More than 170 news outlets sign on to Covering Climate Now.

REGION 8 FREELANCE NETWORK

Freelancers from SPJ Region 8 are invited to attend the first meeting of the new regional freelance network during the SPJ Excellence in Journalism national convention in San Antonio, Sept. 3-5. Meeting will be 10 a.m. Sept. 5, immediately after the Region 8 committee meeting in the Mission B Room, second floor, of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in downtown San Antonio. And it’s never too late to join the network; in fact, any SPJ member can join anytime. Contact Kathryn Jones, Region 8 coordinator, at kathrynjones1956@gmail.com.

QUICK HITS


• BRIT Growing Together, “Hike with GROW Girl” — 10 a.m. Sept. 7 (every Saturday). Info.

• Writers Guild of Texas monthly program, “Modern Fiction: From ‘a Box to a Business Imperative’ with Amy George — American Heart Association — 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, Colonial Country Club. Info.


• Writers Guild of Texas monthly program, “Strong Female Characters” with Melissa Lenhardt — 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19, Mod Op Dallas, a full-service digital ad agency, 2225 Main St. Info.


• Urban Alchemy Coffee • Wine Bar, events all month — 403 E. Main St., Arlington. Info.

• Meetups • North Texas Editors — Bedtime Science Fiction Writing — DFW Self-Publishing Group • SPAW Writers • Writers Anonymous • Support and Education — Fort Worth Chapter, Region 8, SPJ — 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10 (every Tuesday). Info.

• GFW PRSA networking meeting, “Modern Philanthropy: From ‘a Box to a Business Imperative’” with Amy George — American Heart Association — 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10 (every Tuesday). Info.


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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 Sumners

In the days of hot type, a chaser was a late edition of the newspaper for which the plates were ready. Those pages were said to be “chaing” a runn in g press.

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GET A JOB Listings in journalismjobs.com and dfwcommunicators.com appear in this report. Work in the city that has the largest nutcracker collection in the world! The Segun Gazebo in the Texas Hill Country has intriguing news, deep-dive enterprise and investigations ready for the right new staff writer to come help cover one of the fastest-growing areas in the state. Info. Smaller Broadcast Group property KGBX/KBXB in Harlingen is on an opening for a full-time sports on-air sports director. Requirements include two years of on-air, live-shot experience and familiarity with a team environment. Info. Warahachie Media Group, publisher of the Daily Light and Midland Mirror, seeks a community news writer. Circulation area includes all of Ellis County with a focus on Midlothian and Waxahachie. Social media contributions via Facebook and Twitter are a part of the position. Plus photography skills with a lot of photoshopping skills. Recent college graduates will receive strong consideration. Info. SMU seeks an associate director of strategic communications. Info. Phinizy Home Improvements in Plano, a five-time nominee of America’s Favorite Home Builder, seeks a project manager. Requirements include a B.A. or B.S. in advertising or related field and “love all things digital.” Info.
POWER TO THE PEOPLE

It's hot out there. Do you know what your kWh rate is? More important, perhaps, do you know when your electricity contract expires? Here’s the story Dallas Morning News Watchdog columnist Dave Lieber did on how to shop for electricity and on companies that help you shop and on Griddy, which for $10 a month will shop for your electricity. Griddy promises prices about two cents lower than the state average because it buys and then resells power at the wholesale price. But the plan’s not working.

• How you can use Texas’ new ‘Super-Duper Anti-Spoofing Law’ to stop phone scammers from calling you
• Should you apply for cash or free credit monitoring in the multimillion-dollar Equifax settlement?
• Answers to your questions about used car dealers, property taxes, robocalls and other annoyances
• Is your government running up the score in the last days of the old property tax law by raising taxes?

ON CAMPUS

Big excitement for The Shorthorn, UT Arlington’s newspaper. It is one of three national finalists in the College Media Association’s Pinnacle Awards for Four-Year College Media Outlet of the Year. Shorthorn reporters and editors also are nominated for best editorial (staff), best editorial cartoon (Barb Kitchens), best magazine news spread (Braulio Tellez), best breaking news coverage (Samantha Douty) and best online ad (Jesus Lemus). Winners will be announced at the national CMA convention in Washington, D.C., in October.

Roger Summers dips into his private stash to bring forth this: If you have kinship with the Star-Telegram — S-T retiree, S-T employee, S-T whatever — this bookmark is our little special gift for you, save for the cost of a first-class stamp. We think it’s rather special. If you want this bookmark, private message us on FB and we will tell you where to send a large, stamped, self-addressed envelope to get one. More here.

READY, SET, REPORT! The Texas Wesleyan Rambler brain trust — Elizabeth Lloyd, LaTerra Wair, editor-in-chief Ashton Willis, Arely Chavez and Hannah Onder, from left — power up to start the fall semester.
Can't keep a good man down (like anyone trying)

Fort Worth’s answer to Broadway — or the Internet — will be “AMON: The Ultimate Texas” for four dates in September — 20-21 and 7-8. “We’re calling it The LaRocque Family catalog exhibit,” says producer Rick Blair of Artisan Center Theater, which world-debuted the play with 17 shows in 17 days at Artisan’s Educational Theatre. “The play earned its way downtown.” Written by Danish-Latino author Kelvin Dilks of Dallas Morning News and directed by Connie Sanchez, the play stars Kalvin Dilks and Mary Carter.

THANKS TO BYDONOR — David Hammon, Finch & Co., Larry and Connie LaRocque, Louise and Ron Williams, The Midlothian Country Club, and The Ruby Room.

PEOPLE & PLACES

New member Bianca Montes is now senior editor of The Dallas Morning News and economy section ...

SPJ Region 8 coordinator Kathleen Jimenez was music festival coordinator at the creative arts district.

Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas update: Texas Education Agency officials have recommended that a state-appointed governing team replace the Houston ISD’s locally elected school board after a six-month investigation found instances of alleged misconduct by some trustees, including violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act, inappropriate influencing of vendor contracts and making false statements to investigators. New and reinstated members:

Laurie James, freelance ... Bianca Montes, D Magazine ... Tabitha Redder, freelance ... Cheryl Smith, I Messenger Media

OVER & OUT

| John Dreye, Fort Worth SPJ |

SPJ Board of Directors statement on Fox sponsorship at Excellence in Journalism 2019.

America’s two largest newspaper publishers, Gannett and Gatehouse Media, are merging in an effort to combat declining circulation and advertising revenue. The transaction — $2 billion total value — would formally close by the end of 2019. Although Gatehouse is the acquiring partner, the new company will operate under the Gannett name and preserve the USA Today brand. It is unclear how newsrooms will be impacted. ...

SPJ’s Baltimore Sun journalist walks in. The Evening Star-Telgraph had three deadlilnes. The first was the 1-Star. The second was the 2-Star. The third was the 3-Star. Occasionally a major development after the 3-Star deadline would rush that news into the paper. We called that a chaser. • For example, we had been covering a murder trial and the verdict came in an hour after the 3-Star deadline, the chaser would still get into thousands of papers. • I remember one chaser story with a twist. A jury in a murder trial told the judge they were going to lunch. ‘They’ll be back, your honor,’ said the bailiff. The bailiff took the jury to lunch. Just minutes after the jury returned, the former knocked on the jury room door and informed the court it had reached a verdict. We rushed the verdict into a chaser. • It took a while to figure out the timing. It seemed to me that the jury could have given its verdict before it went to lunch, since it returned a verdict so soon after it got back. Yes, the bailiff told me. But the jury wanted to have lunch one more time at Pancho’s on the county dime. ...

Always keep your word. Your mama taught you that. Last month I promised pictures from the pool party at Buddy and Kim Jones’ home. Didn’t happen. Too much material. Next month. Really.

SPJ Factoids: The Baltimore SunJiminez out an editorial to Donald Trump’s tweethis Baltimore “is a disgusting, rot and riotinfested mess.” Peter Jensen, who wrote the piece, said response was positive. Traffic to the Sun’s website was double what’s typical on a Saturday, and subscription newspaper is in a free press/defamation case regarding the publication of a report and photo. A Massachusetts Superior Court ruled for the plaintiff, and the case could reach the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court soon. ... There is no greater agony than carrying false hopes. — Maya Angelou