depart from the Chemung Valley History Museum and are one-hour in length. Tours departing between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. include a stop to go inside the Mark Twain Study, and also cover the Civil War sites, John W. Jones Museum, the beautiful Near Westside and Maple Ave., historic districts, and more. The tours departing at 2:00 p.m. tour will take an alternate route which focuses exclusively on Mark Twain, with stops at both the Mark Twain Study and the Clemens/Langdon burial site at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Although using the trolley isn’t an option this season, we’re thrilled to have the tours back and grateful for the many community partners who pulled together to make them possible,” said Cynthia Raj, Vice President of Tourism at the Chamber. Raj noted this is a particularly significant season - not only will it mark the 35th anniversary of the tours, but also the 20th anniversary and final year of service for Trolley Master Mark Delgrosso. Delgrosso will continue his legacy by training a predecessor over the next few months to take over next summer.

Rides are $10.00 for adults, $5.00 for students 5-18 years, and free for children 4 and younger. Ticket purchase also includes complimentary admission to the museum. Reservations for tours can be made by calling the Chemung Valley History Museum at (607) 734-4167. Beyond a fun educational or family-friendly outing, these are also a great option for team building days. More information about this collaborative project between the Chemung County, Chemung County Chamber of Commerce, Chemung Valley History Museum, the City of Elmira, and Terp’s Enterprises can be found online at marktwaincountry.com.
Siam Elephants Brings Thai Cuisine to Downtown Elmira

Despite opening in 2021 amidst the challenges of COVID, Siam Elephants has managed to carve out a niche in Elmira with its authentic Thai food that focuses on fresh ingredients and beautiful presentation. The restaurant is located in the historic Werdenberg Building at the corner of W. Water & Main, making it convenient to a variety of businesses and apartments.

Siam Elephants is the newest in a family of restaurants owned by Wisuth Susomkith and his family. The restaurant group also includes Nine Elephants on Market Street in Corning, and Thai Elephants on East 4th Street in Watkins Glen. The decision was made to open in Downtown Elmira to bring another dining option to the community. Susomkith points out that all food offered is made fresh daily by a staff of professional chefs, and special attention is paid to both quality preparation and visual appeal. They also prepare dishes that are gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan, with spice levels ranging from mild to hot.

Siam Elephants is open for lunch & dinner seven days a week and offers options for dine-in, take out, and caterings. More information can be found at [www.siamelephantsrestaurant.com](http://www.siamelephantsrestaurant.com) or at the Siam Elephants Elmira Facebook Page.

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Thrills & Chills Fall Campaign to Return

Fall is approaching and the Chamber’s Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is turning its sights toward preparing for the 9th annual Thrills & Chills, a promotion of Chemung County’s fall and Halloween themed events!

Thrills & Chills was launched in 2012 as an initiative to boost events occurring from mid September through early November and entice fall visitors to the Finger Lakes to come to Chemung County. The campaign will be promoted with the distribution of full color event calendars throughout the Finger Lakes Region and N. Pennsylvania, as well as through digital ads.

If your business has autumn offerings that you would like included on the calendar or if you’d like more information, contact Cynthia Raj at the Chamber at cynthia@chemungchamber.org. There is no fee to participate!

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Clemens Center Announces Upcoming Broadway Season

Clemens Center has announced its 2022-2023 Broadway Season with an impressive lineup! The 5-show season will kick off on October 11 & 12 with BUDDY-The Buddy Holly Story. Other shows include: On Your Feet!, Beautiful-The Carole King Musical, Tootsie and Legally Blond the Musical.

A series subscription is available now and includes one ticket to each of the five shows. In addition, individual show tickets may also be purchased.

For more details and a full calendar of events, go to [www.clemenscenter.org](http://www.clemenscenter.org).
Empire Access Opens Office in Endicott

As the need for “high” speed Internet increases, Empire Access is offering its services to more residents of Greater Binghamton.

The Chief Operating Officer, Jim Baase, believes their 24/7 customer service is what distinguishes them from their competitors as well as providing a non-blocking network. This means that if you purchase a gigabit of Internet, you will have access to all of it.

Baase says that other providers are unable to deliver the speeds they promise.

He says the pandemic highlighted the demand for fast Internet across Broome County.

Chief Operating Officer at Empire Access, Jim Baase says, “What’s here today just doesn’t meet the requirements that families have. But not only that, we bring a better value. What we find is, our competitors lower their prices and try to improve their service when we come to town. So we’re good for the community.”

Empire Access plans to expand its Internet network by 300 miles over the next fifteen months.

The company offers a gigabit of download speed for $50 a month, including free installation.

Empire Access was also named the fastest Internet company provider in the United States, according to the PCMag Speed Index.

Trio of SUNY CCC Professors Selected for Cornell University Fellowship

Three SUNY Corning Community College professors were selected for the Community College Internationalization Fellowship at Cornell University. In total, seven faculty members from across New York State were selected for Cornell’s fellowship program.

The three SUNY CCC faculty members selected for the Cornell fellowship program were:

- Emma Draper-Reich, MFA, Assistant Professor of English
- Sky Moss, MA, Associate Professor of History
- Sri Kamesh Narasimhan, PhD, Associate Professor of Chemistry

Draper-Reich was selected for her fellowship project of Internationalizing English 1020: Incorporating South Asian Fiction in College Composition II. She will be studying contemporary voices in South Asian literature and creating opportunities for CCC students to join in this research.

Moss was chosen for his fellowship project of IAD/LACS Fellow Project: Black Settlements in Central America 1525-1650 ce. His research will be on historic black communities in Central America, West African connectivity and the impact of their blackness on societal opportunities.

Narasimhan’s project is on Isolation and Characterization of Pharmacologically Active Components from Traditional Indian Medicinal Plants. The research will focus on extracting, purifying and characterizing active compounds from traditional herbal plants such as Eucalyptus oil, Ginger, Turmeric, Ginseng and Neem.

All three CCC faculty members will have one year to implement their projects. Cornell’s fellowship program is a professional development opportunity for faculty of any discipline at two-year institutions in Upstate New York, with a goal to prepare students to become global-minded citizens, collaborating with Cornell’s area studies programs and the South Asia Center at Syracuse University.
Corning Incorporated announced that its advanced optics technologies played a vital role in capturing the first high-resolution color images from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope. This milestone builds on Corning's rich history of enabling space exploration, which began more than six decades ago when NASA's Project Mercury sent the first Americans into space.

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is the largest, most complex space telescope ever built. It extends the work of the Hubble Space Telescope, capturing images of distant galaxies, stars, and exoplanets in deep space. The photos released by NASA feature the deepest look into the universe the world has ever seen. Unlike the Hubble, the JWST will not be in Earth's orbit; instead, the telescope will orbit the sun 1 million miles away from Earth.

Corning’s Keene, New Hampshire facility engineered and manufactured key optical instruments for the JWST. The image capture technologies produced by Corning are integrated within JWST’s Fine Guidance Sensor and the Near Infrared Imager. These vital components help point and stabilize the entire telescope platform for data collection that enables astronomers to determine the age and chemical mixture of distant objects.

"Our advanced optical solutions are enabling some of the most extreme applications in the depths of outer space," said David Meis, business director, Corning Advanced Optics. “We've supported the aerospace industry since its earliest days by creating custom optical components, and today, our technologies are critical to the data and image capture by the most impressive space telescope in the world. We’re honored to celebrate this milestone alongside NASA.”

Even before NASA's establishment, Corning’s expertise in glass and optical physics supported humankind’s understanding of outer space with the creation of the 200-inch mirror for the Hale Telescope in 1935. Corning began its longstanding collaboration with NASA when the company’s heat-resistant windows for Project Mercury protected the spacecraft and its passengers from dangerously high temperatures. Since then, the company has developed and manufactured mirrors for telescopes, the Destiny Nadir window for the International Space Station, and the thermally stable space shuttle windows for every American-manned space craft through NASA and the International Space Station.

To learn more about Corning’s history in the aerospace industry, visit: www.corning.com/aerospace-defense/index.html

To view photos taken by the JWST, visit: www.nasa.gov/webbfirstimages.
Elmira College Art Program Expands with Career-Focused Concentrations

Elmira College recently expanded its Art program to include four concentrations designed to help students channel their creative voices into successful careers. Beginning this fall, students interested in an Art major can choose to concentrate in Art Therapy, Digital Art and Graphic Design, Digital Art and Product Design, and Studio Art.

"Our faculty of leading artists and designers work directly with students building skills and professional networks while developing new ways to make learning productive and foster close classroom communities," said Derek Chalfant, Associate Professor of Art. "Students and faculty often work together one-on-one, which gives faculty the opportunity to customize their instruction and guidance, and students receive their mentors' undivided attention. Our smaller classes give students more time to share their ideas, express their opinions, and describe their perspectives, which are important skills in the professional world."

"Employers today are looking for self-directed problem solvers," said Christopher Longwell, Assistant Professor of Art, Elmira College. "Art students engage in critical thinking and problem solving through their experiences with different materials and processes. In ways that are different from other academic programs, art encourages students to come up with their own solutions to problems and tasks. This process of learning can create a strong sense of personal identity and foster the kind of innovative thinking that will translate to many career paths."

Additional details can be found on the Elmira College Art program website here. ■
Historic Elmira, Inc. Announces Preservation Award Winners

Historic Elmira presented their 12th Annual Preservation Awards at an event held at 200 East Church Street in Elmira at Ill Eagle Tap House where a project award was given to the Nicholas Difasi and Ryan Wieder for the historic restoration and preservation of the Federal Building. The awards ceremony was held on behalf of 2020 award recipients. The original ceremony scheduled for May of 2020 had been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Historic Elmira annual Preservation Awards honor individuals and organizations for sensitive restoration and historic preservation within the Elmira area. Awards are given for two categories – Project and Advocate.

An additional Project Award was also presented to Housing Visions – Chemung Crossings Project, and a George L. Howell Advocate Award was presented to the Chemung Chamber of Commerce for the Trolley into Twain County Tours.

"Every year we like to recognize people in Elmira who actively engage in historic preservation. Sadly we had to postpone the event in 2020 and again in 2021," states Michael P. Hosey, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Historic Elmira, Inc. “We were excited to hold the event today and provide recognition to these individuals for their hard work and dedication to historic restoration and preservation. Historic Elmira, Inc. is an organization of community-minded preservationists with a clear understanding that historic preservation is directly linked to economic revitalization and enhancing the quality of life in Elmira,”

The Project Award recognizes historic preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse projects in the Elmira area that contribute to the appearance, character, and value of our local neighborhoods and community.

The George L. Howell Advocate Award celebrates government officials, community leaders, local business owners, journalists, and private citizens who passionately value and demonstrate their advocacy for our historic and architectural heritage through active involvement in the community. The Advocate Award is also open to groups or organizations currently engaged in promoting historic preservation in the Elmira area.

Hosey also recognized their newly appointed President of the Board of Trustees, Jennifer Herrick-McGonigal. Herrick-McGonigal is also the President of the Chemung Chamber of Commerce and presented the awards during the ceremony. She is a longtime resident of Chemung County and native of Elmira, N.Y.

“We will continue to encourage advocates on their historic preservation pursuits, and we will do our part to elevate the visibility of the projects - helping to ensure that our past has a future in Elmira,” stated Herrick-McGonigal.
NASCAR Fans Have New Option For Food and Fun In the Sahlen Esses Grandstands

Seats near one of the most action-packed sections of the road course at Watkins Glen International just became a little tastier for fans, as the track and Sahlen Packing Company announced the Sahlen Esses Grandstand.

Beginning with the penultimate weekend in the NASCAR Cup Series regular season, August 19-21, fans holding tickets in the Sahlen Esses Grandstand along the hill between turns 3 and 4 will also be treated to a buffet featuring Sahlen hot dogs and sandwiches during Sunday’s Go Bowling at The Glen race. Chips, cold salad and iced tea or water will also be included in the buffet that accompanies the ticket package.

“Everyone knows the Esses at The Glen are some of the most exciting turns in motorsports and now fans seated there are also going to get the best hot dog in motorsports,” said Watkins Glen International president Michael Printup. “Put away the popcorn memes, fans are going to see amazing passes for a race win – and possibly a chance at a championship – while eating a Sahlen hot dog.”

Tickets for the Sahlen Esses Grandstand will be $85 for the race weekend and $75 for Sunday only.

The announcement of the new grandstand ticket package comes on the heels of the Buffalo-based Sahlen Packing Company Inc. celebrating two decades of partnership with the Finger Lakes-region track in the Sahlen’s Six Hours of The Glen race.

Watkins Glen hosts the NASCAR Go Bowling at The Glen race weekend August 17-21, with racing action beginning with the ARCA Menards Series race on Friday, August 19. The NASCAR Xfinity Series will compete on Saturday, August 20, and the Go Bowling at The Glen NASCAR Cup Series race will cap off the weekend on Sunday, August 21.

Sunday’s race will help the NASCAR Cup Series set the field for the Playoffs, as only one race will remain in the regular season following the road course battle in New York. Kyle Larson, the defending NASCAR Cup Series champion, won last year’s Go Bowling at The Glen race.

To purchase NASCAR race tickets or for camping and additional information, call 1-866-461-RACE or visit theglen.com. Fans can view the NASCAR Cup Series and NASCAR Xfinity Series schedules and purchase tickets at nascar.com/tickets.
First Heritage Raises $11,390 for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier

First Heritage Federal Credit Union announced it raised $11,390 for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. The funds were raised through its annual Drive Away Hunger campaign and resulted in 34,500 meals for the community. First Heritage donated $10 for every auto loan financed during April and May and also partnered with eleven local dealerships who gave a matching $10 contribution as well.

First Heritage Federal Credit Union partnered with the following local dealerships for its 2022 Drive Away Hunger fundraiser:

- All Wheels Driven
- Chilson-Wilcox
- Elkland Chevrolet
- Elm Chevrolet
- Ferrario Auto Team
- Fox Auto Group
- Friendly’s Dodge Jeep
- Hillside Motors
- Maple City Dodge
- Simmons-Rockwell
- Snell Auto Sales

“Giving back to our communities is so important to all of us at First Heritage and we really value the opportunity to partner with local dealerships to provide meals to those who need it most,” explained First Heritage’s Assistant Vice President Marketing Lindsay Cuda.

For more information on the Drive Away Hunger campaign, call First Heritage toll-free at 800.833.3338, or visit any First Heritage branch. ■
Thank You Renewing Investors

Adecco
Appleridge Senior Living
Blue Manufacturing Company Inc.
Clarion Inn Elmira Horseheads
Eastern Metal Signs & Safety
Finger Lakes Environmental
Foot & Ankle Specialists of the Twin Tiers
Hilton Garden Inn Elmira/Corning
Horseheads Central School District
Horseheads Printing
Howell, Liberatore & Associates, Inc.
ID Booth, Inc.
Johnson-Schmidt, Architects P.C.
Junior Achievement of Central Upstate New York
Keller Williams Realty
Southern Tier & Finger Lakes
Robert Butcher Architect
Vulcraft of New York, Inc.
Wine and Design
WSKG Public Broadcasting

Welcome New Members

Siam Elephants
200 West Water Street
Elmira, NY 14901
(607) 735-2992
www.siamelephantsrestaurant.com

Chamber Events

Friday, August 5
34th Annual James V. Clune Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament
Elmira County Club
1538 West Church Street
Lunch and registration at 11:00 a.m.
Shotgun start at 12:00 p.m.
Business After Business Reception afterwards

Friday, August 5
Elmira Country Club
Business After Business Reception
Elmira Country Club
1538 West Church Street
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | $5 per person

Thursday, August 11
Elmira College
Tri-County Business After Business Reception
Elmira College
1 Park Place
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | $5 per person

To view the full calendar of events, programming, or to register, please visit:
www.chemungchamber.org