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M A G A Z I N E

NOVEMBER 2014

Living in the Season

At Home With Frank
and Betsy Jones

SPECIAL SECTION:
2014 Holiday
Shopping
Guide

Flight Path

Dennis Akins soars toward his dreams

Reflections
Planning the Perfect Party
Sharing Sweets
In the Kitchen
With Melinda Bradley

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ON THE COVER



Every fall, Frank and Betsy Jones enjoy sprucing up their yard.

Photo by Michelle Winters.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Friends!

The month of November includes a number of holidays and observances. Veterans Day falls on November 11, and community members will honor those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Parker County American Legion Post #163 will host a Veterans Day Parade in Weatherford on November 8.

If you are ready to kick your smoking habit, the Great American Smokeout on November 20 may be the perfect time to do so. Visit www.cancer.org to find tips on how to quit.

Thanksgiving falls on November 27. Many residents will travel to see loved ones or prepare meals in their own kitchens. Remember to share what you're thankful for on "turkey day." On Black Friday, local retailers will slash prices and offer discounts to entice shoppers into stores. If you choose to brave the crowds, I hope you get those unbelievable deals!

Enjoy yourselves!

Amber

Amber D. Browne
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Windy Hill Farm Bakery

(817) 565-0585
Weatherford, TX 76088
whfbakery@yahoo.com
Also on Facebook

Hours:

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m.-noon
Available after hours by appointment.



Windy Hill Farm Bakery offers a variety of treats — from cheesecakes and cupcakes to decorative cakes and fruit carvings.

SHARING SWEETS

At Windy Hill Farm Bakery, cheesecakes are the specialty.

— By Amber D. Browne

From wedding receptions and baby showers to birthday parties and holiday gatherings, Windy Hill Farm Bakery has the perfect dessert for the occasion. Lesli Edwards opened the bakery in February 2010, but her passion for baking sweet treats stretches back to when she was 3 years old. “I was a very sick child, so I couldn’t go to the barn,” Lesli said. “I did a lot of baking with my mom.”

As a child, Lesli learned a few tricks of the trade in 4-H. She graduated from Weatherford High School and studied agriculture science, with an emphasis in horticulture at Weatherford College. She received a floriculture certification from Benz School of Floral Design at Texas A&M University. She worked in greenhouses in Holland, but a flower mold exacerbated her

asthma, and she was forced to quit. “I use that horticulture degree for the sugar flowers on my cakes and for edible flowers.”

Just over four years ago, Lesli decided to follow her passion for baking. “I’ve always wanted to do this,” she admitted. She began baking cookies for her family, and at their urging, she opened the bakery. Windy Hill Farm Bakery doesn’t have a storefront, so Lesli works out of a renovated concession stand on her family’s working farm. “I don’t charge very much, because I don’t have the overhead.”

Clients can call, text, email their orders or contact Lesli through her Facebook page for the business. “They usually know what they want,” Lesli explained. Her daughter, Sarah Beth Payne, can draw a sketch of a desired cake for the client’s

approval. Lesli's husband, Norman Edward, often helps with delivery. Norman, Sarah Beth and Lesli's son, Connor Payne, also help serve desserts to yearly attendees at the Taste of Parker County. Windy Hill Farm Bakery won Best Dessert at Taste of Parker County in 2012 and Best Dessert, Most Unique and third overall in 2014. She didn't enter the food competition in 2013, because her husband was recovering from surgery. "I wish I didn't have that gap, because people think I just didn't win, but I wasn't there," she explained.

Windy Hill Farm Bakery is known for its cheesecakes, which are Lesli's specialty. They are offered on the menu at Fish Creek. "My cheesecakes do not have the traditional graham cracker crust. I do a Scottish shortbread cookie, unless something different is requested," she said. Lesli offers just over 100 cheesecake flavors. "I can make anything into cheesecake." Lesli offers eggnog cheesecake and even a maple bacon cheesecake, which tastes like pancakes and bacon.

Lesli develops her own recipes and is precise in her baking. She rarely uses molds for her cakes. Instead, she cuts them into shapes by hand. Alcohol cakes are also offered. "My tiramisu has Kahlúa in it. It depends on what the customer wants," she said.

Customers have been known to bring in a paint sample to match their vision for colorful icing. Lesli will work to match the icing and fondant colors. With a projector, Lesli can also display designs onto cakes and cookies. She then pipes the icing onto the projected design. Flavored cupcakes are sold in batches of one dozen. Lesli can mold chocolate designs to top the cupcakes. Cake pops, chocolate strawberries and fruit carvings are also available.

Windy Hill Farm Bakery doesn't ship desserts, but delivery is free in Parker County. Only cash or checks are accepted as payment. Lesli often donates to local charities including Parker Paws, Grace House Ministries and local schools. The Weatherford area is her home, and she plans to continue sharing her award-winning treats for years to come. **NOW**

Windy Hill Farm Bakery

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