

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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**LINDA HUNDT OF SWEETIE-LICIOUS BAKERY CAFÉ WINS GRAND PRIZE AT APC/CRISCO NATIONAL PIE CHAMPIONSHIPS - TO BE BROADCAST ON THE FOOD NETWORK THIS SUNDAY EVENING**

The Food Network Pie Challenge/American Pie Council National Pie Championships will air this Sunday, September 13 at 8:00 pm and Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 pm on the Food Network. The show will feature bakers from across the country competing for the coveted Best of Show prize which went to our Linda Hundt of Sweetie-licious Bakery Café in DeWitt, Michigan. For bakery owner Hundt winning Best of Show in the Professional division of the American Pie Council (APC)/Crisco® National Pie Championships was a bittersweet victory — her prize-winning pie, which topped nearly 130 other entries, was named in honor of her brother-in-law who passed away just one week before the competition.

Hundt, who won five first place awards in 2009, three first place awards in 2008 and one first place award in 2007, entered seven pies in this year's professional competition, including "Tom's Cheery Cherry Cherry Berry Pie." Because her cherry pie fell in last year's competition, she never expected that it would be the pie to take the top honors. She's pretty sure the heavens were smiling down on her that day.

The owner of the Sweetie-licious Pie Pantry, a vintage-style bakery in downtown DeWitt, Hundt is known for her 50s-style dresses and aprons, her pearl necklaces and her pearls of "pie wisdom" including her mantra, "Eat Pie and Love Life." After leaving her career in politics, Hundt started her pie business in 2002, selling pies to high-end restaurants and at farmer's markets. Coming from a long line of pie bakers, Hundt names her award-winning pies in honor of the family members who have inspired her over the years. In her bakery and on her website, she tells the heartfelt and sometimes humorous stories behind each of her pies. Her brother-in-law Tom earned his pie, the Best of Show-winning "Tom's Cheery Cherry Cherry Berry Pie," by being a great supporter of Hundt's dreams and a friend to everyone he met.

The APC/Crisco® National Pie Championships were held April 24-26, 2009 at the Ramada Orlando Celebration Resort and Convention Center in Celebration, Fla., in conjunction with the Great American Pie Festival. At the annual event, bakers of all skill levels, all ages, and all degrees of training, from all over the United States and Canada, compete in a bake-off to determine North America's best Professional, Amateur and Commercial bakers as well as budding Junior Chefs.

As the winner of the Professional Division of the APC/Crisco ® National Pie Championships, Hundt took home the prestigious Best of Show title as well as \$5,000, a Crisco gift basket and a new Sears Kenmore range. Professional bakers entered pies in eight categories: Apple, Citrus, Crisco® Classic Chocolate, Crisco® Classic Cherry, Fruit/Berry, Cream, Nut and Open. The Best of Show winner was chosen from among the eight first place winners.

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