

Hillsboro woman wins national recipe contest



Staff photo— Ken Sury

Brian Thomson (left), Waco El Chico manager, and Karen Dorskocil pose with her award-winning avocado cream beef tacos.

Posted: Saturday, November 9, 2013 By HOLLIE O'CONNOR hoconnor@wacotrib.com

A Hillsboro woman's home cooking recently made its way into dozens of restaurants after she won a nationwide recipe contest.

Karen Dorskocil heard about the contest through an e-newsletter she receives from El Chico Mexican Cafe. She took her recipe for a cream cheese and avocado dip and put it on a beef taco to form a new dish, and submitted it without thinking she would hear back.

"I was getting ready to go on a business trip, so I just wrote it out and got it done, and I never thought about it again," Dorskocil said.

That is, until El Chico posted a picture on its Facebook feed that read: "AND THE WINNER IS . . . Avocado Cream Beef Tacos submitted by Karen D. of Hillsboro, TX."

Karen received a \$250 prize, and the tacos made their debut last week at El Chico restaurants all across Texas, as well as locations in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Dorskocil, a marketing coordinator and senior loan administrator for Texas Land Bank, never trained professionally as a chef. But she's no novice when it comes to cooking.

Her earliest memories are of making pizzas with her mother, and food continues to play an important role in her life.

She runs a food blog called Dorskogirl, where she posts recipes, travelogs and plenty of pictures. She also maintains Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram accounts, all of which she uses to find and share recipes and great dishes.

But the excitement about taking pictures of her creations can sometimes leave her family salivating at the table.



"I'll come home and she'll have something special made, and everything will be ready and the table set, but we'll have to wait to eat so she can photograph the food," Ray Dorskocil, her husband, said while laughing.

Food has helped the family through tough times, too. A few years ago, when it seemed Ray Dorskocil's job might be in jeopardy, Karen Dorskocil kept up her thoughtfully planned dinners as a reminder that they would stick together, even if their situation turned dire.

"I'm just thankful we have what we have," Karen Dorskocil said.

As for the tacos, they're selling well, said Brian Thomson, Waco's El Chico manager.

He said the restaurant sold more than 45 of the tacos in the first week they were offered.

"She's sweet as can be, and we just want to make sure (the tacos are) to her standards," Thomson said. "We're getting great reviews."