

## Local entrepreneurs: Cupcakes with a classical twist



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More than two years ago, entrepreneur Megan (Cornell) Rawson started a new business in Ridgecrest called "Concert Cupcakes." It sprang from a need for classy refreshments following a classical music concert.

Rawson's husband, Ian, a professional cellist, was scheduled to perform at a concert in spring 2013. Rawson said she was inspired by Ian's father, who has a doctorate in violin.

"The Rawson family often held concerts at their home, and refreshments were always provided," said Rawson. "When Ian had this concert scheduled, I volunteered to help with refreshments. I always liked to bake, so cupcakes seemed like the perfect fit."

Concert Cupcakes were a big success.

“Everyone liked them,” Rawson said. “Several people said, ‘Wow! These are great — where can I get these?’ After that, Ian and I collaborated on the cupcakes and concert series.”

With more concerts scheduled, Rawson made more cupcakes, and the rest is local history. “Concert Cupcakes” expanded into a part-time hobby that grew into a very sweet business. Since then, Rawson has branded more than 24 original recipes for her cupcake line. Topping her creations, are several selections of custom frostings including one of her favorites, Dulce de Leche Buttercream.

“When I first started out I used boxed mixes,” admitted Rawson. “But, some of my clients have special dietary concerns, and I discovered I enjoyed making my own healthy recipes. It’s much more creative and fun.”

Rawson came up with her own blend of gluten-free flour. She also offers “vegan,” dairy-free, and gluten-free desserts.

Rawson, the daughter of former Ridgecrest residents Virginia and Dave Cornell, is a Burroughs High School graduate.

She attended the University of California, Redlands, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and economics. She went on to graduate school at the University of Missouri in Kansas City where she earned a master’s in economics. She is now employed at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division at China Lake.

Her special cupcakes were recently featured at the Local Author Showcase held at the Ridgecrest branch of the Kern County library recently.

To order your own custom made “Concert Cupcakes,” call 760-774-7760 or e-mail [concertcupcakes@live.com](mailto:concertcupcakes@live.com).

Concert Cupcakes also has a Facebook site at [www.facebook.com/concertcupcakes/info/?tab=page\\_info](http://www.facebook.com/concertcupcakes/info/?tab=page_info).

Pictured: Burroughs High School graduate and China Lake employee Megan Rawson shows some of her Concert Cupcakes — a classy line of sweets tailormade to suit nutritional needs and taste profiles. -- Photo by Theresa Goldstrand

Story First Published: 2015-11-25