

- NYT explains its decision to publish **Trump-Ukraine** whistleblower details
- Not coming to a Tarrant campus near you in 2020 — polling places
- Investigative journalism site ThinkProgress shuts down suddenly
- California's new 35-story limit for freelancers
- The final photographs of fallen reporters
- Rather than harnessing the power of drawings, outlets are eliminating them
- US grid becoming more vulnerable to cyberattacks
- Report: Countries with political disinformation campaigns have more than doubled, to 70, in the past two years
- 'There's nothing there': Bahamian reporters weather Dorian
- Op-ed: Bias is good — it just needs a label
- Food safety a concern as federal meat inspectors face overload, burnout
- Chicago's innovative strategy to reduce gun violence: beautify the 'hood
- Investigation: Border wall work threatens 22 Arizona archaeological sites

Next at Fort Worth SPJ ...

- **October:** Meet-and-greet and dinner with newly elected SPJ president **Patti Gallagher Newberry** on how SPJ is defending the public's right to know and what individual journalists can do, 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, On the Border Mexican Grill in Arlington.
- **November:** Student journalists Career Conference with a plethora o' pros and Dallas Morning News Watchdog columnist **Dave Lieber** as keynote, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth • Dinner and discussion on the dearth of news coverage in Arlington, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13, Joe T. Garcia's Restaurant on FW's storied North Side.
- **December:** SPJ Cool Yule party and JPS Hospital book benefit, 6-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, UNT Health Science Center.



*SPJ National
President Patti
Gallagher
Newberry*

Friday, Oct. 11, 6:30–9 p.m.
On the Border Mexican Grill
1-20 frontage road Arlington (between
Matlock & Cooper)
Dinner and program \$17

RSVP by 10/9 to <http://spjnationalpres.eventbrite.com>
RSVP also available through pirtlemk@yahoo.com

QUICK HITS

- Texas Center for Community Journalism free Thursday-Friday workshop, "Improving Newspaper Production and Design: Advanced Techniques to Make Your Design and Production Take Off," sponsored with the Texas Press Association and funded by a grant from the Texas Newspaper Foundation, featuring newspaper production software guru **Kevin Slimp** — 5 p.m. Oct. 24-4 p.m. Oct. 25, Hyatt Place Fort Worth/Cityview. [Info.](#)
- Arlington Conservation Council monthly program, "All Things Arlington" with Dr. **Victoria Farrar-Myers** — 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, Fielder House Museum, Fielder Road at Abram Street. [Info.](#)
- BRIT Hike with GROW Girl, "Japanese Garden!" — 10 a.m. Oct. 5 (every Saturday). [Info.](#) | Bella's Saturday Story Time, "Gotta Go! Gotta Go!" 10:30 a.m. Oct. 5 (first Saturday). [Info.](#)
- GFW PRSA half-day professional development workshop, "Think Like an Olympian" with U.S. Olympian/leadership trainer **Johnny Quinn** — 8 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, Colonial Country Club. [Info.](#)
- BRIT Reads Book Club, "The Forest Unseen" — noon Monday, Oct. 21 (every third Monday). [Info.](#)
- Writers Guild of Texas monthly program, "Tricks or Treats: Delivering on Your Story's Promises" with USA Today bestseller **Jaye Wells** — 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, Richardson Public Library. [Info.](#)
- Urban Alchemy Coffee + Wine Bar, events all month — 403 E. Main St., Arlington. [Info.](#)
- Meetups: [North Texas Editors](#) ... [Bedford Science Fiction Writing](#) ... [DFW Self-Publishing Group](#) ... [GFW Writers](#) ... [Writers Anonymous – Support and Education](#) ... [Fort Worth Chapter – Nonfiction Authors Association](#) ... [Kidlit Critique](#) ... [Trinity Arts Writers Workshop](#) ... [The Writer's Critique](#) ... [Lonestar Sci Fi, Horror, and Fantasy Fans](#) ... [20BooksTo50k - Michael Anderle](#) ... [Fort Worth Area Journalists Meetup](#) ... [The DFW Bloggers Classroom](#)

IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB *Listings in [journalismjobs.com](#) and [dfwcommunicators.com](#) appear in this report.* ... The Community News in Aledo seeks stringers to cover the Aledo City Council and Aledo ISD board meetings, plus short-term help writing features for its annual Parker County guide. Contact publisher **Randy Keck**, rkeck@community-news.com, 817-441-7661 or 817-441-8091. ... "In anticipation of future openings, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram is seeking applications for various reporter positions." Bachelor's degree required, experience in a digital-first daily news environment preferred. [Info.](#) ... The Presbyterian Night Shelter, the largest homeless shelter in Tarrant County, serving approximately 1,000 men, women and children each night, seeks a director of communications. [Info.](#) ... UT Arlington has an opening for a social media manager. [Info.](#)

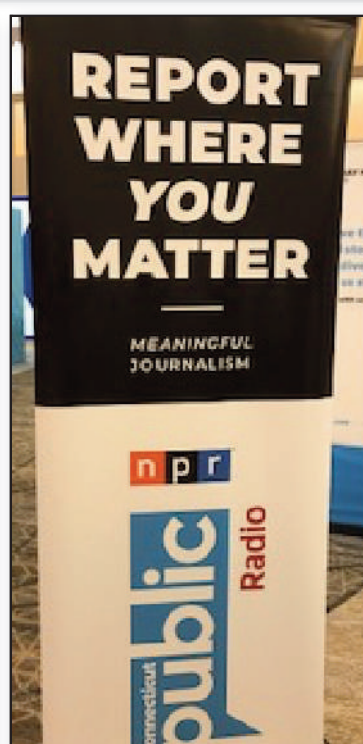
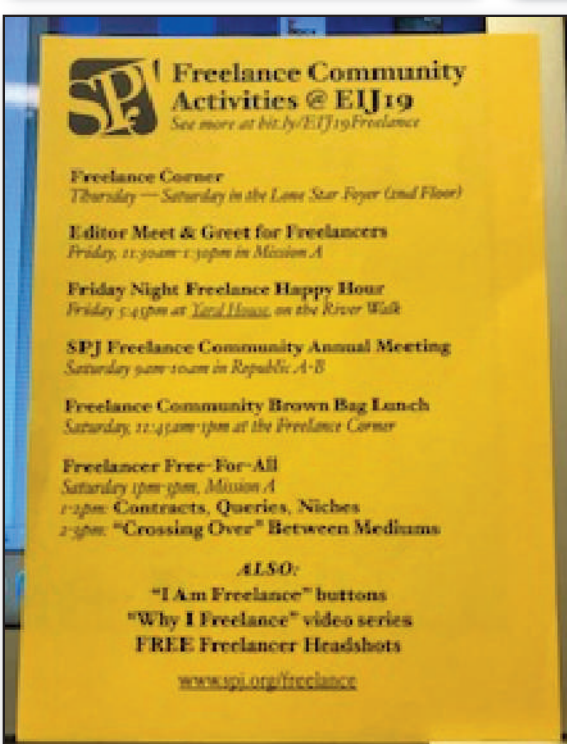
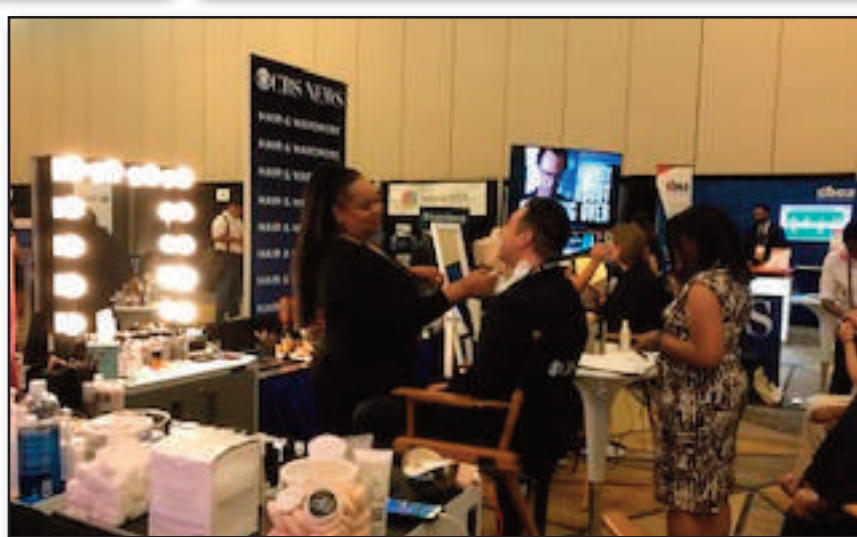
[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

In these times when journalists are disrespected, condemned, ridiculed, assaulted and constantly face layoffs, pay cuts and worse, let it be known that we honor and support journalists and journalism. Keep at it. Your work is important to the people and essential to democracy itself. - Roger Summers

* In the days of hot type, a chaser was a late edition of the newspaper for which the presses were not stopped until the plates were ready. Those pages were said to be "chasing" a running press.

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Linda Hall, best person in America, honored with Wells Key

On the convention floor

SAN ANTONIO — After reconnecting at the Excellence in Journalism 2019 River Walk opening reception (margaritas! mariachis! Tex-Mex!), members of nine SPJ chapters — Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston pro; Abilene Christian, University of Oklahoma, San Antonio College, Tarleton State, UT Arlington and Texas State campus — hit the ground running the next morning for Region 8’s annual gathering.

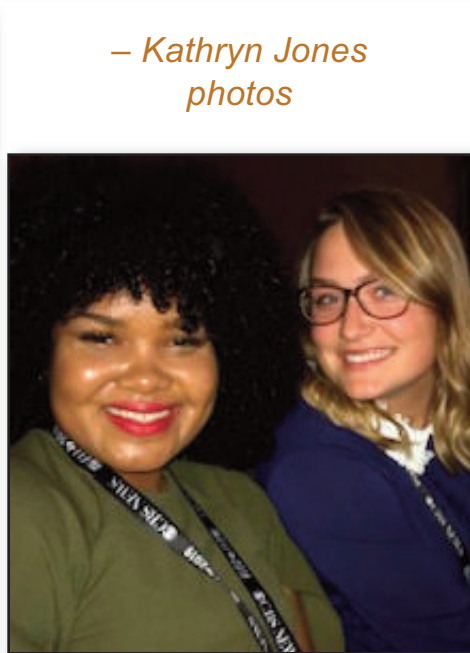
Discussion centered around the 2020 regional conference, April 24-25 at Texas State University in San Marcos. Everything begins the Friday evening before the conference with a reception at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment on Spring Lake, known for its glass-bottom-boat tours.

After the regional meeting, five SPJ members met to further develop the Region 8 Freelance Network. The next step is compiling networkers’ names and contact information into a directory and posting it online on SPJ’s Freelance Community page.

Region 8’s **Yvette Walker** of the University of Oklahoma and Fort Worth SPJ member **Rebecca Aguilar**, a Dallas-area TV commentator and freelance reporter, will serve on the next national board. Walker was re-elected at large, and Aguilar was elected secretary-treasurer. Aguilar has served as chair of SPJ’s Diversity Committee.

A goal for the coming year is to add 500 members net. Membership is only 60 percent of what it was 11 years ago. A spring drive that offered discounted memberships resulted in 827 new and renewing members, a jump from the same period last year when 148 new members joined and 296 members renewed.

below from left, row 1: Tarleton chapter president **Makenzie Plusnick** and VP **Diana Valdez**; **Scott Pelley**, CBS News | *row 2:* **John Quiñones**, ABC News; Tarleton chapter members **Mykel Jones** and **Sarah Hayner** | *row 3:* **Ed Gallagher**, **Eddy Gallagher**, **Kim Pewitt-Jones** and **Kay Pirtle**, Fort Worth SPJ

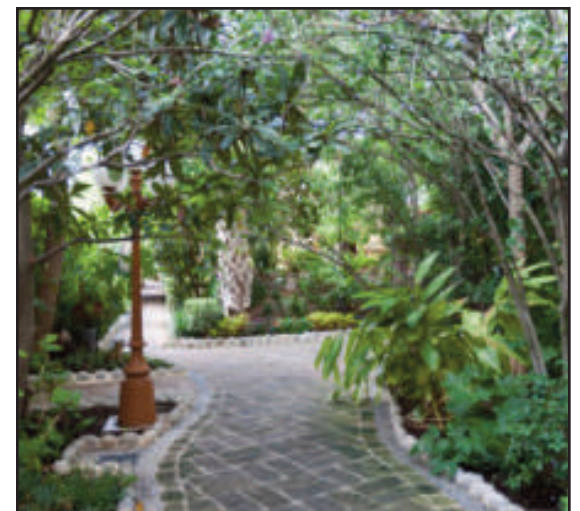
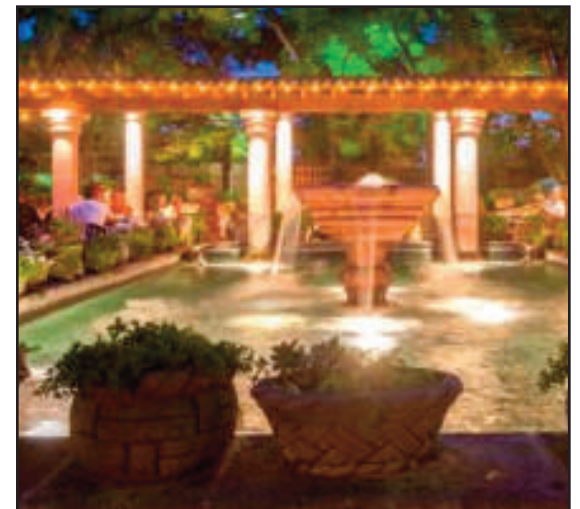


— Kathryn Jones photos



more eChaser on p. 3

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POWER TO THE PEOPLE DMN Watchdog columnist **Dave Lieber** runs the gamut, again.

- **Amon Carter's** old Fort Worth rivalry with Dallas still haunts us.
- [A new Texas law orders a school board president to quit his job; in defiance, he says no.](#)
- [Texans pay more for electricity now than other major markets — blame a wholesale price record.](#)
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- [As a key figure in the JFK assassination, he was one of the most famous police detectives of all time.](#)
- [How to avoid crooks who use the confusion of the Texas electricity marketplace to steal your money.](#)
- [A man and his dying watchdog bring out the best in a group of concerned folks who don't look away.](#)

PEOPLE & PLACES

Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth partnered with Rambler staffer **Hope Allison** at Texas Wesleyan University to decorate her dorm for the 2019 school year using only materials found at Goodwill stores. An engaging occupant's-eye view is [here](#). ... Dallas Morning News reporter (and UTA Shorthorn ex) **Eva-Marie Ayala** is among 30 journalists selected for the fourth annual Leadership Academy for Diversity in Digital Media, a partnership of The Washington Post and the Poynter Institute. They will go to Poynter's campus in St. Petersburg, Fla., for intensive training Oct. 13-18 led by **Carla Broyles**, Post senior editor for recruiting and training, and **Sharif Durhams**, senior editor at CNN Digital.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION UPDATE: [FOI Foundation of Texas urges media, public access at immigration court proceedings.](#) ... **Sen. Kirk Watson:** [Redistricting is difficult and needs sunshine.](#) ... When construction of what will be the tallest office tower in downtown Austin ends in 2021, the taxpayer-funded state agency charged with overseeing retirement benefits for 1.6 million Texas teachers and school employees will be among the first tenants. But the cost to taxpayers for the high-profile office space isn't publicly known, because the Teacher Retirement System of Texas has been successful so far in its legal effort to keep secret how much it has agreed to pay for the estimated 100,000 square feet it has leased there. [Details.](#)

OVER & OUT | [John Dycus](#), Fort Worth SPJ

Everybody has a **Jon McConal** story. **Donna Darovich's** is pretty near perfect. *On my last day at the Star-Telegram I had a quiet dinner with my best S-T friends, who included Bunky. As we left, he slipped a paper napkin in my hand, but I didn't know he had written something on it until I got to the car. It said, "To my friend Donna, whom had I never known, I would never have laughed as long or as well." It was typical McConal — short, to the point, and words that meant something. I still have the napkin nearly 40 years later. It reminds me of the importance of sharing laughter with friends.* McConal, a Star-Telegram legend (night police reporter, farm-and-ranch writer, general assignment reporter, night city editor, contributing editor, three-days-a-week columnist), died Sept. 5. The consummate wordsmith, he wrote books with evocative titles like "A Walk Across Texas" and "Bridges Over the Brazos," and he profiled ordinary people who did extraordinary things or maybe who needed extraordinary help. He so liked column writing, he told me once, because he could get some poor soul's plight into the public domain, where a benefactor might read and react and make a difference. [He left behind a legion of folks who loved him for that. And I'll tell you this: He loved them right back.](#)

SPJ factoids: Immigration courts have been set up in tents in two Texas border cities, Laredo and Brownsville, as part of the so-called "Remain in Mexico" program. Under U.S. Department of Justice rules, immigration court hearings are generally open to the public, although [hearings held in the tent courts will not be open to the public or press.](#) Hearings can be [viewed at immigration courts in San Antonio](#) where judges will be conducting them via video call. SPJ is calling on the Trump administration to [immediately allow unconditional media access](#) to the courts. ... The New York Times published an [essay](#), adapted from an upcoming book written by two Times reporters, containing a third allegation of sexual misconduct against Justice **Brett Kavanaugh**. [Missing from the essay](#), although it was later updated online, was that the woman supposedly involved in the new allegation wouldn't corroborate the story or be interviewed, and her friends said she didn't remember it. Others think the story [should have been bigger news](#) and featured on page 1, not in the Sunday Review. The Times' deputy editorial page editor, **James Dao**, attempted to [answer some of the questions](#) about how the essay was handled. ... [Behold, the collaborative pop-up newsroom.](#) The playbook includes "budgeting, organizational concerns, who's going to be involved in the collaboration, communication needs, where newsroom partners will be located and how to work with competitors," says the Reynolds Journalism Institute's **Jennifer Nelson**. ... **Christiane Amanpour** explains to Variety how [Donald Trump made journalism more dangerous](#): "Then when you have the president of the United States attacking free and fair and independent journalists in the United States ... that has a knock-on effect in all the other countries where they're run by authoritarians or dictators, and where they have no duty to their journalists or to any other journalists. They would much rather lock us up or have us silenced, and it gives them a pass. So in that regard, danger has increased exponentially as well in the last couple of years."

Caught my eye. [This year's ozone hole could be the smallest it has been in 30 years.](#) ... [More US coal-fired power plants are decommissioning as retirements continue.](#) ... [Ethiopia plants 350 million trees in one day.](#) ... [Scotland produced enough wind energy for double its homes in last 6 months.](#) ... [US and Canada in crisis with 3 billion birds lost since 1970.](#)

Closing words: "You can pray until you faint, but unless you get up and try to do something, God is not going to put it in your lap." — **Fannie Lou Hamer**

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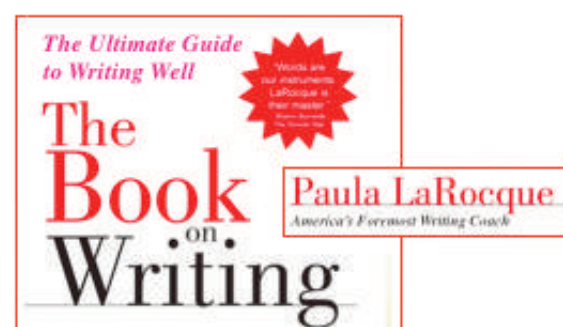
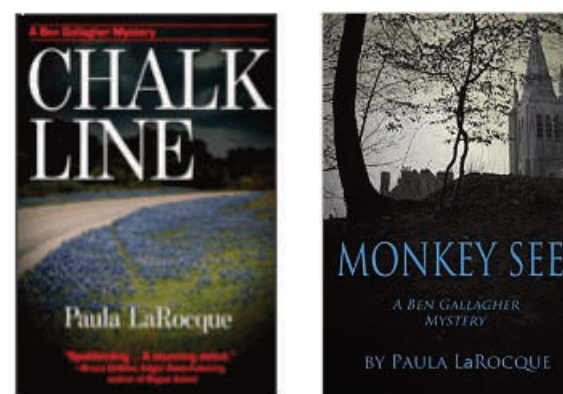
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