QUICK HITS
- "Butterflies in the Garden" (co-host Fort Worth Botanic Garden), the largest exhibit of live, exotic butterflies in North Central Texas — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, including Sundays, Feb. 29-April 12, Fort Worth Botanic Garden conservatory, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd. in Trinity Park. Info.
- Bella's Saturday Storytime — 10:30 a.m. March 7 (first Saturday). Info.
- Writers Guild of Texas monthly program, "Enter Stage Right: Playwriting Basics" with playwright and award-winning short story author David Douglas — 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, 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... Minnestar Sci Fi, Horror, and Fantasy Fans... 20BooksTo50k - Michael Anderle... Fort Worth Area Journalists Meetup... DFW Bloggers Classroom... The White House wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax....

IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB
Listings in journalismjobs.com and dfwcommunicators.com appear in this report.
- The San Antonio Express-News will launch a tabloid in the next few months. A full-time deputy business editor is needed to oversee most aspects. Minimum requirements include 5-7 years editing experience and 3-5 years business reporting. Info.
- The Dallas Morning News seeks freelance reporters to help cover 10 North Texas areas and an assistant hub editor to join its breaking news team. Info.
- The Denton Record-Chronicle seeks a police/courts reporter. Info.
- Dallas-based (Knox/Henderson area) PR firm Dala Communications has an opening for an account executive. Info.
- The ad agency ModOp Dallas seeks a digital campaign coordinator. Info.

Texas Gridiron Scholarships: Apply by Feb. 7
February Special: Join SPJ today and save 33 percent

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.

How The New York Times verified the Iran missile- strike footage
As foundations grow more powerful in media, how might they influence it?

What trends in the English language say about culture

The White House wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax wax...
POWER TO THE PEOPLE

They got Ben! We could be next

- If the brilliant Benjamin Franklin could get scammed, what chance do the rest of us have?
- Former ‘Seinfeld’ TV writer says dealing with AT&T would have made a classic episode.
- Texas governments adjust to new state law that gives you more power to talk back.
- 2019 year in review: tips, scoops, money savers.
- These ‘citizen watchdogs’ fought to expose wrongdoing and succeeded.
- Quick quiz: How much do you know about Texas property tax law?

Cool Yule 2

Smiles in the aisles! More memories made at the SPJ holiday party/JPS book benefit/Star-Telegram alumni reunion. Enjoy the complete photo set.

EDUCATION

Want to take the next step in your communication career? Consider teaching at the university level. The Bob Schieffer College of Communication offers two master’s programs — Communication Studies and Strategic Communication — that help students become effective, problem-solving communicators and researchers. TCU associate dean Julie O’Neil: “Why TCU? Most students receive full tuition support, and many more receive a monthly stipend to assist professors with research and teaching. Classes are intentionally small, so professors closely mentor and collaborate with students. And the professors are leading scholars and experts in their field, actively researching and sharing thought leadership.”

The Texas Center for Community Journalism is moving from TCU to Tarleton State University in Stephenville after the retirement of the center’s founding director, Dr. Tommy Thomason. Dan Malone and SPJ Region 8 coordinator Kathryn Jones, both j-teachers at Tarleton, will be co-directors, and Thomason will remain involved as director emeritus. TCCJ provides free workshops and professional support to community journalists, who keep so many Texans informed. Thomason began his journalism career in the early 1970s with the Associated Press as a sportswriter in Arkadelphia and Little Rock, Ark. He also worked in public relations in Dallas and as a copywriter for several regional magazines. Under the headline “TCCJ is moving, but our mission to support Texas community newspapers continues,” he pens a farewell laced with hope.

PEOPLE & PLACES

The Fort Worth-based full-service ad agency J.O. writes that it received recognition for six of its projects at Greater Fort Worth PRSA’s 2019 Worthy Awards honoring best work in the public relations and marketing industry. See all of the 2019 winners here.
Colorado comedians have had a tough time with their delivery, and it’s not just because of the pandemic. They’ve been told to speed up their delivery when they perform. But if they do, they risk losing their comedic timing.

“Comedians are like athletes,” comedian Dave Lieber said. “You have to maintain a certain level of speed to keep your audience engaged. But if you go too fast, they might lose the stammer, I’m just another slightly amusing accountant.” — Dave Lieber

Under proposed legislation, administrators at Virginia public middle schools, high schools and colleges could choose to ban the teaching of “ Diseased, Violent, and Dangerous” from the classroom. The bills were introduced in response to high-profile incidents in the state last year. The legislation would also require schools to provide training for teachers on how to address such content in the classroom.

The bills are part of a broader trend in state legislatures to address what they see as a growing threat to students’ safety and well-being. There have been concerns about the rise of onlineyw. and the impact of social media on mental health. The bills, which have drawn criticism from advocacy groups, are expected to be debated in the Virginia General Assembly in the coming months.

Described as an "antidote" to the “diseased, violent, and dangerous” issue, the bill is the latest in a series of efforts by states to address what they see as a threat to the mental health and well-being of their students. These efforts have included programs to improve mental health services, increased funding for mental health initiatives, and efforts to reduce stigma around mental health issues.

Despite these efforts, there remain concerns among educators and advocates about the effectiveness of these measures. There is a need for ongoing dialogue and collaboration to ensure that all students have access to the support they need to thrive.

The bills are also likely to draw criticism from advocates who argue that focusing on what is "diseased, violent, and dangerous" is a mischaracterization of the issues facing students today. They argue that a more holistic approach is needed to address the complex issues facing young people today.

In the meantime, educators and parents are working to support students and ensure they have the resources they need to thrive. There is a need for ongoing dialogue and collaboration to ensure that all students have access to the support they need to thrive.