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VISITORS TO CENTRE COUNTY SPEND MORE

~Ahead of Peak Summer Travel Season, County Continues Trend of Significant Year-Over-Year Growth~

STATE COLLEGE, PA (Tuesday, May, 28, 2019) – According to the Economic Impact of Travel in Pennsylvania, a study conducted by Tourism Economics to monitor and quantify travel and tourism’s economic impact on the state, travelers spent \$794.2 million in Centre County in 2017, nearly \$46 million more than in 2016.

“The importance of the hospitality industry to the success of Centre County cannot be underestimated and these numbers prove it. In addition to supporting 5,049 tourism related jobs, in 2017 the industry raised \$41.5 million in state and local taxes, a number which will significantly increase with this year’s introduction of the new room tax on April 1,” said Fritz Smith, Executive Director of the Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau (CPCVB)

Smith said Centre County visitors spent \$139.3million on lodging, \$180.9 million on food and beverage, \$132.4 million on shopping, \$122.3 on recreation and \$219.3 on transportation, that may include purchases of gasoline and airline, bus, or train tickets, as well as costs for parking, tolls and car repairs while traveling.

“With this past weekend’s unofficial start of the summer season, we anticipate and look forward to welcoming even greater numbers of visitors to Centre County, giving our communities the opportunity to share what is unique and wonderful about Happy Valley and improving the lives of locals,” said Smith.

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