

Sweet success

Gilbert man takes competitive baking to delicious levels

BY JULIE JANOVSKY

TRIBUNE

suaties as the night rolled on — like his favorite chocolate pie, which burned while he was taking another pie out of the oven.

"He had a method to his madness. He made all the crusts first and took some of the ingredients he needed with him on the plane," says his wife, Brenda, who accompanied him on the trip with their 10-year-old daughter, Jackie.

Strom is no stranger in the kitchen; he says as a child he used to bake alongside his grandmother Joy when she visited the family.

"I remember the great smells and watching her," he says fondly.

When Strom married, he carried on his grandmother's tradition of baking cookies for friends and family at Christmas. "When I was growing up, we always looked forward to her care package," says Strom.

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A FAMILY AFFAIR: Stan Strom, a winner at last month's national Great American Pie Championship, says he recently remodeled the family kitchen because they needed more space with all the bakers they have at home.



Chill