

NEWS RELEASE



*Where the Sun Rises
on the Smokies*

HAYWOOD COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

CONTACT: Darren Miller
Media & Public Relations
(828) 452-0152
darren@smokeymountains.net

GHOST TOWN OPENS FOR 2009 SEASON, DAILY HOURS BEGIN JUNE 5

Discounted Season Passes, Daily Admission Tickets Available for Purchase Online

HAYWOOD COUNTY, N.C. (MAY 29, 2009)—Now open for its third straight season, Ghost Town in the Sky begins daily operating hours, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Friday, June 5. After a successful opening Memorial Day weekend, Ghost Town is open again this weekend, and the 2009 season promises to be an exciting year—thanks in large part to the much-anticipated reopening of the Cliffhanger Rollercoaster, perched on the side of Buck Mountain, that is expected to happen this year.

A trip to Ghost Town in the Sky takes visitors back in time to the days of the wild west. But be careful, you just might find yourself in the middle of a gunfight. The family-fun theme park in Maggie Valley reopened in 2007 after a five-year closure. And it's better than ever.

The adventure begins right away, as visitors board the chairlift for a ride to the top of 4,600-foot Buck Mountain, where the park is perched on multiple levels. The views of Maggie Valley and the surrounding Smoky Mountains are spectacular along this 3,300-foot climb.

Once at the top, thrill seekers will certainly find the right dose of adrenaline riding the Cliffhanger Rollercoaster, which has a top speed of 56 miles and includes a loop that generates three G-forces of pressure. The Geronimo Drop Tower, located at one of the highest points in the park, is another ride sure to have your heart racing, as it lifts you 98 feet in the air before releasing you into a free fall. There's a bevy of less intimidating rides, too, for visitors of every age. While strolling the streets of Ghost Town, make sure to stop by the Silver Dollar Saloon to enjoy live music and the classic Can-Can Dancers. But keep your eyes peeled for bank robbers and other outlaws. Ghost Town offers a fun experience for everyone in the family, with shows, shops, rides and food everyone will enjoy.

And the best part: you can enjoy the wild-west theme park for less. Ghost Town in the Sky is now offering discounts for those who purchase season passes and daily admission tickets online. Season passes are currently being offered at a \$20 savings—\$49.95 (adult) and \$29.95 (children ages 3 to 11). Save \$3 on daily admission tickets, regularly priced at \$29.95 (adult) and \$22.95 (children), when purchasing online. Visit www.ghosttowninthesky.com for more information about the theme park and to purchase passes and tickets.

-MORE-

Located in Maggie Valley, North Carolina, visitors to Ghost Town in the Sky have plenty of choices when it comes to looking for a place to stay. With more than 200 accommodations, Haywood County offers something to suit everyone's needs and budget. And there's no shortage of things to do once the family has had their fill of the wild-west action, from viewing elk roam the meadows of Cataloochee Valley in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (celebrating its 75th anniversary this year) and cruising 46 miles of the highest elevation stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway to strolling through quaint downtown Waynesville and hiking, horseback riding, golfing, and many more outdoor activities. For more information about where to stay and what to do while visiting Ghost Town in the Sky and Haywood County, North Carolina, visit us on the Web at www.smokeymountains.net.

~~###~~

Haywood County, North Carolina, "Where the Sun Rises on the Smokies," is 554 scenic square miles of spectacular country, with beautiful mountains and valleys dotting the landscape. More than a dozen of its mountain peaks soar to elevations of at least 6,000 feet (more than any east of the Mississippi River), and the county is one of the highest, with a mean elevation of 3,600 feet, east of the Rockies. One of its most notable mountain peaks is Cold Mountain—the basis for the award-winning, best-selling novel by Charles Frazier and the ensuing 2003 major motion picture—at 6,030 feet. The county sits at the western edge of the state, with the Blue Ridge Parkway running along its southwestern border. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Pisgah National Forest are located in the northern section of the county. Visit us online at www.smokeymountains.net and connect with us on Facebook (<http://companies.to/smokymountainsnc/>), MySpace (www.myspace.com/smokymountainsnc) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/smokymountainsnc).