

# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday, July 2, 2008  
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## Special Appearances by the Care Bears and Author Kerry Madden Planned for Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

Maggie Valley, NC – North Carolina’s mountain top family theme park, Ghost Town in the Sky, has some special guests coming on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> which will appeal to children and families. Entertaining families since 1961, Ghost Town patrons can meet special guests while visiting the North Carolina landmark, which is literally built on the side of Buck Mountain in Maggie Valley.

### *Not Your Typical Mountain Bears*

Ghost Town in the Sky will be hosting two special guests straight from “Care Bears’ Care-a-Lot.” Sleepy Time Bear and Cheer Bear will be at Ghost Town in the Sky for a meet and greet for all Ghost Town’s Buckaroo guests. Ghost Town is also offering an exclusive high-noon luncheon with the Bears for \$9.99 per person, after the cost of admission. More information is provided by clicking on [www.ghosttowninthesky.com](http://www.ghosttowninthesky.com).

Like Ghost Town, the Care Bears have become a “classic”. The animated characters were originally created in 1981 by American Greetings to be featured on greeting cards.

In 1983, the Care Bears became popular plush teddy bears. The Care Bears appeared in their own television series from 1985 to 1988, in addition to three feature films. In 2002, the bears were reintroduced with new toys. Made by Play-Along Toys, the new toys offered features such as illuminated bellies upon touch, aerobic bears, and glow-in-the-dark bears. As part of this comeback, the Bears have appeared in two computer-animated movies in 2004 & 2005.

In 2007, the bears were once again relaunched. The 25th anniversary of the toy line was commemorated in 2007, and the *Oopsy Does It!* movie was released in commemoration of the 25th anniversary. As of 2008, Care Bears are still being marketed.

### *Award-winning Author Kerry Madden Visits Ghost Town*

Kerry Madden, the writing instructor and children’s book author of several books which include *Gentle’s Hollar* and *Louisiana Song*, both of which are set in Maggie Valley, will be also be visiting Ghost Town on Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup> for a book signing and storytelling. Madden’s writing has been described as “beautiful, lyrical, flawless and rich” and inspired by the fond memories she and her husband shared of the Great Smoky

Mountains and the surrounding areas of North Carolina. She's been writing for more than two decades and sharing her craft with students for over 10 years.

Her first young adult novel, *Offsides*, was selected by the New York Public Library as one of the Ten Recommended Books of 1997 for Mature Teens. Her second book, *Writing Smarts* (An American Girl bestseller), helps children craft their own stories and poetry. Her book, *Gentle's Hollar*, received a Starred Kirkus Review for a children's novel, New York Public Library's "Best of the Best" Bibliography in 2005, Bank Street College Best Children's Books of the Year in 2005, Mark Twain Nomination at MO Association of School Librarians in 2005, Maine Book Award Nomination in 2006, Schneider Award Nomination by ALA in 2005, Finalist in PEN USA in Children's Literature in 2006. Madden's writing exercises have assisted young people to understand the importance of telling their own stories, how they will benefit from writing and how to perfect the craft of writing.

Joining Madden will be Tomi Lunsford, a country jazz singer from Nashville Tennessee. She has performed with David Olney, Tom House, and the late Steve Runkle. She started her singing career with a band called "The Lunsfords," that was lead by her father, Jim Lunsford, and also her two sisters, Nancy and Teresa Lunsford. Lunsford's CD "High Ground" was released in Germany and received high reviews from Rolling Stone Magazine UK.

Ghost Town in the Sky is a mile-high, Wild-West theme park that boasts live-action shows, rides, live music, food and shopping. It is located 14 miles east of Cherokee and 34 miles west of Asheville in the Great Smoky Mountains in Maggie Valley.

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