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The Mercantile Times

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Welcome to Spring on the Mountain . . .

If you are fortunate enough to live on Beech year-round or are able to visit often throughout the year, you'll know how special Spring can be on the mountain. We're a little higher and a bit cooler which means our Spring comes a little later, but oh how beautiful it can be.

Over the last couple of weeks we have had two wet heavy snows measuring 7 inches, that came and went fast. Just last week, one day was almost 60, but two mornings ago it was 23 with a heavy frost down in the valley.

A few bright spots begin to show by the second week in April. At the woods edge and on road banks and shoulders, where the sun can shine brightly, we can get a few new wildflowers each day. At the store, our trees usually wait til mid-May to get their leaves.



Spring days are bright and beautiful. The views go on forever. The mountain wildlife is abundant with more deer than ever, and the hummingbirds have returned.

Come up and share with all of us at Fred's, Spring on the mountain. Longer days, fewer cars, great fishing and hiking are just a few reasons to come.

Hope to see you soon.



What a Winter



Winter comes every year, sometimes a little later, sometimes a little warmer or a little colder. Some winter snow falls start later and last longer. Some parts of the ski seasons are great and some not so great.

All of the above is what the winter of 2004/2005 has been about. Not the greatest, but not the worst we've had either. What do we consider a great winter? A great winter is when we have enough snow before

Thanksgiving weekend for skiing. A great winter is one that is cold enough to make lots of snow, the less extreme temperatures and wind the better! Day time highs in the upper 20s and nights in the low teens are always the best. Oh yes! High humidity is good for making snow. Temperature inversions are not too good for us. A good winter is at least 85 inches of snow for the season.

With all this said, what was this winter like? Our total snow fall through April 25th was 98.31 inches. With seven inches falling in April. Our coldest temperature was -10 on December 20 and 21. Through the winter we experienced seven days that were below zero. At the other extreme a high of 57 occurred on January 3. In March the highest wind speed was recorded at 87 mph on the western edge of town at Ralph and Jan Miller's house. This was the same night Grandfather Mountain recorded their second highest wind ever of 195 mph. It was a windy winter!

Don't forget Ray's Beech Mountain Weather Forecast and history., just log on to our website, www.fredsgeneral.com, and click into weather.

Winter Weather					
MONTH	WARMEST DAY	COLDEST DAY	SNOW FALL	AVERAGE HIGH	AVERAGE LOW
December	50	-10	16.0	27.3	21.3
January	57	-4	20.8	38.1	24.2
February	51	7	14.61	37.5	23.1
March	59	6	29.4	38.9	24.1

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PERIODIC E-NEWSLETTER FROM FRED'S GENERAL MERCANTILE BEECH MTN, NORTH CAROLINA

Sunday Sunset Concerts

A tradition at Fred's for 18 years, our Summer Sunday Concerts have all been set with a great line up headed your way. Be sure to join us on the green every Sunday evening from July 10th until August 14, 7pm until 8:30pm

July 10	Cockman Family Gospel and Bluegrass	July 31	Watauga Community Band Pops/Marches/Old Time Favorites
July 17	Strictly Glean and Decent American Folk Music	August 7	Amantha Mill Acoustic/Bluegrass
July 24	Diana and the Vintage Boys Bluegrass/Country Acoustic	August 14	Joe Shannon and Friends Traditional Dulcimer and Acoustic



Two New Websites of Interest . . .

hikebeechmountain.com and bikebeechmountain.com

Soon you will be able to learn about the best information on Beech Mountain's 20 plus miles of prime hiking trails. The site, Hike Beech Mountain, will be your complete source of information on each of the 10 trails. It will be complete with detailed descriptions, difficulty levels, what to look for and directions to each trail head.



GUIDED TRAIL HIKES EACH MONTH APRIL THRU OCTOBER

April 5th	Smoketree Red Fox, Grassy Gap Creek Trails
May 3	Westerly Hills Trail
June 7	Grassy Gap Creek Trail
July 5	Pond Creek Trail (Upper and Lower)
August 2	Wild Iris Rail and Falls Trail
Sept. 6	West Bowl Loop Trail
October 4	Buckeye Gap Trail

Links from the Chamber of Commerce, Town of Beech and other business on the mountain will give you easy access to all information.

The site will include information on mountain biking trails and cross-country ski trails on Beech. Other nearby trails will be headlined, including those along the Parkway, Grandfather Mountain and the Linville Gorge area.

A photo section will welcome hiking related pictures and a hiking comment section will be available.

Hopefully this site will be up and running by early June just in time for the Summer.

The Bike Beech Mountain website will be similar and will be complete by early July. Stay tuned for more . . .

Deli News . . .

With Spring here, more often than not, the Deli deck is waiting to be enjoyed by you folks on a beautiful day. The tables and chairs are out and the umbrellas are up.

A familiar deli face has returned after a brief period in Florida. We welcome back Eli Fielland to our fold. He, along with Scotty, is famous for introducing Wraps to our menu.

Remember, we're always open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Our current 8 pm closing time will be extended until 9 pm in mid-June.

Our weekend backyard cookout will begin on Memorial Day weekend and run every Saturday through Labor Day.

Come join us for great mountain fare at Fred's Backside Deli.

Did you know that our Deli was featured on Public Television's WUNC on their *Weekend in North Carolina* show? Thanks WUNC for spotlighting Fred's.



Town Cleanup Goes Well

As in past years, on April 16th, Beech Mountain folks joined together to clean up the mountain's winter litter. Thanks to everyone who helped make Beech Mountain clean.

A special thanks to Councilman Pete Chamberlin for heading up the Cleanup. The prize picker was Tasha Rhule, who is always making our town beautiful.

In case you didn't get a chance to help, stop by Fred's for your orange litter bag and pick a street. It's everyone's responsibility to make our town look its best.