

The Community Connection

NEWS FOR SWEETWATER RESIDENTS

Still on the Fence About Hosting an Exchange Student?



You don't have any kids? Are you a single parent? Same sex couple? An empty nester? This is not a problem, we place our students in all kinds of families!

You're not rich? Neither am I! Your exchange student comes with their own spending money and health insurance. All you provide is room/board and three meals a day. Oh and TLC...but that's free.

Live in the middle of no where? Small town? Not a big deal. Some kids prefer to get away from the hustle and bustle of big cities. The exchange students also do pretty well in small schools, as they usually get to be the center of attention and make friends rather quickly. Our students also get chances to travel to New York, Washington DC, Hawaii and California...so they can get their fill of the city life and return back to the peaceful sounds of nature.

Do you consider yourself a boring person? More than likely this is not true, and you should quit being so hard on yourself. Your student will make friends. Your student will meet other exchange students. Your student will attend activities offered by our program. Your student will get involved in sports and school clubs. Your purpose is not to entertain

them. But you might find that you bring a little adventure to each others lives.

Kids are too young? Great! Lots of students love young kids, and your kids will love them. It's beneficial to introduce your kids to new cultures at a very young age. You're preparing them to accept people no matter what the religion, color of their skin, or language they speak. That my friend, is good parenting.

Don't hold back! This is a great experience for both parties. You get the opportunity to change a child's life. You get the satisfaction of seeing them grow, even after they leave your home into becoming a doctor, a lawyer, a diplomat, artist, teacher...the list goes on. And you contributed to that success! And the best part of it all, is you gain another family member for life. We need people like you to give these kids a chance.

STS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to place exchange students in our area. If you are interest in hosting, please contact me at 832-455-7881 or at vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com. I'll be happy to answer any question you might have and get you started on hosting your very own student!

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue Administration Office.....	512-266-2533
Travis County Animal Control.....	512-972-6060

SCHOOLS

Lake Travis ISD.....	512-533-6000
Lake Travis High School.....	512-533-6100
Lake Travis Middle School.....	512-533-6200
West Cypress Elementary.....	512-533-7500

UTILITIES

Pedernales Electric.....	888-554-4732
Crossroads Utilities (Water, Sewer, Trash).....	512-246-1400
Texas Gas Service Customer Service.....	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies.....	512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig.....	512-472-2822
AT&T.....	1-800-288-2020
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste	512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Bee Cave City Hall.....	512-767-6600
Bee Cave Library.....	512-767-6620
Bee Cave Municipal Court.....	512-767-6630
Lake Travis Post Office	512-263-2458
Baylor Scott & White Medical Center.....	512-571-5000
City of Bee Cave	www.beecavetexas.com
Travis County (General No.).....	512-854-9020
.....	www.traviscountytexas.gov

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	512-263-9181
News.....	sweetwater@peelinc.com
Advertising.....	advertising@peelinc.com

ADVERTISING & ARTICLES


Please support the advertisers that make the *Community Connection* newsletter possible. The Sweetwater community receives this newsletter free of charge provided by the advertisers within. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

The *Community Connection* is mailed monthly to all Sweetwater residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.


To submit an article for the *Community Connection* please email it to sweetwater@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.



*Help Keep Our
Neighborhood
Beautiful!*



There is nothing more beautiful
than someone who goes out
of their way to make life
beautiful for others.



**Partners in Hope connects one person's gifts
and talents with another person's needs and
equips the Lake Travis community to serve
through the lens of ministry.**

Contact Matt Peacock at
mattbp61@gmail.com to get involved

www.partnersinhopelaketexas.org



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

No matter who you're buying for this year, putting some extra thought into the personality and hobbies of your recipient can help brighten the holiday season. Whether your list is on the shorter side or long and complex, these gift ideas – ranging from a thoughtful card to a flavorful meal or a pretty piece of jewelry to tools for the outdoors or classroom – have you covered.

Check those names off your shopping list with even more gift ideas at eLivingtoday.com. Content downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com

Holiday Gifting Made Easy

Gift ideas for **everyone** on your list



A Gift Full of Flavor

If you're looking for a gift for your food-loving family and friends this holiday season, this is the perfect package. With a sampling of Omaha Steaks favorites – including top sirloins, pork chops, gourmet burgers and filet mignons – the Tasteful Gift combo is guaranteed to please nearly any foodie on your list. Add in potatoes au gratin, caramel apple tartlets and an exclusive seasoning packet and you have a gourmet gift for the holiday season. Find more gift ideas at omahasteaks.com.



A Sharp Gift Idea

Any knife is only as good as the sharpness of its blade. This holiday season, get the outdoorsman or chef in your life a helpful tool like the Wicked Edge Go knife sharpener. Made from high-quality, aircraft-grade aluminum and stainless steel and easy to use for both new and veteran knife sharpeners, it offers guided angle control while sharpening a variety of knives, giving the user choice and control over angle and edge geometry. Find more at wickededgeusa.com.



Share

Holiday Joy

Show friends and family how much they mean to you this holiday season with a Hallmark holiday card. Whether you want to share excitement with



Weight Diamond Tennis Bracelets from Helzberg Diamonds. Available in Rose Gold, White Gold and Yellow Gold, these stylish bracelets feature round brilliant-cut diamonds to help make your special someone feel like an MVP. Plus, for a limited time, you can save \$1,000 through Dec. 29. Find more holiday gift ideas at Helzberg.com/Holiday-Gift-Guide.

Get Her a Gift that Wows

This holiday season, give her a gift that wows with these sparkling 3-Carat Total



A Splash of Scholarly Style

Make math and science a bit more stylish for your student when he or she heads back to school from the holidays. Available in 10 bold colors,

those who go all out this time of year or just let someone know he or she is loved, sending a card is a perfect way to show your care. With a variety of cards to choose from, you can find one for everybody on your list. Discover all the ways you can make the holidays brighter at Hallmark.com/Cards.

the TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator is super-slim, durable and can last up to one month on one charge. With a multitude of functions, students can use it from middle school math and science all the way through high school and into college – plus, it's accepted on college entrance exams. Find more at education.ti.com/84CE.



Whether you're huddled around the fireplace, gathered at the table or strolling through a winter wonderland, the holidays are all about enjoying pure and memorable moments with family and friends. With all of the seasonal gatherings, you can certainly expect that almost any host or guest will attempt to provide a classic holiday treat for everyone to enjoy.

This year, you can give your traditional holiday bake a refreshing twist sure to spread all kinds of holiday cheer with this Enjoyment Peppermint Pie topped with Homemade Whipped Cream, which can be easily whipped up with less than 10 ingredients total.

From pumpkin pies to gingerbread cookies and everything in-between, an option like DairyPure Heavy Whipping Cream can be a must-have kitchen staple this season, one you can feel good about knowing it's sourced from trusted dairies.

For more recipes for the holidays and every day, visit DairyPure.com, and find DairyPure on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest. Downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com.

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 cup cold water
- 2 1/2 cups DairyPure Heavy Whipping Cream, divided
- 8 ounces soft peppermint candy
- 1 chocolate cookie crust
- crushed peppermint candies, for garnish

Soften gelatin in water; set aside.

In small saucepan over low heat, cook 1/2 cup whipping cream with candy until candy melts.

Add gelatin; mix well.

Whip remaining whipping cream. Let gelatin mixture cool and fold in whipped cream, reserving 1/2 cup for garnish.

Pour into crust. Chill.

Before serving, top with reserved whipped cream and crushed peppermint candies.

Homemade Whipped Cream



2 tablespoons granulated or confectioners' sugar

2 cups DairyPure Heavy Whipping Cream

1 teaspoon vanilla extract or liqueur

In chilled glass bowl, add sugar to whipping cream. Using whisk or hand mixer, incorporate sugar into heavy whipping cream until it begins to thicken, leaving visible trails. Continue to whip until soft peaks start to form.

Fold in vanilla extract or liqueur. Serve immediately or refrigerate and remix 1-2 minutes before serving.

5 Tips to Ward Off Cold Weather

Colder weather brings plenty of changes, especially in the ways you take care of your home and self. Especially when the temperature drops, extreme winter conditions can play havoc not only with your skin and health, but also your family's comfort.

Take steps to protect your family and household as the weather starts to cool this season with these practical tips:

Take steps to help prevent the flu. As temperatures drop, the chances of getting sick rise. That's partly because certain germs and viruses thrive in colder temperatures, and because the cold puts extra strain on your immune system. When it is cold outside, people are also more likely to spend time indoors (and in closer quarters) where germs are more easily spread. Do your part to help prevent the flu by washing your hands often and covering your mouth or nose when you cough or sneeze. Also be sure to stay home if you're sick and avoid exposing others to your illness.

Prepare your wardrobe. Colder weather outside means more skin sensitivities and dryness. Long pants and sleeves don't just add warmth; they also protect your skin from harsh outdoor elements. When you haul your winter wardrobe out of storage, start the season on a comfy note by washing everything with an option like 'all Free Clear Liquid Detergent or Mighty Pacs. It's the No. 1 laundry detergent brand recommended by dermatologists, allergists and pediatricians for sensitive skin due to its hypoallergenic formula.

Dress in layers from head to toe. Bundle up with winter accessories to

match the daily weather forecast. For chillier mornings and nights, cover exposed areas such as your head with a hat, neck with a scarf and hands with gloves. To accommodate warmer weather during the day, layer flexible clothing options to accommodate temperature shifts.

Stay active. Physical activity naturally warms your body in the short term. In fact, shivering is your body's natural physical response to generate body heat when you're cold. Aside from the immediate benefits, keeping active during the colder months can help in other ways, too. A healthy cardiovascular system keeps your blood flow steady and strong, and a good circulatory system plays an important role in keeping your body, and especially your extremities, warm when temperatures take a dip.

Nourish your body and skin. Preventing painful dry cracks and itchy, scaly skin is a job that requires attention inside and out. Externally, moisturize shortly after showering to trap in the water lingering on your skin, use extra lotion throughout the day on areas prone to drying and reapply lotion after washing hands. Remember to protect sensitive spots like your lips that can easily chap and crack. You can also prevent dry skin by ensuring you're drinking plenty of water and eating a healthy diet with plenty of essential vitamins and healthy fats.

For more ideas to prepare for changing weather, visit all-laundry.com. Content courtesy of 'all. Photos courtesy of Getty Images. Downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com



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.com**

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Wishing you a joyous Holiday Season and
best wishes for the New Year!



As of November 7, 2019 MLS Stats for Sweetwater were as follows:

17 Homes Pending Sales and 21 Active Listings not counting all the new construction

Please let us know if you would like additional stats for Sweetwater or surrounding areas.

With us you get TWO experienced full-time agents for the price of ONE! Contact Us Today for your FREE market analysis! Referrals are appreciated. Warren lives in Sweetwater too!

Shelli McLaughlin

ProMatch Realty

(512) 698-8932

shelli@wesellaustinhomes.com



Warren Chirhart

Keller Williams Lake Travis

(512) 925-9182

warren@wesellaustinhomes.com

Protect the World's Children this Holiday Season

The holidays signal a time for family gatherings, traditions and the spirit of giving. Make this holiday season even more meaningful by giving gifts that help children in need around the globe.

According to UNICEF, around 15,000 children die every day from preventable diseases. In over 190 countries, the organization's staffers are in the field working through war zones, natural disasters and disease outbreaks, doing whatever it takes to save children's lives. This holiday season, you can join the charge by choosing gifts that give back.

With Inspired Gifts, you can provide supplies in the name of a loved one that get delivered directly to children who need it most. Just \$19 can provide polio vaccines to protect 100 children from the deadly disease. Additional life-saving and life-changing options including food packets, educational materials and menstrual hygiene kits can be found at unicefusa.org/HolidayInspired.

If you are looking for stocking stuffers and unique finds, UNICEF Market has a vast collection of handcrafted items made by artisans from around the world. From blankets woven in India to recycled glass pitchers crafted in Mexico and more, these gifts help support the artisans and their families, keep traditional skills alive and give back to essential programs for children. Start checking off your wish lists at unicefusa.org/HolidayMarket.

As part of Louis Vuitton's #MakeAPromise pledge, a specially designed product line of Silver Lockits is available, helping to protect children who have been exposed to diseases, natural disasters and other conflicts that threaten their safety and well-being. \$100-\$250 of each purchase go to programs that help children most in need. Find out more at louisvuitton.com/lvforunicef.

This year, Garnier USA will donate \$1 to UNICEF USA for



every Whole Blends Holiday Kit sold through Dec. 31 with a minimum donation of \$300,000. Each kit purchased helps educate a child for up to one week, as it costs around 15 cents to help educate one child per day. Learn more at garnierusa.com/unicef.

Vitamin A is important for strengthening the immune system and preventing childhood blindness. Through Dec. 31, L'OCCITANE will donate \$3.95 for each Solidarity Soap purchased to support UNICEF's Vitamin A supplementation programs around the world. Available in stores or at loccitane.com/en-us/solidaritysoap.

A holiday favorite since 1950, UNICEF Greeting Cards can be purchased at IKEA, select Hallmark Gold Crown® stores and online at hallmark.com and unicefusa.org/HolidayCards2019. One hundred percent of the purchase price of each pack from IKEA will go to support the world's most vulnerable children.

UNICEF does not endorse any brand, company, product, or service.

*No part of the purchase price is tax deductible. Content downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com.



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An advertisement for Spicewood Counseling in the Hill Country. The background is a close-up photograph of two hands, one larger and one smaller, being held together on a wooden surface. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Spicewood Counseling
in the
Hill Country**

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Practitioner With Prescriptive Authority
Dr. Gonzalez has been in private
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- Marriage and Family Counseling
- Grief Counseling
- Anxiety
- Substance abuse

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