

## December's heightened bookings attributed to snow, declining rates

December bookings at western mountain destinations have been pacing down since August, but with widespread snowfall and strategic rate management the month has since turned into "a winner."

The assessment comes from the latest DestiMetrics market briefing released by Inntopia, a company that tracks data on lodging properties for mountain destinations across the western U.S., including Summit County.

As of Dec. 31, bookings made in December for same-month arrivals soared 50.9 percent in a year-over-year comparison, according to the company. It explained the bookings were aided by a decline in the average daily rate, as lodging properties worked to increase bookings for a month that had previously been trending down.

"In last month's briefing, we were looking at December's occupancy with some concern as the timing of Christmas and school holidays was presenting challenges," said Tom Foley, senior vice president of business operations and analytics for Inntopia. "Lodging properties responded to the situation by adjusting rates to attract consumers and when Mother Nature delivered widespread and significant snowfall in most regions, December occupancy rebounded nicely."

## BGV's award-winning employees to direct \$65,000 to local nonprofits

Local nonprofits will get \$65,000 in donations from employees of Breckenridge Grand Vacations who were recently honored for their accomplishments throughout 2018, according to the company.

The "Grandy Awards", as they're known, are the company's way to recognize outstanding employee performance throughout the year. Individually or as a team, the winners will each get to donate \$5,000 to the charity of his or her choice, or split the amount between organizations.

All donations will be made this year in conjunction with BGV Gives' spring or fall grants cycle. BGV Gives is the company's philanthropic wing. Some of the organizations previously supported through the Grandy Awards include Advocates for Victims of Assault, Summit County Rescue Group and Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center.

Awards and recipients in 2018 were as follows:

■ Top Recruiters — David Serrano, Kia Grant and Mitchell Spielberger

■ Superior Service — Greg Kruger and Kevin Kundiger

■ Behind the Scenes Hero Award — Jill Johnson, Michael "Patch" Doyle, Tony Cooper and Zack Black

■ Greatest Change Award — Katy Bath

■ The Rob Millisor Volunteer of the Year Award — Eli Yoder

■ OneBGV Award — BGV Human Resources Team

■ The Kaizen Award for continuous improvement — BGV Creative Services Team

BGV sales and concierge staff were also recognized in a year of record-breaking sales. Winners were Jessica Schumacher, Mike Stables, Russell Galloway, Tina Zimmerman, Aaron Olthoff, Sean Berg, Matt Spitalny and Greg Cohen.

Also, 126 BGV employees were recognized for their longevity, ranging from 5 to 19 years with the company.

All 2018 Grand Vacation Award recipients were entered in a drawing for a vacation to anywhere in the U.S., excluding Hawaii, or Mexico with round-trip flights for two, and \$500 in spending cash. The winner was sales executive broker JW Hermes.

— Eli Pace



PHOTOS BY HUGH CAREY / HCAREY@SUMMITDAILY.COM

Co-owner AJ Brinkerhoff at Angry James Brewing Jan. 25, 2018.

## Angry James Brewing to celebrate first year in business with Saturday fundraiser

By Eli Pace  
epace@summitdaily.com

Three hundred stainless steel cups are waiting at Angry James Brewing for the brewery's anniversary celebration, the first of two Saturday fundraisers for the Summit Rescue Group in Silverthorne.

Summit County's craft beer scene has come into its own with the opening of four new breweries since January 2017. Nine are now operating locally, and Breckenridge, Dillon, Frisco and Silverthorne each have two taprooms.

One of those new breweries, Angry James came online at 421 Adams Ave. in downtown Silverthorne when husband-and-wife owners A.J. and Darcy Brinkerhoff opened the doors on Jan. 26, 2018. The grand opening was so packed it almost blew the roof off the joint, and the place has fielded consistent crowds ever since.

"It doesn't feel like a year," A.J. Brinkerhoff said. "I can't believe it to be honest. It's a humbling thing (to be so well received) when there are eight other breweries in



Angry James Brewery, Jan. 25, 2018. The brewery will celebrate its first year of business on Saturday with a combination party and fundraiser.

the county, you're coming in as a new guy and you're trying to carve out your space."

The anniversary party, which is doubling as fundraising event, is being organized by the brewery and The Cycle Effect, a nonprofit that helps girls get into mountain biking and realize the benefits of participating in the sport.

The party kicks off at 10 a.m. Saturday. They've booked live music and will be holding raffles throughout the day in support of Summit County Rescue Group, as well as "a parking lot full" of other local organizations.

Getting through the doors will cost \$20. That includes a stainless steel cup made by Klean Kanteen for the first 300 people, a complimentary fill and one raffle ticket.

"It's really kind of amazing how many local businesses we work with in some way that have donated to the raffle," Brinkerhoff said.

Angry James will also close out its parking lot and Brinkerhoff said that KSMT The Mountain radio is going to be there with a DJ. Also, subsequent raffle tickets will be available for purchase, and all proceeds from the raffle sales will make their

way to the rescuers.

"We have always liked to support nonprofit groups that we feel are really important to the community," Brinkerhoff said.

With the brewery's and the rescue group's logos printed on the cups, he also thinks they're looking "really sharp."

"They don't throw that logo around lightly," he said of the rescue group, adding that the brewery had to explain exactly what they wanted to do with the cups and get the group's permission to do it.

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