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# SULPHUR SPRINGS News-Telegram

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## Box of Good Reads

Hover earns readers choice award for best romance

By FAITH HUFFMAN  
News Staff

For the third straight year, local author Colleen Hoover has received a Goodreads Choice Award. This year, her book "Without Merit" was selected as Best Romance.

Hoover, on her Facebook page, noted that when "Without Merit" was nominated by Goodreads for a romance award, she was "nervous" because she wasn't sure that was the best genre for the novel. She said since the book's beginning, its genre "has been a world of confusion." It's been called a young adult novel, a new adult novel, women's fiction and has even appeared on the psychological thriller list.

"I never write books with the idea that they will fit a certain mold. I just write the stories I want to tell and more often than not, the genre is pretty obvious when the book is finished. But sometimes, the genre is not so clear," she explained.

Hoover notes that while the male and female lead characters in "Without Merit" are in a relationship, it's not necessarily at the forefront of the story, which "could fit everywhere and nowhere."

But when the final votes were in, "Without Merit" was named Goodreads members choice for Best Romance of the year.

According to Goodreads, Hoover "put readers under her spell" this year with "Without Merit," a novel in which the "unforgettable heroine risks losing the man she loves after revealing a devastating secret." In this novel, 17-year-old Merit Voss grapples "with guilt, family drama, and a growing web of lies."

Also notable for local residents and natives is the locale described in the book.

"I based the setting of 'Without Merit' in Hopkins County. It opens up

See HOOVER , Pg. 10



"Without Merit" beat out a slew of novels by known romance writers, receiving more than 3,500 more votes than Nora Roberts' "Come Sundown," which came in second with 28,464 votes for the Best Romance of 2017.

Courtesy Photo

## Book signing features local author Davidson

By FAITH HUFFMAN  
News Staff

Fans of CJ Davidson, Kim Holden, Kathryn Perez, Dylan Allen and Skye Warren will have an opportunity this Saturday to meet and have books signed by five authors during the free event being hosted from 1 to 4 p.m.

Those attending the Dec. 9 event are asked to bring one toy still in its packaging to donate for charity in exchange for a \$10 off in-store purchases at The Bookworm Box.

There will also be some prizes those attending may win during the book signing.

"Authors will have books here for purchase, but if you would like to bring books, I don't believe that will be a problem either," according to information released about the December signing.

The five featured authors include four women from Texas and one Colorado native.

See BOOKS , Pg. 10

## Economy Outlook Conference updates on local trends

Guest speaker Froeschle gives overview of current state of labor market

By STEVE SNYDER  
News Staff

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series covering expected trends for the future of the local labor market.

With a mix of what he later called "One part science, a lot of art and a little wizardry," Richard Froeschle gave his best insight to a crowd of attendees at the Hopkins County Civic Center Wednesday as the featured speaker at the annual Economic Outlook Conference jointly hosted by the Sulphur Springs-Hopkins County EDC and the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce. His theme was "Where the jobs are — a fresh look at the Texas and Hopkins County labor market."

EDC President Roger Feagley noted that Froeschle has given about 500 economic presentations around the state. Froeschle

See ECONOMY, Pg. 3

## Infrastructure Annual street paving program ready to roll

By KERRY CRAIG  
News Staff

As city crews near completion of work on Pampa and have finished rebuilding Locust and Moore streets, the city of Sulphur Springs is ready to begin adding new driving surfaces to several additional streets in the near future as part of what was known as the Summer Paving Program.

"This is what we used to call the summer paving program, but it never seems to happen in the summer anymore because the contractors are all working on state contracts," said City Manager Marc Maxwell. "Now we just call it the street improvement program. It's a list of streets that get paved annually."

Streets to receive a new driving surface include: Calvert Street, from Como to Lamar; Junell Street, Vonda Street to the transition to concrete; Beth Lane, Rasure Circle and Rose streets in the Rose Hill subdivision and about 700 feet of Gossett Lane.

Additionally, Woodside Lane in the Woodbridge Addition will have about 400 feet of concrete street removed and replaced.

See STREETS, Pg. 3

Christmas

## Blue Santa needs more helpers

By KERRY CRAIG  
News Staff

The Blue Santa program in Hopkins County got a big boost from the Christmas parade and two days this week on the parking lot at Lowe's, but with all that has been received, Santa still needs help to make sure every child in Hopkins County receives a Christmas gift.

As a part of the Blue Santa effort, a blue barrel is available in the lobby at the News-Telegram as well as many businesses throughout the county. The donated new, unwrapped toys will be given to children who might not otherwise get anything for Christmas.

See SANTA, Pg. 3



Local residents stepped up Monday and Tuesday with gifts of new, unwrapped toys for Blue Santa on the Lowe's parking lot.

Submitted Photo

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# OBITUARIES



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## Arthur Eugene Francis

Memorial services for Arthur Eugene Francis 78, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday Dec. 9, at Wesley United Methodist Church with Pastor Steve Cook officiating. Visitation will be held at 1 p.m. one hour prior to service time at the church.



Arthur Eugene Francis

Arthur died at CHRISTUS Mother Frances hospital in Sulphur Springs. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)

## Vera Ruth Holcomb

Funeral services for Vera Ruth Holcomb, 98, of Dallas, formerly of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8, at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Jimmy Henry officiating.



Vera Ruth Holcomb

Interment will follow at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery with Zachary Holcomb, Ladarius Karnes, Michael Karnes, Devon Aguilar, Henry Foster, Aaron Aguilar, and Tevin Jackson serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearer will be Jackie Foster.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8, prior to service.

Vera died Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 in Wylie. She was born on Jan. 18, 1919, in Sulphur Springs, the daughter of Jesse J. and Lota English Murray. She married William Holcomb. He preceded her in death in 1974.

She is survived by grandchildren Kristy Jackson, and Brandie Smith and husband Kemuel; great-grandchildren, Zachary Holcomb, Jatelyne Pittman, Ladarius Karnes, Taylor Jackson, Makya Karnes, Tevin Jackson, Aaron Aguilar and Devon Aguilar; and great-great-grandchildren Tyriel Holcomb, and Marquice Lewis.

In addition to her husband, Vera is preceded in death by daughter Carrie Ruth Miller; brothers Jessie Jackie Murray, Paul Murray, Gilbert Murray and Milton Murray; and sisters Rebecca Smith, Mary Murray, Juliet Wilson, and Dorothy Foster.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)

## Mary Juanita Preston Griffin

Graveside service for (Mary) Juanita Preston Griffin, 93, of Carrollton, formerly of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Sherley Cemetery with Buddy Wiggins officiating.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Ms. Griffin died Dec. 5, 2017.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at [www.murrayorwosky.com](http://www.murrayorwosky.com)

those major cities and that the labor force growth rate was slower locally than in metropolitan areas. He said that means the county and the city have to do things to keep people in that age range staying locally.

At the same time, Hopkins County is not totally separate from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Froeschle said about 30 percent of workers in the county commute 50 or more miles a day to work, and the great majority of them go west into the Metroplex.

In looking at the change in labor demographics among generations, Froeschle said that in 2014 the Millennial generation had passed Baby Boomers in the number of people in the Texas workforce.

Froeschle used that as an introduction to how income and personal finance issued had changed over the last 40 years, from 1976, the time when the peak of the Baby Boomer generation turned 18, to today. Slightly over half of those in the 18-34 age range, he said, are living at home, which seemed to be surprising to the audience. However, he said that more of that age range were employed today than in 1976 but that men in the group are making 12 percent less money today than then. Women are making 29 percent more.

Froeschle attributed this in large part to more women going to college. He said also that many of these women are entering career paths that aren't as threatened by either recessions or technological obsolescence as in the past.

### INCOME INEQUALITY

Froeschle tied this back to low unemployment levels and other demographic issues.

"The question is not whether you can go get a job but whether you can get a job that supports your family," he said.

To illustrate, he used a simple chart showing the median household income in Texas, adjusted for inflation and a second that showed the average per capita income.

The median, or point at which half of households make more money and half make less, showed modest to moderate growth over the past 30 years, growing at about 10 percent. The average individual income climbed much more rapidly, though.

Froeschle said that a relatively small number of high-paying jobs are seeing rapid increases in pay, skewing the average income line more than the median household income line.

# Economy

Continued from Pg. 1

currently serves as Labor Market Economist with the Texas Workforce Commission in a consulting position. He previously was the Director of the Labor Market and Career Information department of the commission.

With a personable style and a sense of humor, as reflected in the joke about his own profession, Froeschle presented plenty of information about the past, present and future of local and area economic growth set within a framework of what's happening within in the state of Texas. As part of his analysis, he noted some ways in which current local economic development differs from that at the state level and what that might portend for the future.

### CURRENT STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Froeschle noted that current signs all reflected good economic growth and the likelihood of continued growth in the short-term.

A key part of this, Froeschle said, was the quit rate. That's the number of currently employed people who quit jobs to go to others, excluding those who were fired and downsized. Froeschle said the quit rate had been rising steadily the past few years, and that this was a good thing. He said it meant people could find other jobs besides their current ones and weren't afraid to move on. That, in turn, meant new job opportunities for others.

Froeschle said that 3 to 4 percent unemployment was considered practically unobtainable by economists decades ago. He noted that 4 percent unemployment is considered "full employment." Hopkins County, he said, is just over 3 percent, and several oil-producing counties are below that.

However, he noted employers need to have available employees to fill jobs.

### DIGGING INTO DEMOGRAPHICS

Hopkins County is at a demographic disadvantage, Froeschle explained, versus some of Texas' larger cities.

Froeschle put up age-based demographics of the county versus metropolitan Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio. He said that Hopkins County has a relative deficit of people in the 25-54 age range, the prime employment range, versus



Richard Froeschle presented plenty of information about the past, present and future of local and area economic growth set within a framework of what's happening within in the state of Texas at the Economic Outlook Conference at the Hopkins County Civic Center Wednesday.

Staff Photo by Steve Snyder

# Streets

Continued from Pg. 1

"The city has done several sections of Wood-bridge in previous years and left the ones that were good enough," Maxwell said. "Some of those are starting to fail now, and we are returning to Wood-bridge to make some repairs."

The city manager agreed that many streets in the city are in need of attention and said this year's

program will start with the streets that are in worst condition and will continue, "Until we run out of money."

"A lot of the more heavily travelled streets in town are actually state highways, so we're not going to be doing those; we will leave that to TxDOT to do," Maxwell said. "We have a list of streets that need repaving, and we monitor that. Every year we move a group of them to the top of the list that we think are most pressing. We do a capital improvement plan every five years, and this is the fifth year."

# ADVICE

## Help yourself

**Dear Annie:** I'm at my wits' end dealing with my friend's glum, woe-is-me attitude. I've known "Max" since we worked together at a restaurant when I was in college. He was in his early 20s and had grown up in the town. He said he regretted not getting a bachelor's degree. As we became better friends and he saw the projects I was doing for my classes (I was an art major), he became inspired and started making plans to go to community college and then transfer. A year passed; then two. That never happened. (Not a big deal in itself, but I mention it as part of a pattern.)

Six years ago, I graduated and got a job in New York. Max and I have stayed in touch, and he visits about once a year. He's still in the same town, working at a different restaurant. I don't say that judgmentally. I don't think there's anything wrong with it. The problem is that Max does. He's been talking about wanting to change his life for years now, but he takes no steps to do so. I've tried every approach I can think of. I did the supportive thing at first — building up his self-esteem, encouraging him to try therapy, helping him research schools, offering to help get him a restaurant job in New York, etc.

After a couple of years, I realized he wouldn't act on any of this, so I stopped offering solutions and have just shown tough love. For example, when he complains about how none of his friends calls to hang out, I tell him that he can't expect people to always be thinking of him. But nothing seems to get through to him.

Max never asks about what's up in my life, and when I try to tell him, somehow he finds a way of

### Dear Annie

By: Annie Lane



bringing the conversation back to him. I'm starting to feel used and a little resentful, if you couldn't tell. I care about Max and think he's a good guy. But how can you help someone who doesn't

really want to help himself? — **Eeyore's Friend**

**Dear Eeyore's Friend:** You can't. At this point, the kindest thing you can do for Max is to refuse to be his dumping ground any longer. Only after he's got nowhere to unload will he be forced to confront the weight of his problem. A therapist could most likely help him a great deal, and you can encourage him to seek counseling one more time — but disengage and take space after that. Your friendship with Max can only be healthy after he's purged that toxic mindset.

**Dear Annie:** I enjoy your column, and you have great advice. In the case of the "bad" milk, though, not so much. Spoiled milk tastes bad but doesn't make you sick. Sour cream, yogurt, cheese and other dairy products are made from spoiled milk.

I have never thrown away milk. "Bad" milk makes the best pancakes, biscuits, banana bread, coffee cake, muffins and more. If I'm not able to use the spoiled milk right away, I freeze it in small containers for later use. I use it whenever a baking recipe calls for buttermilk. I couldn't bake without it! — **Never Wasteful**

**Dear Never Wasteful:** You make a great point that I failed to bring up. Milk can be used in baked goods after it's no longer good to drink. Waste not, want not.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

## Bake bread, save dough

You may recall a column from a few weeks ago on baking bread, specifically, the book "Artisan Bread in Five Minutes a Day." It's true. I do. And given the number of messages, comments and questions I received in response to that column, I'm excited to know that so many of my readers want to, too!

Rather than address each of your questions individually, I've taken the liberty of compiling and editing them down as follows.

### Q: Can I get started with just the Master Recipe, or do I really need the book?

The creators, Jeff Hertzberg and Zoe Francois, have kindly made the Master Recipe and step-by-step instructions with photos available on their website. So the answer is no, you do not need the book to get started. But you're going to want it eventually. It would make a great Christmas gift!

### Q: Is the Master Recipe gluten-free?

No, it is not. However, Hertzberg and Francois have written a subsequent book, "Gluten-Free Artisan Bread in Five Minutes a Day," with 90 delicious and easy recipes made with gluten-free flours. It's a gorgeous book inside and out.

### Q: Can I freeze the dough?

Yes, you can. Just wrap it very well or seal it in airtight containers anytime after the initial rise. When you're ready to use it, defrost overnight in the fridge, and then shape, rest and bake as usual. It's a great idea, especially with the holidays coming into clear view ahead.

### Q: What tools and equipment do I need to get started?

A: You might be able to get started with what you have already. However, I know now from experience that you'll give yourself the best chance

### MARY HUNT

Everyday Cheapskate

[MARY@EVERYDAYCHEAPSKATE.COM](mailto:MARY@EVERYDAYCHEAPSKATE.COM)



for immediate success (which means you won't give up after one try) when you have the right equipment.

Here's are the basic essential tools (links available to my personal favorites at [www.everyday-cheapskate.com/artisanbread](http://www.everyday-cheapskate.com/artisanbread)):

Dough-Rising Bucket With Lid. A must-have to make artisan bread in this unique method is a dough-rising bucket. Any large container that will fit in your refrigerator and has a lid will do. Ideally, you want one that is square to make better use of space in a refrigerator, which for me is very limited. The bucket and lid are separate items. Don't forget the lid.

Oven Thermometer. One of the secrets of making fabulous artisan bread is oven temperature. It must be precise. But don't worry — even if your oven is not well-calibrated, the only thing necessary to fix that is a good oven thermometer. The book explains and instructs on this. You want a reliable and easy-to-use thermometer.

Pizza Peel. It looks like a big, flat wooden paddle, and yes, it is most often used in making homemade pizza. It is an essential item for making artisan bread. While pizza peels come in metal and wood, I much prefer a wood peel for the artisan bread process. I find that my dough sticks to metal.

I might as well be the president of the Five-Minute Bread Fan Club because of how this book (and all of Jeff and Zoe's books) has changed my life.

Mary invites questions, comments and tips at [mary@everydaycheapskate.com](mailto:mary@everydaycheapskate.com), or c/o Everyday Cheapskate, 12340 Seal Beach Blvd., Suite B-416, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

# Santa

Continued from Pg. 1

More than 300 have signed up with Blue Santa, down from about 400 last year.

Even though the deadline has passed to sign up for Blue Santa, Sheriff Lewis Tatum said applications would be taken at the sheriff's office right up to Christmas.

"We are not going to let any child go without a gift this Christmas," Sheriff Tatum said.

Blue Santa coordinator, Hopkins County Sheriff's Deputy

Sgt. Lee Glenn, said that cash donations are always needed.

"A lot of toys we get will be for small children," he said. "Gifts for the older kids and whatever we are lacking will be purchased with money from the donations."

Any business wanting to have a Blue Santa barrel should contact the sheriff's department at 903-348-4040 or police department at 903-885-7602.

"The goal of Blue Santa is to make sure kids of Hopkins County that otherwise not have a Christmas gift get a gift," Glenn emphasized. "We don't want any child to go without a Christmas."

## State oil revenue shows surge

From News and Staff Reports

AUSTIN — Higher pump prices for gasoline mean higher state sales tax returns as drilling becomes more profitable in more locations in Texas.

That was the big news from Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's office earlier this month. Hegar said recently that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.78 billion in November, 11.1 percent more than in November 2016.

"The double-digit growth in sales tax revenue compared to last year was fueled, in part, by increased collections from oil and natural gas-related sectors," Hegar said. "Recent higher oil prices have spurred increased well drilling and completion."

Specifically, oil and natural gas production taxes for November were \$354.6 million. That is up 39.9 percent from November 2016.

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### DONATE TOYS FOR CHRISTMAS

- What: Blue Santa program
- Where: Lobby of the Sulphur Springs News-Telegram, 401 Church St., Suite B
- When: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

### GET A BARREL

Any business interested in placing a barrel to accept donations to the Blue Santa program should contact the sheriff's department at 903-348-4040 or police department at 903-885-7602.