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## **Ghost Town is back in business**

FROM STAFF REPORTS

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Ghost Town in the Sky is open once again, though the grand re-opening this morning was delayed by about 30 minutes for safety checks of rides.

Chand and Vernonica Davis of Casar, NC, were the first in line to buy tickets to the theme park. Close to 100 others gathered at the entrance before the scheduled 9 a.m. opening to be among the first to see the recently renovated park.

Robert and Rhonda Harris, of Patterson, Ga., were on their way home from Dollywood when they stopped in Cherokee on Thursday and learned that Ghost Town was opening Friday.

It was a place Rhonda remembers coming to as a little girl and Robert last enjoyed 15 years ago, so the couple was excited to get to revisit a piece of their past.

"I always felt like I was born 100 years too late," Robert said. "I would have loved to have lived in the gunslinger days."

Not everything working just yet for the visitors though. The 'Drop Tower' and 'Paratrooper' thrill rides are not operational yet, but park officials expect them to be up and running by tomorrow if not later today.

Several other rides will have longer delays. The chair lift is expected to be running by the end of the weekend, but it will be at least two more weeks before the 'Cliff Hanger' roller-coaster will be operational, and it will be the middle of the summer before visitors will be able to ride the incline rail.

The Saturday edition of the Asheville Citizen-Times will have a full report on the grand re-opening of Ghost Town in the Sky, plus video and photos online.