

SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

Stretch your palate at the
Breck Craft Spirits Fest
PAGE A14



FRIDAY
OCTOBER 23, 2015
HIGH: 47°
LOW: 26°
WEATHER PAGE A31

FIRE DANGER: LOW

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FREE



COURTESY OF JESSIE UNRUH / BRECKENRIDGE TOURISM OFFICE

Breckenridge saw its first significant snow storm the morning of Thursday, Oct. 22. While ski resorts celebrated the precipitation, the wet snow also led to closures on Interstate 70.

WHITE GOLD

Summit sees first winter squall

By **Elise Reuter**
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Thursday morning began with the first flurry of winter, as large, soggy snowflakes tumbled down from a cloudy sky. While the weather brought good news for ski resorts, it also

resulted in a traffic snarl along Interstate 70. "The first snowfall of the year is always one of the busiest (days) for us," Colorado State Patrol Trooper Josh Lewis said. "People sometimes need a reminder to slow down. ... Unfortunately, that's a lesson people learn the hard way."

Traffic jams started around 8:30 a.m., as cars

skidded to the side of the highway, lacking traction driving up to the Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnels. Lewis said he was not aware of any injuries resulting from the crashes.

While he did not have a final count for the number of crashes that morning, the accidents resulted in the closure of one lane east of the tunnels and, subsequently, full closure of the

highway from Silverthorne for two hours.

"The snow came in so quickly that folks were having difficulty getting traction," Colorado Department of Transportation spokeswoman Tracy Trulove said. "If there are people up there (who) aren't prepared and trying to drive in it, that's a lot of

WHITE, A5

THE WEEKENDER

Dreaming of chocolate fountains

One of the highlights of the upcoming weekend is the 32nd annual Wine in the Pines event to benefit Ability Connection Colorado. This is one of my favorite shoulder season events, and one that I'm sure many locals and the Keystone community look forward to all year. The resort dishes

out some fabulous finger food, and Keystone pastry chef Ned Archibald outdoes himself year after year with desserts that taste just as amazing as they look.



Heather Jarvis
A&E Editor

And that chocolate fountain ... I have dreams about that thing. There are also more wines to try than you could possibly get through in one night (Although, some definitely try their best), and the entertainment rounding out the evening is always top-notch.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

On the other side of the county, Breckenridge Creative Arts presents its second annual Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration Friday, Oct. 23 to Sunday, Oct. 25. Dia de los Muertos is the Mexican cultural tradition honoring deceased family members and friends.

In Breckenridge, this weekend is jam-packed with free events, such as sugar skull decorating, skeletal face painting and an Aztec dance workshop. One of the highlights of the event will be the community altar on display at the Randall Barn in the Breckenridge Arts District throughout the weekend.

An important tradition, the community is invited to bring photographs of loved ones and flowers to place on a communal altar. Check out page A14 for more information and a full schedule of events.

BRECK CRAFT SPIRITS FESTIVAL

The Breckenridge Craft Spirits Festival is Friday, Oct.

WEEKENDER, A5

SUMMIT COUNTY

MAKING HELICOPTERS SAFER

U.S. Rep Polis is pushing the FAA to have more helis — like the one involved in the disastrous Flight For Life crash in July — include crash-resistant fuel systems to save lives.

PAGE A6

@PLAY

GEAR LOCKER

More snow season goodies are here — and they keep on coming — to add to your pow-slaying arsenal.

PAGE A21



Breck's Newest Hidden Treasure

WOODLAND
Breckenridge
Mountain Gifts & Flowers

211A North Main Street | 970.771.2190 | www.woodlandbreck.com
(Behind Kava Cafe, Facing The Alley)



Ride on the unorthodox side this winter

By Phil Lindeman
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There's more to winter than skiing and snowboarding. There's also hard-boot riding, alpine racing and looking fashionable on the slopes.

But where to begin? Here's a look at the best of the unordinary for the 2015-16 ski season, including skis from Rocky Mountain Underground in Breckenridge, a jacket from Freeride Systems in Frisco and bindings from Bomber Industries, formerly of Silverthorne.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN UNDERGROUND APOSTLE, \$799

Sizes: 165 cm, 175 cm, 185 cm, 195 cm

Waist: 105 mm underfoot



SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Rocky Mountain Underground Apostle men's ski.

The Apostle, dubbed a "quiver killer" by RMU, has been the company's best-selling model for years. It features the trademark five-point design, with slight bulges about 15-25 cm in from the nose and tail. This makes it a beast for anything: trees, powder landings, fast groomers — whatever your heart desires.

This season, RMU also added a bit more flex to the tail and re-introduced a twin shape that was oddly missing from the 2014-15 model. The hybrid camber (slight rocker on the tip and tail,

traditional camber through the rest) comes paired with a hybrid core to make groomer turns tight and powder turns floaty.

Find it: Drop by the Rocky Mountain Underground shop just off of Main Street in Breckenridge (500 S. Park Ave.) to buy or demo the entire 2015-16 line. Chances are you'll even meet one of the owners or ski engineers. How's that for service?

FREERIDE SYSTEMS ANTERO II PLUS, \$419

Sizes: Small, medium, medium tall, large, XL

Type: Hardshell outer jacket

Over the past few years, anything and everything made in Colorado has become hot property. But, more often than not, "Made in Colorado" simply means the product was designed in the state, kind of how Apple products are designed in California yet still made in China. It's a buzz term, nothing more.

Then there's a company like Freeride Systems. Based in Frisco, owner Mike Collins has quietly been making high-end, high-tech outerwear for more than five years. His gear is on par with the \$500 products from Patagonia and The North Face, right down to the same fabrics (Polartec Neoshell). The only thing missing? An overseas factory.

The Antero II Plus is Freeride's latest, greatest outer for men and women. It features a Polartec outer, grey Tricot interior and a touch of insulation to be breathable and waterproof in the chilliest conditions. The seams are fully-taped — Morris says it took several years to master the technique — and all models have pit zips to dump heat. In design terms, these jackets just make sense, from hand pockets placed exactly where they should be to a hood that fits like a glove over any helmet. And did we mention they're made in our backyard?

Find it: All Freeride Systems products, including a line of softshells for men and women, are available through the company website at www.freeridesystems.com (Use discount code Locals20 for 20-percent off). You can also find shells and outers at Frisco Emporium (313 W. Main St. in Frisco)



SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Freeride Systems Antero II Plus men's jacket.

for up to 20-percent off until the season begins.

BOMBER TRENCH DIGGER 3 SIDEWINDER STEP-IN BINDING, \$499

For nearly two decades, Bomber Industries in Silverthorne was the only independent manufacturer of hard-boot snowboard bindings in Colorado and one of the only in the nation. Owner Finn Doyle sold the company this summer to pursue solar energy with his newest venture, Sulas, and headquarters are now in Aspen.

While Bomber bindings are no longer built in Summit, the new owners share the same passion for this very small, very niche sport. They've rebuilt the most popular model, the Trench Digger, to feature something all hard-boot riders want: total control.

The Trench Digger 3 comes with Sidewinder technology, a combination of base plates and canted footbeds for the front and back. This helps riders "roll" from side to side, which translates into more control at higher speeds. These are easily some of the most expensive bindings on the market (hence the price tag), but they're built to take a beating at high speeds, over and over. Here's to the new

GEAR LOCKER



SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

The Bomber Power Plate binding attachment.



SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Fuxi Racing alpine downhill ski mitt.

Bomber.

Find it: All Bomber bindings and accessories (pads, cant discs, heel cups) are available through the new company website at bomberonline.com.

BOMBER POWER PLATE, \$195

Hard-boot snowboarding can be intimidating. It can be so intimidating, in fact, that most riders would just as soon stay on a traditional free-ride setup.

That's where the new Bomber Power Plate comes in. It's a genius little attachment that mimics the Trench Digger suspension system by screwing into standard, everyday soft-boot bindings. For newcomers, this means infinitely more control and feel than flat-based bindings. For speed demons, this means every groomer and hill is ready for the taking at high speed — even if you forgot your hard-boot board.

Find it: The Power Plate is available through the company website at bomberonline.com.

FUXI RACING ALPINE MITTS, \$99

Sizes: Small, medium, large, XL

After a decade in Eagle County, Fuxi Racing USA recently set up world headquarters at Copper Mountain to be closer to the thousands of ski racers who spend November training there. The Fuxi Flash race suits get all the attention — and they should, what with bright neon everything — but the shop carries just about anything a racer needs, all made by the best alpine manufacturers in the U.S. and Europe.

Alpine mitts are a must for any racer, and the Fuxi version are by far one of the most affordable. They're insulated for chilly training days and feature built-in plastic guards for charging gates.

LOVE YOUR MONEYMAKER

Few things can ruin a killer powder day like frostbite on your nose, foggy goggles and poor optics. Here are a few must-haves for your face.

Oakley Airbrake ski goggles

The biggest brand in eyewear is still one of the best on the market, and the 2015-16 Airbrake doesn't disappoint. It's stylish, incredibly breathable, and comes with two lenses for bright and low-light conditions. Like most Oakley models, this one is for smaller to medium faces and costs a pretty penny. \$120-\$230

509 Aviator snowmobile goggles

509 snowmobile goggles are more expensive than ski-centric companies like Smith and Spy, but that's because they're designed to handle the demands of charging trails at 50-plus mph. The Aviator comes with a nose guard and anti-fog lens coating, no fan required. It's stellar in sunny conditions and so-so in low light. \$75-\$125

Phunkshun Wear

The boys from Silverthorne moved production to Denver last season, but their facemasks are just as stylish (and just as warm) as ever before. The original DL (double layer) is a perfect all-around mask for almost any conditions, while the new-ish DL Thermal is made for those sub-zero days, with stretch fabric outside and Polartec fleece inside. \$20-\$30

And, of course, they come in plenty of colors to match almost any suit. Get your flash on.

Find it: All Fuxi products are available through the new Copper shop in Center Village or online at www.fuxiracingusa.com.