

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 10, 2015

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Touchmark chef and snow artist wins again

MERIDIAN, Idaho – This past Friday, Rich Brown did it again. Brown and his team won the 2015 Idaho State Snow Sculpting Competition, which is part of the Winter Carnival in McCall. This is the fourth straight first-place win for Brown.

The top snow sculpture is called “Circus Elephant” and measures 14 feet tall. Constructed entirely of snow, the sculpture was built by Brown and two others over the course of three days.

Brown is a chef at Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village in Meridian, where he has worked for the last six years. “I like the creativity of cooking and snow sculpting; they provide me with a creative outlet,” says Brown, who also carves ice sculptures.

“In the state competition, it’s hand tools only with no power tools,” says Brown. “We use just about anything to carve with. I have an antique 5-foot saw with really big teeth, hand chisels, and a currycomb. Every year I make a new tool to add to my collection and share with other artists.”

Brown says that coming up with the sculpture idea is the most difficult. “I have a list of about 100 ideas that would be good for either snow or ice,” says Brown. “Then, I bounce ideas off my friends and family. My wife is the best sounding board.”

During the first week of Winter Carnival, Brown participated in the City of McCall snow sculpture competition. Brundage Aspen Village hired Brown, and he created his first snow sculpture for the two-week event: an Olaf and Sven caricature – complete with ice antlers – from the movie “Frozen.”

The Idaho State Snow Sculpting Competition takes place the second week of the Carnival. This year, Brown had the help of two other sculpture artists, including sand artist Bill Dow, who helped Brown win the 2014 competition. Brown’s team was one of 11 participating in the 2015 State competition. As the winners, they can participate in the national contest; unfortunately, it coincides with next year’s Winter Carnival dates.

For now, Brown is thrilled with the outcome of this year’s competition. “The weather

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was very challenging,” said Brown. “We had to really wing it and let the snow lead us.”

About Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village

Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village is an award-winning, full-service retirement community offering a range of homes and lifestyle options. More information is available at Touchmark.com.

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Photos and Captions:

Photo 1:

Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village residents and team members visit the Winter Carnival in support of Rich Brown, Touchmark chef, pictured second from left.

Photo 2:

“Circus Elephant” snow sculpture.