

We Love Linemen



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

Comanche Electric Cooperative lineworkers don't work alone on our power lines. Whether they are climbing poles, restoring power or clearing tree limbs to prevent future outages, they are never far from the hearts of the women and men who love them.

At this time of year, stores seem flooded with hearts, candy and cards professing true love. But to be honest, those sentiments pale in comparison to the bonds of love we see every time a storm sweeps through our area.

If the lights go out, our lineworkers' families send their loved ones out into the elements. When other electric cooperatives are in trouble after devastating hurricanes, tornadoes, fires and floods, our lineworkers have traveled to bring the lights back on for complete strangers. Each time these brave men and women leave home to help those in need, their families are left behind, praying for a safe return.

Working with high-voltage electricity, lineworkers find themselves in life-or-death situations on a regular basis. That's why CECA focuses on safety first. Our safety program includes daily briefings, monthly meetings and ongoing training to ensure that our team performs its job safely. We know the folks who love our lineworkers appreciate the time we take to make sure our employees get home safe every night.

Marrying into this profession isn't easy. Lineworkers are often on call and must be ready to respond at a moment's notice if their community needs them. This makes children's sporting events and family get-togethers hard to pull off sometimes. But the crews who keep your power flowing do so because they know that without their commitment, many of the things we've come to expect—hot meals, lights, entertainment—wouldn't be possible. By devoting their lives to working on utility lines, they connect all of us to a better way of life.

This Valentine's Day, we'd like to take a moment to thank the families who support and love our team of lineworkers who brave the elements and work long hours to keep power flowing to our homes each and every day. Thanks for putting your love on the line—we're committed to making sure the lineworkers you love return home safely.

Youth Tour Winners Named

Congratulations to Cheyenne Gordon and Luke Broussard for being chosen to represent CECA at the 2013 Government-in-Action Youth Tour. The Youth Tour is an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., and will take place in June. Cheyenne is a homeschooled sophomore from Zephyr and the daughter of Jerry and Kay Lynn Gordon. Luke is a junior at Early High School and is the son of Lance and Joey Broussard.



We know these two young people will represent us well in Washington. If you know of a student, sophomore or above, who would like to participate in the 2014 contest, please call CECA's Member Service Department at 1-800-915-2533 or email memberservices@ceca.coop.



CECA

P.O. Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.
Comanche, TX 76442

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Eastland closed from noon to 1:15 p.m.
Early closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.



CONTACT US

CALL US

(325) 356-2533 local or
1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

ceca.coop

The Beginning

Part II of Comanche Electric Cooperative History

BY SHIRLEY DUKES



1938

Comanche Electric Cooperative's first few years were probably a whirlwind of activity. While beginning a new business was probably a bit less of a hassle 75 years ago than compared to today, there was still a lot of red tape involved. Officers had to be elected, bylaws had to be adopted, articles of incorporation had to be filed, and applications for membership had to be considered. Attorneys had to be hired, and banks had to be selected. Then there would have been employees to hire, lines to stake, materials to order. So much to do before even one single pole would find its way into the ground.

During the September 1938 meeting of the directors, several decisions were made that would affect the operations of the cooperative. Fred G. Harmon was retained as the first legal counsel; State National Bank of Comanche was chosen as the bank of choice; and documents prepared by Harmon were adopted. In that same meeting, A.C. Thomas was retained as service agent for the cooperative at a salary of \$135 per month and 4 cents per mile for travel expense; Secretary-Treasurer J.B. Cooper was instructed to secure a bond in the amount of \$2,500; and rates were set at \$2.25 minimum for 25 kilowatt-hours per month.

By December of that same year, things had begun to progress and positive action was taking place. Eastland County had made a petition to join with Comanche County Electric Cooperative, and the motion passed unanimously with E. Blackwell and Idus Echols chosen to serve as directors for that area. Construction, acquisition and operation of electric generation, transmission, distribution and service facilities were approved, as well as to authorize the borrowing of money from the United States of America not to exceed \$1.5 million for expenses. And most important, the board approved and authorized the construction and

operation of 250 miles of line, together with substations, secondaries, transformers and meters in Comanche and Eastland counties. With the appointment of William G. Morrison as engineer, everything was in place to begin the process of obtaining approval to proceed with construction.

1939

As the new year was being ushered in, so began a long list of changes for the developing cooperative. As the cooperative progressed, so did the demands on the few paid employees. Carl Brandt was appointed resident engineer at a salary of \$150 per month. Project superintendent A.C. Thomas was authorized to hire additional help needed to complete right-of-way easements, not to exceed \$5 per day. Upon recommendation of the engineer, the contract for the construction of the lines was awarded to O.O. Fuller Construction Company of Nevada, Missouri, as the lowest bidder at a bid price of \$137,218.39, and the contract for metering was awarded to Graybar Electric of Fort Worth. The bid for the first pickup truck purchased for the cooperative was awarded to Fagan Chevrolet Motor Company for \$613.

In February, the cooperative received information from the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington stating that for the projects of the cooperative to be self-sustaining, they would have to adopt a rate of \$2.45 per 27 kWh as the minimum monthly bill per customer.

Because of the large amount of business being conducted, the cooperative rented the old City Hall building in Comanche to serve as a temporary office and hired Verna Castleberry as bookkeeper/stenographer at a salary of \$70 per month. At the same meeting, they approved directors' fees at \$3 per meeting attended, and 5 cents per mile for travel.

By March of that year, the cooperative had outgrown the small space in the old City Hall due to a lack of storage for maintenance material and engineering equipment. After some discussion, a motion was made that the Rural Electrification Office at Comanche be moved to the Higginbotham Building at \$20 per month. The motion carried, and plans were made to move the office to the new quarters on Highway 377 by March 23, 1939. And by August of that year, with the progression of service in the northern territory, space was rented in Eastland County as well.

Times were hard in 1939, and while many people had the means to secure power to their homes and farms, a large number of them did not have the money to wire and plumb their homes once the lines were built. The board resolved to initiate and carry out a plan to aid those desiring assistance in wiring, plumbing and purchase of appliances and fixtures. To do so, it was proposed that the cooperative procure a loan from the United States of America through the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. A finance committee consisting of G.R. Levisay, W.T. Carruth and W.A. Smith was appointed to determine which members would receive the credit, not to exceed \$10 per member. In February, a loan was approved between Comanche County Electric Cooperative and the United States of America at 2.73 percent to finance the project.

On July 15, 1939, at 10 a.m., the first annual meeting of Comanche County Electric Cooperative was held at Comanche High School. It was a grand affair, with an orchestra to entertain the 1,000 members and potential members who attended the meeting, as well as a picture show sponsored by Graybar Electric. Speakers were N.E. Scudder, Comanche County agent; the Rev. E.R. Gordon, pastor of the Comanche

Methodist Church; Rep. H.F. Howington; Sen. Penrose B. Metcalfe; and J.R. Cobb with the Utilization Division of the Rural Electrification Administration. In addition to the business meeting, lunch was served in the basement of the school, and Service Drug Store, Wm. Reese Drug Company and Dudley Brothers, all of Comanche, provided a display of electrical appliances.

Directors elected by ballot of membership at that first annual meeting of the cooperative were: R.E. Seay, W.S. Price Jr., H.H. Huddleston, H.L. Beaty, I.S. Echols, W.B. Starr and E.E. Blackwell.

By the end of 1939, much progress had been made, and the families on the farms and ranches of rural Comanche and Eastland counties began to see a light of hope on the horizon in the form of equal electrification for their families and businesses.

1940

As with most business being held during this era, the business of the cooperative was largely decided by the male population. But 1940 would mark a year of change for that business model. At the board of directors meeting on February 9, 1940, the following letter was read to the board:

“We, the R.E.A. Women’s Club, passed the following resolution at our meeting held January 20, 1940:

“Resolved: That Mrs. George Black be placed as one of the members of the Board of Directors as a representative of the Women of the Cooperative.”

“We feel that Mrs. George Black will make a good member of your Board and will give you her best cooperation as well as the viewpoint of the lady members.

“Signed: Mrs. J.C. Helm, President.”

On that day in 1940, Mrs. George Black was duly elected the seventh member of the board. She was then unanimously elected to the position of secretary/treasurer, a position she held until her resignation from the board in February 1943 when she moved to Comanche, away from cooperative lines, making her ineligible to serve on the board. Not only was she the first woman to sit on the board, she was also the first

woman to serve as chairman at meetings where the official chairman was absent.

The original plan to build lines in Comanche County, Plan A, was soon expanded to include Plan B, Eastland County, and Plan C, Brown County. With the increased workload came a need for more employees and more trucks. Over the course of the year, a number of new employees were added, along with additional contracts with engineering companies, meter companies and easement facilitators.

In December, the board of directors made a momentous decision to set up a temporary organization, the purpose of which would be “to take full advantage of the Hydro-electric energy which we understand will be available at the Possum Kingdom Dam of the Brazos River Conservation Reclamation District.” Motion passed for Blackwell, Guy, Townsend and Thomas to visit with the directors of the Brazos River Conservation Reclamation District to consider the proposal.

1941

Comanche County Electric Cooperative kicked off 1941 in a big way with the Annual Meeting of the Membership on January 14, 1941, at the Majestic Theater in Comanche. A lot of business was discussed and decided on at that meeting. Unfortunately, only 44 members were in attendance and, not being a large enough representation to reach a quorum, the business was considered null and void, and the meeting had to be repeated. The meeting was rescheduled for July 24 but had to be rescheduled one more time due to a conflict with the Old Settlers Reunion. The meeting would ultimately be held at Lake Eanes, 2½ miles south of Comanche, on August 16.

This was also to be the year that the cooperative would make many decisions regarding the purchase and transmission of power. In February, a telegram was received from Tom Connally concerning the transmission cooperative that had been discussed in December of the previous year. It read:

“HAVE SUPPORTED RURAL ELECTRIFICATION LEGISLATION AND FEEL THAT

COOPERATIVES SHOULD RECEIVE BENEFIT OF POWER FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS AND AM SO ADVISING BRAZOS RIVER CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION DISTRICT.”

In March, the cooperative paid a \$5 membership fee to Brazos River Electric Transmission Cooperative. In April, during a specially called meeting of the board of directors, it was decided that the existing contract for electric power with Texas Power and Light Company, dated February 13, 1939, would be terminated as of May 2, 1942.

In May 1940, Comanche County Electric Cooperative had begun proceedings to add another significant load to the ever-increasing load of the cooperative. D.J. Price, owner of Mullin Power and Light, made an offer to sell his business to Comanche County Electric Cooperative. This addition would add 243 miles, 447 members and 307 prospective members to the cooperative’s membership list. In April 1941, the board approved and authorized the purchase of the lines, facilities and equipment of Price, individually and trading as Mullin Power and Light Service, for the sum of \$9,000, thus advancing the service territory to the south.

By the end of the year, almost all of C Section was energized or ready to be energized; mapping began on D Section, which covered 81 miles and 142 members, making an average of 1.75 members per mile. The distribution system to the town of Mullin was completely rebuilt.

Then on December 7, 1941, the Japanese shocked the world by bombing the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. On December 8, the day that President Roosevelt declared the “Day of Infamy,” Congress declared war on Japan. Thus began an era that would change the lives of Americans in a multitude of ways. In addition, it would have an effect on the operations of Comanche County Electric Cooperative and would halt construction and change the lives of members throughout our service territory, as well as throughout this great nation.

Join us next month as we discuss the “War Years” and the effect they had on your cooperative.



Nicole Sparks and Jenna Marwitz crockin' in the kitchen. 'We're both comfortable in the kitchen, and we're both not afraid to experiment.'

Cooking with the Crockin' Girls

BY SHIRLEY DUKES



My first experience with the Crockin' Girls was in September 2011. I was sitting in the principal's office at Zephyr High School visiting with Stanton Marwitz, husband of Jenna of the Crockin' Girls. Having known his family all my life, the talk soon turned to family matters. Stanton asked, "You want to see something funny?" He turned to his computer and pulled up the Facebook page of the Crockin' Girls. "Watch the Likes," he said. I did, and in those few seconds while he refreshed the page, that number grew in excess of 1,000.

My next experience was several months later when Kris Sparks, husband of The Crockin' Girls' Nicole, called and asked if I would be interested in writing a story about them for the magazine. The pride in his voice was evident as he brought me up to speed on all that had happened since my visit with Stanton.

These two men are extremely proud and supportive of their wives and the overnight successes they have become. And well they should be! I spent more than an hour visiting with Jenna and Nicole, and I must say that they each have extremely sweet personalities and are dedicated to their families above all else. Their story is a fun one and we all enjoyed some boisterous laughter as they shared it with me. As close as sisters, they are so in tune with each other that many times one would finish the sentence the other one had started. Obviously, these two women possess a close bond that is rare between business partners.

Jenna and Nicole met through Stanton.

"Stanton and I grew up in Priddy, where we went to school and to church together," Nicole said. "I met Jenna when she

and Stanton got married. But we ended up really bonding when she had her oldest and I had my youngest two hours apart. Then in the fall of 2010, I ran into a situation where my sitter was booked up. I needed help, so I reached out to Jenna and asked her if she could keep my kids on Mondays. Jenna had just stopped teaching and was going to be a stay-at-home mom and she said, 'Sure, yeah, I'll do that.'

At that time, Gage was 4, Grace and Spencer were 15 months apart, and Jenna had just learned that she was pregnant with Stella. With a houseful of kids on Mondays, Jenna's day was full of wagon rides, games and all the fun stuff that comes with little ones. And with Stanton back in full swing at the school, Jenna was solely responsible for the day's activities.

"I was exhausted on Mondays," said Jenna. "I thought, I've got to do something or my family's not going to eat. So I started Crock-Pot Monday on my personal FB page. I'd say 'Hey, y'all, this is Crock-Pot Monday, this is what's going in today.' And people started saying 'Jenna, post it on the weekend, and we'll cook with you. Do a blog.' I don't know how to do a blog, and I didn't have time for it anyway. So it just started out as every Monday I was crockin'. The next fall rolled around, and I put it on my personal Facebook page again. I said 'Hey, y'all. School's about to start up, I'm about to be a single mom again. Crock-Pot Monday is making its way back into my home.' And Nicole, on that post, said, 'We should start a page and call it Crock-Pot Girls.'

They started their page on a Monday, and by Thursday the page had 60,000 Likes. By Sunday it had hit 100,000 Likes. At that point it started doubling every day, and by the next Thurs-

day they hit 1 million Likes.

“We went on a mom’s night out, and from the time we went from the pedicure place ’til we walked into the restaurant, it had gone up 2,000 Likes for us to hit a million. So as we were pulling in to go eat with friends, we hit 1 million Likes,” Jenna said.

“People want to know how we did it,” Nicole said. “We don’t know how we did it. I think a lot of factors had to do with it. It was August, and August is crazy with school starting back. Plus a lot of our moms in the mommy playgroup are not from here. They’re brought in for 3M and Kohler. A lot of them are not even from Texas, so I think when they joined our group they reached out to their sisters and moms out of state and said, ‘Get on this page that we helped create. We’re helping each other get dinner to the table. Join, submit a recipe.’ ”

Jenna and Nicole both feel that a large part of their success lies in the fact that it was never the Jenna and Nicole page. It was, and still is, a community page. “Once we lose that community feel, it’s gone. For us, as well as our followers,” said Nicole.

Within eight months of starting their first page, The Crockin’ Girls had not only published their first cookbook, *The Crockin’ Girls Slow Cookin’ Companion*, but had a Barnes and Noble bestseller as well. Quite an accomplishment for two young ladies living in rural Texas!

The cookbook was hard work, but lots of fun, according to the girls. They were very hands-on with every aspect of the book, from the type of font, right down to the pink and blue polka dots. Said Jenna, “I love to sew, and Nicole’s a scrapbooker, so we wanted it to have a homemade, crafty look.”

“We were actually there for every aspect of the book,” said Nicole. “We saw every single recipe cooked, we tasted it and we sent it to the stylist and the photographer.”

The photography was the hardest part. It took a minimum of 45 minutes to an hour for each recipe. Nicole originally wanted 50 shots per day, but the photographer told her that was not going to happen. He could do only 10 shots per day. “It can happen,” said Nicole. “Just tell me what you need, and I’ll get it done for you.” He said he needed a good team put together. The girls got busy and put together a great team in which everyone had a project and knew exactly what their responsibilities were. In the end, they produced about 50 to 55 shots per day, a huge accomplishment for all involved. “It was a lot of hard work and stress, but it was also a big job and a big accomplishment,” says Jenna. “When we tell people the main content was done in three days, they’re like ‘No way!’ ”

“We just wanted it to show our personalities,” Nicole said. The result is indeed a beautiful and eye-appealing book, with 165 recipes, a full-color photo of each dish, and the recipe ingredients and directions in an easy-to-read format.

The original order was for 57,000 books, but within a very short time the books were sold out and on back order. With reprints, there are now somewhere around 90,000 books in circulation.

In addition to the cookbook, in late November the girls released their first quarterly magazine, *Crockin’ For The Holidays*. With 70 recipes not found in the cookbook, this magazine is a splendid accompaniment. The next magazine should hit



The Crockin’ Girls’ families are, back row, Kris and Nicole Sparks and Jenna and Stanton Marwitz; and, front row, Grace and Gage Sparks and Stella and Spencer Marwitz. The beautifully crafted cookbook can be purchased through Barnes and Noble, Costco, or at crockingirls.com.



the newsstands in early March and will be called *Healthy Slow Cooking*. They are also considering doing a child-friendly cooking magazine.

Being overnight celebrities has brought the girls a lot of publicity. They have made many appearances, including on *The 700 Club* and *Mr. Food*, and have been published in *Every Day With Rachel Ray*, as well as myriad interviews done with newspapers from as near as the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and as far away as the *Tampa Bay Times* and the *Chicago Daily Herald*.

Much of the success with the recipes is due to the fact that both girls were comfortable in the kitchen and were not afraid to experiment. They both give a lot of credit to their entire families, particularly grandmothers, who had a large influence on their love of cooking.

Between the two of them, Jenna and Nicole have about 30 slow cookers and are still collecting more. “People ask us why we keep buying more,” says Jenna. “I tell them it’s kind of like buying shoes or jewelry. You can never have too many.” But just like their shoes and jewelry, while they have a good variety to choose from they still have their favorites that they go to more than the others.

“Is it all hunky dory?” says Nicole. “No. We have struggled. It’s a balancing act. You even feel like you have abandoned your family at some points. But then we get the testimonies and the stories that make their way into our emails. It’s the trucker driving down the road, crocking in his truck to have a home-cooked meal. Or it’s the mom taking her son to the hospital multiple times during the week and leaving the rest of the family home. Feeling like she’s accomplished something because she left them dinner, and she’s still doing her mom duties. That makes it all worthwhile.”

Their cookbook, *The Crockin’ Girls Slow Cookin’ Companion*, and the quarterly magazines can be purchased at Barnes and Noble and Costco, or they can be purchased online through their website at crockingirls.com. You can follow the girls on their Facebook page at *Crockin’ Girls*, on Twitter @*Crockin_Girls*, through videos on YouTube, and through their Pinterest *Crockin’*

continued on page 24

Conference Inspires Young Leaders

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

What happens when you put a room full of teenagers together with community leaders? Great plans for that community, that's what! On November 28, 72 teenagers, along with their teachers and eight local community leaders, met at the Myrtle Wilks Convention Center in Cisco for a leadership conference. Students attended from Bangs, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Early, Eastland, Gorman and Mullin high schools.

Group Facilitator Ronnie Clifton led the leadership exercises with the assistance of Richard and Cindy Niblett with

The OX Radio; Bridget Flores with the Cisco Chamber of Commerce; Mary Randolph with SureGrow Ag Products; Jason Nicholas with TSTC; and Shirley Dukes, Kay Slavens and Rachel Ford with Comanche Electric Cooperative.

Before the conference, students were encouraged to create a logo to be used exclusively for the annual Student Leadership Conference. Winners of the logo contest were Alaina Swanner and Connie Gonzalez, both of Gorman ISD. Alaina and Connie won prizes of \$100 and \$50.

Following a series of leadership exercises, the students were



challenged to come up with a community action program for their school or community, along with a detailed plan on how to carry out that activity. The Community Action Projects for the individual schools were:

Bangs: Build a welcome sign coming into Bangs from Brownwood. The students plan to sell sponsored T-shirts and memorial bricks to raise the money. Their first committee meeting to plan the project was held on the Monday immediately after the Leadership Conference.

Comanche: Decorate the City Square for holidays. The students would like to make the town more appealing to tourists during major holidays such as Valentine’s Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas by decorating the square to suit the occasion. Their plan includes visiting city officials to get approval and contacting local businesses and organizations for funding.

Cross Plains: Refurbish the Cross Plains Water Tower. Currently, the tower is unattractive with white, peeling paint. Upon returning to school on Thursday, the students immediately began planning their project by starting the procedure to obtain approval from Cross Plains City Hall. Fundraisers are in the planning process. The students plan to set up a booth at the Barbarian Festival in June for general donations. They are also brainstorming activities for a festival of some sort for young people, and a possible hamburger dinner. The local Lions Club and Kiwanis Club will also be invited to participate in the project.

De Leon: Refurbish the football field sign. The sign greeting guests to the football stadium is in need of attention. The students would like to renew and repair the sign to make it more visible and more welcoming to visitors.

Early: Start an antibullying program. The students plan to start at the middle-school level, as that seems to be where bullying begins. Their plan is to start the project in May and break into groups to have discussions and provide positive influences.

Eastland: Create a texting-and-driving awareness program. The students would like to set up an accident scene demonstrating the dangers of texting and driving.

Gorman: Clean up Bass Lake in Gorman. Once a major attraction in the city, the pond has become so full of silt and rocks that swimming is no longer an option. The students would like to find a way to dredge the pond and clean up the city park. This would also include painting playground equipment and repairing the sign. The students expect this to be a three-year project.

Mullin: “M Club.” Mullin School currently has no clubs for the students. Their plan is to start the first one, called the “M Club.” Armed with a mission statement, the students have a list of community leaders with whom they plan to discuss their project and solicit assistance. They plan to involve all students, teachers and the community.

We can look forward to great things happening in these schools and communities. If you are a member of any of these communities, contact the school to find out how you can help the students improve your community!



Conservation MATTERS

FREE WAYS TO

Lower Energy Bills

Who doesn't like saving money? You don't have to spend an arm and a leg when it comes to lowering your electric bill. By just following these simple steps, you can save energy and money, all without being taken to the cleaners.

1. When it's sunny outside, throw open the curtains, even in the winter. Let the sun help warm your room and add enough light that you won't need lamps until sundown. On cloudy days, keep the windows covered, and more cold air will stay outside.
2. Cover bare floors. Carpeting or rugs add to comfort and heat retention, especially if there is little or no floor insulation.
3. Use a countertop convection oven, microwave, slow cooker or smaller electric appliance instead of a full-size oven whenever possible.
4. If your refrigerator sits near a window or door, move it to another spot, if there's room. When sunrays and heat from the outdoors touch the fridge, it has to work harder—and use more electricity—to keep your food cold.

5. Unplug appliances—small ones like phone chargers and larger ones like computers and TVs—when you're not using them. Electronic devices use a little bit of electricity as long as they are plugged in—even when they are turned off. If you can't or don't want to turn your appliances off, switch them to “sleep” mode so they will draw less energy while nobody's using them.

6. Get rid of the refrigerator in your garage. Chances are, it's an old one that you moved there after you got an energy-efficient new model full of bells and whistles for your kitchen.

That old energy hog would cost you plenty if it were in a room that you heat and cool. But in an uninsulated garage, it has to huff and puff to keep its contents cool when it's hot outside—and it's probably not even halfway full.

7. Use tight-fitting covers on pots and pans when cooking on the stove to shorten your cooking time and save energy. And, be sure to match the pot size to the burner on your stove. Heat is lost when small pots are used on large burners.



Full loads for the dishwasher mean maximum efficiency for your energy dollars.

continued from page 21

Girls page. You can also join their “Club” through their Facebook page where you can access and rate recipes, submit your own recipes, enter contests, get coupons and receive their newsletter. As an added bonus you can access the recipe for the next Monday and cook along with the Crockin’ Girls.

As Jenna would say, “Happy crockin’, y’all!”



Fudge Brownies

So moist and chocolaty, once you taste these little gems, you’ll never bake brownies in the oven again!

- 1 package original brownie mix
- 1 cup chocolate syrup
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 cup chopped nuts (we used walnuts)

Spray the slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. Prepare the brownie mix as directed on the box and pour into the slow cooker. Mix chocolate syrup with boiling water. Pour over the brownie mix. Sprinkle with chopped nuts. Cook on high for 2 1/2 to 3 hours. Turn off slow cooker, remove lid, and let brownies set up for 15 minutes. Serve with ice cream or whipped topping and strawberries, if desired.

Crockin’ Cheesecake

Submitted by Tiffany McConnell of Burlson

Crust

- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1 egg
- 8 tablespoon butter, melted

Filling

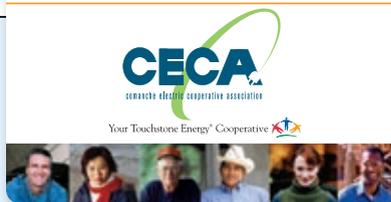
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 container (8 ounces) sour cream (or pumpkin puree if you’re making pumpkin cheesecake)
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla (Mexican vanilla, if possible)
- 1 box (16 ounces) powdered sugar



Spray 5- to 7-quart slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray, even if you’re using a nonstick crock. Mix crust ingredients and spread evenly on the bottom of the crock. Mix filling and pour over the crust. Cook on high (with a paper towel under the lid) for 1 1/2 to 2 hours, or until the center is set. Take off the lid and let cool.

Place in the fridge for a couple of hours, then carefully flip it out to serve, or just cut and serve from your crock, warm or cool!

Co-op Connections® Card



Featured Businesses

Surety Safety and Surveillance International

Surety Safety and Surveillance is an online retailer of personal, home and business safety products and surveillance systems. We offer two online stores.

Suretycameras.com sells hidden cameras, nanny cams, complete surveillance systems for business or home, video recorders, professional cameras, dome cameras, dummy cameras, electronic bug and frequency detectors, digital phone and room recorders, GPS trackers, LCD video monitors, camera and surveillance accessories.



Suretysafety.com sells stun guns, Mace defense sprays, pepper sprays, personal alarms, SafeFamilyLife defense kits, Garrett security scanners and much more.

We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and cashier’s, business and personal checks.

Email us and we will send you our two 28-page catalogs by return email in PDF format.

LOCATED: 700 E. FM 583, May

PHONE: (254) 257-7452

HOURS: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

EMAIL: tommy@suretycameras.com; tommy@suretysafety.com

WEB: suretysafety.com; suretycameras.com

OFFER: 10% discount on all purchases. Use discount code CECATENOFF upon secure checkout from our online stores. Pay no shipping on orders over \$100.

BUILDING CONTRACTORS: Call for additional discounts on purchase of complete surveillance systems for new business/home construction.

AlphaGraphics



AlphaGraphics North Central Texas (Eastland and Stephenville) is a full-

service printing company that offers customers a wide range of print services and the finest quality printing products available anywhere, with affordable options to meet a variety of business printing needs. Whether it’s an understated black and white document or a full-color catalog or brochure, you’ll find a printing solution that meets your project requirements at a price you can afford. With more than 225 locations in the U.S. and many locations around the globe, AlphaGraphics is a network of highly skilled and knowledgeable people, with cutting-edge technology and equipment that can match the level of speed, flexibility and expertise you require. And, should you need large-scale printed products, AlphaGraphics has the resources to meet your needs.

LOCATED: 400 W. Main St., Eastland; 309 W. Washington, Suite B, Stephenville

PHONE: (254) 629-2626 (Eastland); (254) 965-6137 (Stephenville)

HOURS: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

OFFER: 20 percent off first order total invoice.