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VOL. 20 ISSUE 998, May 2, 2019

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Jay Hodge - Memorial Pre-Owned Savings

**2018 FORD F-150
XLT SUPER CREW**

**2017 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
1500 CREW CAB**

**2014 FORD F-150
SUPER CREW LARIAT**

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED *nice Reduced!!!*



Super-Crew
2-Wheel Drive,
Low
Mileage-24,356
STOCK# P1375
\$27,720

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



Crew Cab
Short Box
Mileage-25,230
STOCK# 2419A
\$42,000

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



4 WD,
5 1/2' Box
Mileage-48,270
STOCK# 2819A
\$29,403

**2019 MAZDA CX-3
TOURING**

**2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
1500 CREW CAB**

**2015 CADILLAC ESCALADE
ESV**

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



FWB
Touring
Mileage-15,730
STOCK# P1424
\$18,810

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



Crew Cab
Short Box
Low Mileage
28,449
STOCK# 2668A
\$33,660

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



RWD
Platinum
Mileage-47,623
STOCK# 2760B
\$48,000

2018 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE 3 LT

**2016 GMC YUKON
DENALI**

**2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
1500 CREW CAB**

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



4 Dr., Front
Wheel Drive,
Mileage-18,227
STOCK#
P1437
\$34,650

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



2-Wheel Drive,
Mileage 67,770
STOCK#
2905A
\$40,590

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



Short Box
Mileage 9,331
STOCK# 2770A
\$39,000

**2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
1500 CREW CAB**

**2015 TOYOTA TUNDRA
CREW MAX**

**2017 FORD F-350
LARIAT CREW CAB**

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



Short Box 4
Crew Cab
Mileage
26,813
STOCK#
2921A
\$35,640

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



2-Wheel Drive,
Standard
Mileage 62,284
STOCK#
2924A
\$31,363

JAY HODGE PRE-OWNED



DRW
Crew Cab
Mileage 22,340
STOCK#
2436B
\$59,000



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Located at 200 Fuller Street - Sulphur Springs, Texas

After raising a daughter homeless, Letitia Conliffe wanted to give back to her community once she got back on her feet. That's why she created Lil 4's. A place where kids can walk through the door and find a hot meal, a computer to do their homework, mentors to help them succeed in school, and activities to keep them busy. *Fifty-something kids* rely on Conliffe's space in Sulphur Springs, Tx., and every donation made to this campaign directly benefits them.

This Organization operates in the Charitable Organization business/industry within the Membership Organizations sector. Operating in Sulphur Springs approximately 2 years. A lot of the funds for this comes out of her own pocket and donations are desperately needed. **CASH DONATIONS** needed at this time for a better location to provide for these kids. Lot is purchased need cash for a building.

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| Kleenex Tissues | Cooking Utensils | Cheewable Pepto |
| Juice Products | Staples (JT21 5/16") | Tablets |
| Small Bottles of Water | Cleaning Rags | Laundry Detergent |
| Meat | Vegetable Oil | Bleach |
| Napkins | Big Trash Can | Fabric Softener |
| Trash Bags | With Lid | Batteries (AA, AAA) |
| Snacks (chips, cookies, fruit snacks, snack cakes) | Cordless Phone | Paper Plates |
| Frozen Breakfast Meals | Cotton Balls | Bleach |
| Blankets | Alcohol | Printer Ink #21 |
| Foil pans | Q-Tips | Hygiene Products |
| | Peroxide | |
| | Tylenol for Adults & Children | |

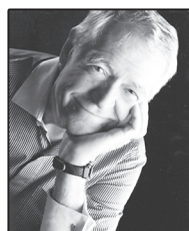
These Products or Just Cash Donations Can Be Delivered To 200 Fuller St., Sulphur Springs, Tx. **THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!!**

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A TRIP TO THE TEXAS MOUNTAINS

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

The Texas Mountain County has had one of its most beautiful blooming seasons. Bluebonnets started showing in January. The ocotillo was bright red. The prickly pear came later but showed off its yellows, pinks and purples. I was there in mid-April, just past the height of the bloom, but pale bluebonnets almost the color of lilac lined the highway from Fort Stockton to Marathon.

I spent Tuesday night in the historic Gage hotel. Before dinner I toured the Gage Gardens, a botanical masterpiece in a dry country. Wednesday morning I saw the whimsical Eve's Garden, a bed and breakfast. Next I visited with Danny Self, who has the Marathon Motel. A resident astronomer lives there and gives star parties every night, weather permitting. A building on the premises holds 6 sophisticated telescopes. The owners might be in Tennessee or Florida, but when the stars are out, the building's roof opens and they can see the Texas stars on their computers. The motel also has a trained chef that serves paella on Sundays.

Wednesday afternoon I went to the Big Bend National Park and interviewed Bob Krumenaker, the new superintendent. He is fascinated that so few Texans know about the Texas Mountain Country and are surprised when they come. From the park I went to Terlingua, once famous for mining mercury. Now it's called Far West Austin and is increasing in population. Land prices have exploded. After a delicious meal of chalupas at La Kiva, I spent the night in Bill Ivey's Teacher's House, one of his many properties where guests can spend the night. He told me about restoring the Perry Mansion, where the mine owner lived. We talked in a room that once held a Gatling gun, for protection against raids from Pancho Villa. That night the Terlingua moon provided a gigantic light in the sky and softened the little ghost town.

Thursday morning I interviewed Mimi Webb Miller, who among other things is a casting director for movies and television commercials. She is an entrepreneur who owns a motel, a couple of eating establishments and a ranch in Mexico. I also interviewed Ring Huggins, who has a rock shop called Many Stones. The big treat was getting to meet Carolyn Ohl at her bird sanctuary on the Terlingua Ranch.

From Terlingua I went to the Lajitas resort, most famous for its golf course, which has driving tees on top of mesas. Golfers hit balls onto the fairways and greens 200 feet below. The resort also offers zip lining, shooting several types of weapons, horseback riding, paddle boarding on the Rio Grande, fishing, hunting, shopping and relaxing. The Palo Verde trees were in full blossom and yellow leaves shimmered in the breeze. I spent a restful night in one of the well-appointed rooms, which had a saddle and a rope in it.

WORD SEARCH

I S K E Y L A R G O C H E R I S H C M T T S I
 D R I V E S L R I G N W O T P U I L A D Y K L
 P C A I N A M L S A R A H A H G E I N U Y R A
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| ALONE | FIRE LAKE | LOVE BITES | SARA |
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| ANGEL | FUNKY TOWN | LUKA | SMALL TOWN |
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| CHERISH | JEOPARDY | MR. ROBOTO | UPTOWN GIRL |
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A Sulphur Springs Respite Care Program for seniors with memory loss.

This program is open to everyone with Alzheimer's or dementia. It gives the participants an opportunity to spend each Tuesday meeting new friends and participating in cooperative activities.

It also gives the caregiver a few hours to run errands and to take care of personal healthcare needs, etc. knowing that their loved one is well taken care of in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The cost is \$20 each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and that includes lunch!

"Terrific Tuesdays" meets at the First United Methodist Church Family Life Center at 301 Church Street, Sulphur Springs.

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Congressman John Ratcliffe
325 Cannon HOB - Washington, D.C. 20515
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Texas Sen. Bob Hall
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512-463-0102

Texas Rep. Dan Flynn
P.O. Box 2910 - Austin, Texas 78768
512-463-0880

Gov. Gregg Abbott
P.O. Box 12428 - Austin, Texas 78711
512-463-2000

Atty. Gen. Ken Paxton
300 W. 15th St. - Austin, Texas 78701
512-463-2100

Hopkins Co. Judge Robert Newsom
P.O. Box 288 - Sulphur Springs, Tx. 75483
903-438-4006

SULPHUR SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL

City Hall
201 Davis St. North
Sulphur Springs, Tx. 75482
903-885-7541

City Manager - **Marc Maxwell**
Mayor - **John Sellers**
City Council Place 1 - **Erica Armstrong**
City Council Place 2 - **Jimmy Lucas**
City Council Place 3 - **Norman Sanders**
City Council Place 4 - **Freddie Taylor**
City Council Place 5 - **Emily Glass**
City Council Place 6 - **Doug Moore**

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mickey Barker
Precinct 1 - Ph.: 903-438-4031
Barn: 903-485-2040
P.O. Box 288 - Sul. Spgs. Tx. 75483
Email: comprecone@hopkinscountytx.org
Greg Anglin
Precinct 2 - Ph.: 903-438-4032
Barn: 903-488-3514
P.O. Box 288 - Sul. Spgs., Tx. 75483
Wade Bartley
Precinct 3 - Ph.: 903-438-4033
Barn: 903-945-2178
P.O. Box 288 - Sul. Spgs., Tx. 75483
Joe Price
Precinct 4 - Ph.: 903-438-4034
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+ First 50 Entries Receive Dash Plaques & T-Shirts
+ Registration Begins at 8 am & ends @ 12 pm

Awards 3 pm

Participants Pick-1965 Ford Mustang
Best Of Show-1966 Chevy El Camino

Downtown Sulphur Springs

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CASH DRAWINGS! \$1,000 \$500 \$200 \$100
Bring a new person/entry & have your name entered again for the drawing!
Bring 2 new ones & have your name entered 3 times total!!

Pre-registered entries must be received before October 1st, 2019
PRE-REGISTER FOR FREE T-SHIRT & DASH PLAQUES!
Mail to: Heritage Car Show, P.O. Box 1456, Sulphur Springs, TX 75483
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Email Address: _____
T-Shirt Size: ___S___M___L___XL___XXL___XXXL
Year/Make/Model: _____ Color: _____ Referred By: _____

10th Annual 2019 Ms. Hopkins County Senior Classic Pageant

Hopkins County Civic Center
1200 Houston St. Sulphur Springs, Tx.
Saturday, June 1st ★ 6:00 P.M.

All ladies 60 years and older are eligible to compete in the pageant.

Ladies will be judged in 4 categories:
Interview with Judges, Philosophy of Life, Evening Gown and Talent

Winner will be automatically eligible to compete in the 2019 Ms. Texas Senior Classic Pageant September 20th - Sept. 22nd @ Holiday Inn in Tyler.

To Enter The Pageant For 2019
Call Karon Weatherman at (903) 885-1661


Mary Ivey 2018 Pageant Winner

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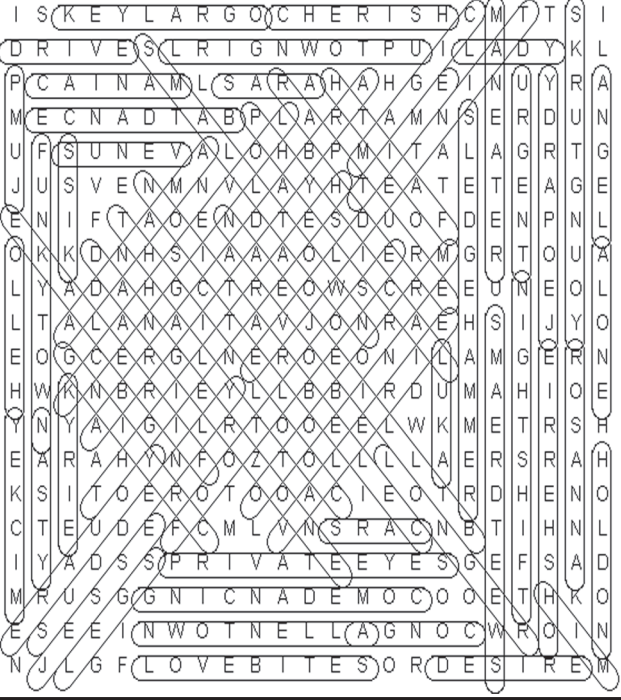
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Dr. Montie Gene Monzingo

SMU Professor Emeritus, Dr. Montie Gene Monzingo, passed away Monday, April 22, 2019. Born to Garland W. and Maurine Walker Monzingo on May 4, 1940, in Stamford, Texas, Montie was a graduate of Stamford High School, class of 1958, and would later earn his A.S. from Tarlton Jr. College, B.A. and M.A. from North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) and his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma.

He was an SMU faculty member from 1966-2009, holding leadership roles in numerous organizations, including Mathematical Science Division, Faculty Senate, Faculty Club, Student Affairs Committee and Tutorial Service and Student Center advisory boards. He also taught in SMU's Talented and Gifted Summer Program.

He was the recipient of SMU's prestigious "M" Award, three Outstanding Professor Awards, the first Betty McKnight Spears Endowed Teaching Excellence Award in Mathematics and the Distinguished University Teaching Award of the Texas Section, MMA. He served the MAA as SMU representative, chair of the Texas Section and member of the Board of Governors.

In 1998, Montie married Dr. Vivian A. Dennis, career faculty member of DCCCD. They enjoyed twenty years of extensive global travel, social engagements, civic involvement, historic preservation initiatives and much more. The couple moved from their Rockwall, TX, home to Sulphur Springs, TX, in 2016.

His interest in genealogy led to membership and officer roles in the Sherman, Dallas and East Fork Trinity chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution, and more recently the General Society War of 1812. He traveled the state, participating in community events, historic/veteran/memorial services and scholastic programs.

Montie was preceded in death by his father, Garland Monzingo, a WWII U.S. Army sergeant interred in the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands, which led to Montie's membership in the American WWII Orphans Network and his service as the American delegate for the annual wreath laying ceremony in 2017. Montie is also preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Maurine Walker Monzingo and A.C. Robinson, as well as brothers Douglas Monzingo and Mike Robinson and nephew, Allen Monzingo.

Montie is survived by his wife, Vivian, nephews Jeff (Sandy) Monzingo and Mike (Suzie) Monzingo, as well as numerous cousins, great-nieces and nephews, extended family and a host of dear friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in his memory to the Old Saltillo United Methodist Church, a rural community church Montie lovingly supported through works and deeds: OSUMC, P.O. Box 208, Saltillo, TX 75482.

A celebration of Montie's life will be held 2:30pm Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Reflections at Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Location. A gathering of family and friends will take place prior to the service, beginning at 1:00pm.



Billy Francis Hendrix

Funeral services for Billy Francis Hendrix, age 77, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the Myra Wilson Chapel with Rev. Fred Lewis officiating. Visitation will be held at 9:30 a.m., prior to service time. Military Honors will be by the Hopkins County Military Coalition. Billy passed away on Monday, April 29, 2019 at Wesley Oaks. Billy was born on March 23, 1942 the son of John "Bill" Reynolds Hendrix and Francis Allene Melton Hendrix. He married Patsy Ruth Regan in Dallas, TX in 2004 and she preceded him in death in 2015. Billy serviced in the United States Air Force during the Viet Nam war. He was a graduate of Texas A&M of Commerce and later went to work for Neiman Marcus as a system analyst. Billy is survived by his sister, Marsha Motes and husband Johnny of Sulphur Springs, niece, Amanda Wilburn and husband Danny of Sulphur Springs and nephew Mark Motes and wife Jennifer of Dallas and great-niece Alissa Walker and great-nephews Ryan Motes and Alex Motes. In addition to his wife he was preceded in death by his parents. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Sylvia Mohler

Funeral services for Sylvia Mohler, age 82, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, May 2, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Jerry Radney officiating. Interment will follow at Sulphur Bluff Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. prior to the service. Sylvia passed away on Friday, April 26, 2019 at Christus Mother Frances in Sulphur Springs. Sylvia was born on August 11, 1936 in Tyler, TX, the daughter of Charles Finley Hodges and Minnie Grace McCain Hodges. She married Howard Mohler on July 23, 1988 in Grand Prairie and he survives. Sylvia worked in retail at one time and was of the Baptist faith. She was also an active in the local Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority. In addition to her husband, Howard, she is survived by sons, Kenneth Laminack and Charles "Chuck" Laminack, daughter, Susan Neal and husband

Bobby, step-son Bill Mohler and wife Bonnie, step-daughter, Gloria Randolph and husband Randy, grandchildren, Patricia Kay Byrd, Pamela Parish, Cody Laminack, Janna Lane and Lyndsey Newton, numerous great grandchildren and extended family and a host of friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, first husband Merle Brandt Laminack, brothers, Mack, Mike and Steve Hodges. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



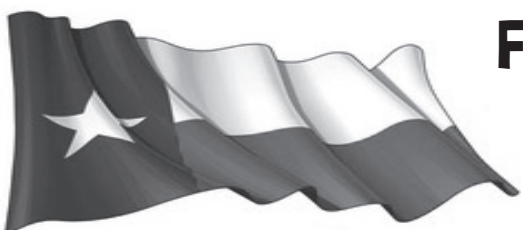
William Jerry Mercer

Funeral service for William Jerry Mercer, age 83, of Sulphur Springs was held at 2:00 P.M on, Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at Central Baptist Church with Bro. Kenneth Rhoades officiating. Interment followed at Memoryland Cemetery, Greenville with Robert Lee, Ricky Godwin, Doyle Starrett, Juan Harrison, Glenn Fiddle, Glenn Nicholson and Donald McQueen serving as Pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Mercer passed away on Sunday Morning, April 28, 2019 at Carriage House Manor in Sulphur Springs, TX.

Jerry was born on July 31, 1935 in DeRidder, LA to Luther and Lula Mercer. He married Wanda Brown Rodgers on November 19, 1971 in Sulphur Springs, TX. After High School graduation in Dry Creek, Louisiana he earned his degree in Theology from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, graduating in 1957. Jerry was loved by all who knew him, and will be forever missed. His favorite scripture was John 14: 1-3.

He is survived by his wife, Wanda, of forty-seven and a half years. She was his help-mate and caregiver; brother, Frank Mercer; sister, Annie Mae Crow; son, Craig (Miriam); step-daughters, Wendy Wagley (Joe), Debra Altenbaumer (Neil); grandchildren, Maggie Mercer, Annie Mercer, Dustin Wagley, Dana Wagley Adams, Casey Altenbaumer DiBenedetto, Eric Altenbaumer; great grandchildren, Braden, Trek, Anna Kate, Abbie, Cayman, Reid; also a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; "Second Mom", Annie Mercer; daughter, Shauna; brothers, L.M. Mercer, Dudley Mercer; sisters, Ora Moses, Jackie O'Neal, Iola McCracken, Ada Vee Reeves and first wife, Myrna.



FAMOUS TEXAN Colleen Hoover

Famous Author from Sulphur Springs, Texas



Colleen Hoover was born December 11, 1979 in Sulphur Springs, Texas, to Vannoy Fite and Eddie Fennell. She grew up in Saltillo, TX, and graduated from Saltillo High School in 1998. In 2000, she married Heath Hoover, with whom she now has three sons. Hoover graduated from Texas A&M-Commerce with a degree in Social Work. She worked various social work and teaching jobs until she began her writing career.

Her love for writing began quite early as she started to write stories from as early as five years old. Of course, her mother encouraged her and she continued writing stories for friends and family for quite some time before going public.

In November 2011, Colleen began writing her first novel, *Slammed*, with no intentions of getting published. She was inspired by a lyric, "decide what to be and go be it," from an Avett Brothers song, "Head Full of Doubt/Road Full of Promise." Because of this, she incorporated Avett Brothers lyrics throughout the story. Colleen Hoover got the inspiration for writing her first book while sitting in at a rehearsal of the play *Cheaper by the Dozen*.

After a few months, her novel was reviewed and given 5 stars by a major book blogger, Maryse Black. After that, sales rapidly increased, and *Slammed* and its sequel, *Point of Retreat*, both made the New York Times Best Seller list.

Writing was one thing, but getting published was another and Colleen Hoover decided to try self-publishing instead of going the traditional route. Her first book, *Slammed*, appeared on Amazon in 2012 and by May was on the New York Times bestseller list. Her books are now issued by a regular publisher and so far she has written ten New York Times bestsellers. She is a very prolific and immensely popular writer

of romance stories aimed at young and new adults and along with consistently appearing on the New York Times bestseller list, four of her novels have been nominated for the Goodreads Choice award. Her book, *Confess*, won this award in 2015.

Writings Slammed

Hoover self-published her debut novel, *Slammed*, in January 2012. *Slammed* first made the New York Times Best Seller list on July 22, 2012 and peaked at #8 in e-book fiction on August 5, 2012. Atria Books picked it up and republished it August 10, 2012.

Point of Retreat

Hoover self-published *Point of Retreat*, the sequel to *Slammed*, in February 2012. *Point of Retreat* first made the New York Times Best Seller list on July 29, 2012 and peaked at #18 on August 5, 2012. Atria Books picked it up along with *Slammed* and republished it on August 10, 2012.

This Girl

Atria Books published *This Girl*, the third and final installment in the *Slammed* series, on April 30, 2013. It made the New York Times Best Seller list on May 19, 2013, where it peaked at #9.

A Father's Kiss

A Father's Kiss is a short story and a follow-up to the *Slammed* series. Hoover published "*A Father's Kiss*" as part of an anthology, called *The Kiss: An Anthology of Love and Other Close Encounters*, on January 15, 2014.

Hopeless

Hoover self-published *Hopeless* in December 2012. On January 6, 2013, it debuted on the New York Times Best Seller list at #19. On January 20, 2013, it peaked at #1 and remained there for three weeks. It was the first self-published novel to ever make #1 on the New York Times Best Seller list, the #1 bestselling self-published e-book of 2013, and the #16 bestselling

e-book overall of 2013. Hoover sold the paperback rights to Atria Books in January 2013, and the paperback released on May 7, 2013. Hoover still owns her e-book rights today. *Hopeless* is about a girl who was home schooled all her life who finally goes to public high school. High school perks get to her and she winds up falling in love with her childhood best friend she no longer remembers.

Losing Hope

Atria Books published *Losing Hope*, the POV companion novel to *Hopeless*, on July 8, 2013. It debuted and peaked at #6 on the New York Times Best Seller list on July 28, 2013.

Finding Cinderella

Finding Cinderella is a free novella that Hoover published as a thank you to her fans for all their continued support. It is a spinoff of *Hopeless* and *Losing Hope* and features several of the same characters. Originally, neither Hoover nor Atria Books had any intention of offering *Finding Cinderella* in paperback form, because the intention was to offer the book for free. However, due to the overwhelming demands from Hoover's fans, Atria Books agreed to publish the novel in paperback form, complete with several bonus features such as a new epilogue and Hoover's own "Cinderella story."

Maybe Someday

Atria Books published *Maybe Someday* on March 18, 2014. It debuted and peaked at #3 on the New York Times Best Seller list on April 6, 2014 and resurfaced on the New York Times Best Seller list on September 14, 2014, at #21.

Maybe Someday is a standalone novel about a young deaf guy and a hearing girl who write music together and end up falling in love with each other even though the boy has a girlfriend. Hoover joined forces with musician Griffin Peterson to create an original soundtrack to accompany

the novel. Readers are able to click links in the e-book or scan a QR code in the paperback, which will take them to a website where they can listen to the music for free.

Ugly Love

Atria Books published *Ugly Love* on August 5, 2014. The book received a Starred Review from Booklist and was on the New York Times Best Seller list for three weeks, where it debuted and peaked at #4 on August 24, 2014. Film rights for the book have recently been purchased by Hackybox Pictures, based out of Toronto, Canada. The project is still in the works, Nick Bateman has been cast as the male lead.

Never Never

A collaboration with Tarryn Fisher.

Confess

Atria Books published *Confess* on March 10, 2015. It debuted and peaked at #9 on the New York Times Best Seller list on March 29, 2015. It has since gone on to become an Awestruck original TV series. Katie Leclerc and Ryan Cooper star in the series.

November Nine

Atria Books published *November Nine* was on November 10, 2015. It debuted #5 on the New York Times Best Seller list on November 29, 2015.

It Ends With Us

Atria Books published *It Ends With Us* on August 2, 2016. Hoover described this novel as "by far the hardest book I've ever written." It received a starred review from Kirkus.

Without Merit

Atria Books published *Without Merit* on October 3, 2017.

Colleen Hoover is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of seventeen novels and novellas. Hoover's novels fall into the New Adult and Young Adult contemporary romance

categories, as well as provides readers with a psychological thriller.

Colleen Hoover is published by Atria Books, a division of Simon & Schuster. Colleen also has several indie titles, including her most recent novel, *Verity*.

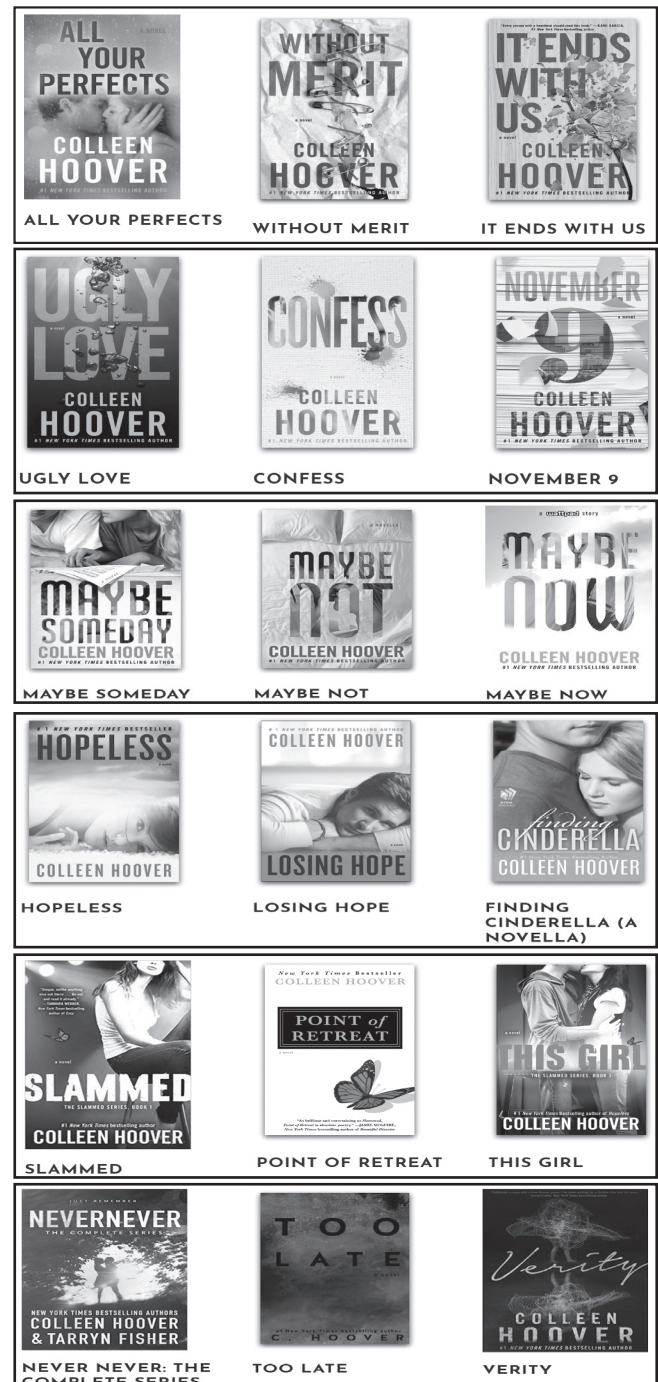
In 2015, Colleen's novel *CONFESS* won the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Romance. That was followed up in 2016 with her latest title, *It Ends With Us*, also winning the Choice Award for Best Romance. In 2017, her title *WITHOUT MERIT* won best romance.

Colleen founded The Bookworm Box, a charity subscription service and bookstore, with her family in 2015. The Bookworm Box is a subscription service that

an exciting opportunity to receive signed novels in the mail each month from authors all over the world. All profits from the subscription service are donated to various charities each month. The Bookworm Box has donated over \$1,000,000 to those in need.

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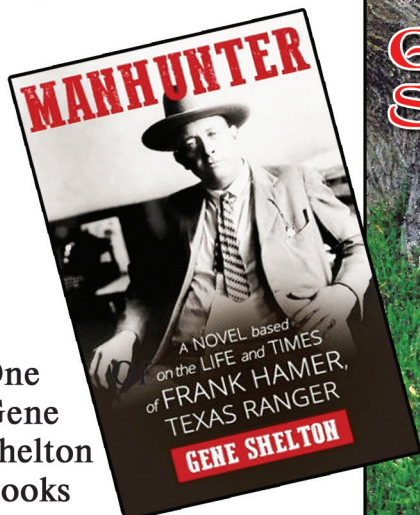
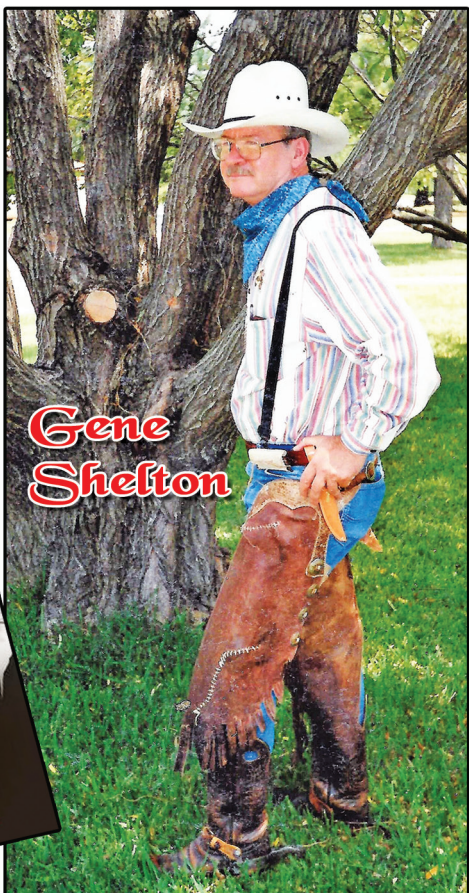
The Bookworm Box is also a specialty bookstore located at 204 Main St. in Sulphur Springs, Tx. All books on the store shelves are donated and signed by the author. If you're an author interested in donating books to the charity, please visit the website.



AT THE CORRAL GATE



Gene Shelton, a Texas native and long-time resident of Sulphur Springs, is the author of 26 published novels, mostly Western and historical fiction. Although his first works were offered to the public through traditional publishing houses in New York, he discovered self-publishing in later life and has uncovered a new life as a writer. He first began writing because the Western paperbacks he was reading in the 1950's lacked authenticity. According to Shelton, his early work as a bull rider, ranch hand and horse trainer on ranches in the Panhandle gained him bruises as well as valuable life experience, which he would later put on the pages of his books. Since novelists usually have to keep a day job, Shelton spent 35 years in the print news business in major Texas cities and after retirement, taught creative writing and appeared as a seminar speaker for writers and historians. Like other authors in recent years, Shelton has experienced the evolution of writing and publishing. He decided to try self-publishing, and has found renewed success in some of his older books by bringing them again to the notice of the public. A series of early novels starring hapless heroes Buck Hawkins and Dobie Garrett re-appeared in 2016 as "How the West Was Lost" and brought further encouragement to him in mining his already-existing works. Now, with the release of Netflix' "The Highwaymen", Shelton's portrayal of Texas Ranger Frank Hamer and his pivotal role in the capture of Bonnie and Clyde has been embraced by the public, and has brought about a revival of book sales for the veteran author. In an April 2019 interview in Texas Highways magazine, Shelton revealed that "the new edition of 'Manhunter' restored 30,000 words cut from the original manuscript when it was published more than 20 years ago by Berkley Books. The publisher eventually relinquished its rights to it, and luckily, Barbara, my wife, had saved the original manuscript on a computer file. That gave me an opportunity to correct some items in the original, bring it up to date, and fill in the holes in the rest of the story". With the popularity of the film starring Kevin Costner and Woody Harrelson, many are discovering "Manhunter, the Life and Times of Frank Hamer" as a very good read about the colorful Ranger. Shelton admits it's nice to be making a few bucks, but he's always mostly enjoyed simply entertaining people with his stories.



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