

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.

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE



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- Next at [Fort Worth SPJ](#) ...
- **March:** Garage Sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 20-21; proceeds further participation in the SPJ Region 8 Conference
 - **April:** 17th annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet, Friday, April 17, Rolling Hills Country Club, Arlington

GARAGE SALE

Friday & Saturday

March 20 & 21

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

3528 Smith Barry Road
Pantego, TX 76013

To donate items or help with the sale, contact Kay Pirtle at pirtlemk@yahoo.com or Karen Gavis at 817-821-3547.

Fort Worth Professional Chapter
spjfw.org

Proceeds benefit the Region 8 Conference in San Marcos, TX. Unsold items will be donated to Mission Arlington.

QUICK HITS

- Arlington Conservation Council monthly program, "The Importance of Being Outdoors" with Texas Master Naturalist and Fort Worth Audubon Society past president **Charley Amos** — 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, Fielder House Museum, Fielder Road at Abram Street, Arlington. [Info.](#)
- BRIT "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, through April 12, Fort Worth Botanic Garden conservatory, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd. in Trinity Park. [Info.](#) | Bella's Saturday Story Time, "A Butterfly is Patient" — 10:30 a.m. March 7 (first Saturday). [Info.](#) | BRIT Reads Book Club, "Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm" — noon March 16 (third Monday). [Info.](#)
- GFW PRSA networking meeting, "We All Learned: A Crisis Communication Case Study," with **Wini King** and **Kim Brown**, APR, Cook Children's Health Care System, and **Sandra Brodnicki**, APR, and **Gigi Westerman**, APR, Fellow PRSA, The S&G Group — 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, Colonial Country Club. [Info.](#)
- Urban Alchemy Coffee + Wine Bar, events all month — 403 E. Main St., Arlington. [Info.](#)
- Meetups: [Fort Worth Chapter – Nonfiction Authors Association](#) ... [Trinity Arts Writers Workshop](#) ... [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 San Antonio Business Journal seeks a "driven and innovative" data reporter. Requirements include bachelor's degree and 1-3 years of journalism or equivalent experience, with a track record of reporting on business data. Familiarity with public-company, bank and regulatory agency filings a plus. [Info.](#) ... The Society of Petroleum Engineers in Houston seeks a managing editor to lead a team of 11 professionals — writers, editors, print production, layout specialists — who put out one print magazine (with additional online content), four digital-only magazines and several e-mail newsletters. [Info.](#)

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

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Celebrate springtime and journalism in the Hill Country at the SPJ Region 8 Conference, April 24-25 at Texas State University in San Marcos, sponsored by the SPJ Texas State Student Chapter. San Antonio Express-News columnist/editorial writer **Cary Clack**, a man known for both wit and wisdom, will keynote the Saturday luncheon. After lunch, the annual Mark of Excellence collegiate awards will be announced. Throughout the day, speakers from Google, IRE, the Census Bureau, the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas and other media organizations will conduct sessions. The night before, 6-8 p.m., a mixer kick-starts the weekend at the Meadows Center at Spring Lake. Go [here](#) for information on registration, lodging and accommodations at the [Hilton Garden Inn](#).



PEOPLE & PLACES UTA Shorthorn ex **Tom Fox**, a 30-year veteran of The Dallas Morning News, was named Photographer of the Year in the DMN's annual Journalists of the Year Awards. Fox's most recent epic moment occurred in June last year when he encountered a gunman outside the Earle Cabell Federal Building: ["He's going to look at me around that corner" and shoot.](#)



The night of shattered glass and twisted walls

Video historian **Jonny Goodday** has a compelling catalog of work, none of the elements more riveting — in downtown Fort Worth! in the spring! — than his archival look back at the March 28, 2000, tornado. Two people died. Eighty were injured. Damage topped \$600 million. At the Star-Telegram, sirens blared and the elevator filled with dirt and folks headed to the ghost basement to (successfully) ride out the storm with the large, long-dead printing presses. Staff photographers **Laurie Ward**, one of the paper's photo editors (and a UTA Shorthorn ex), and Carolyn Bauman (now **Carolyn Bauman Cruz**) went the opposite direction, to the roof, to see what they could see. Ward: "We pushed open the door, and there. it. was, right on us. It was stunning, and terrifying. Carolyn braced herself and squeezed off a few frames — the best picture ran page one the next morning — then we just stood there and looked at it. Then it was like, 'Yep, we're good,' and we ducked inside."

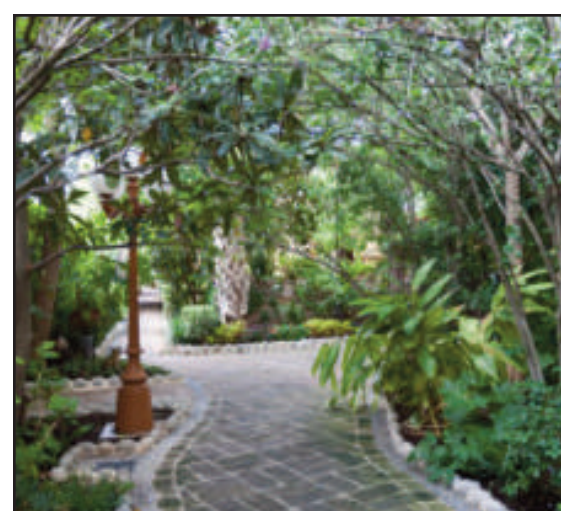
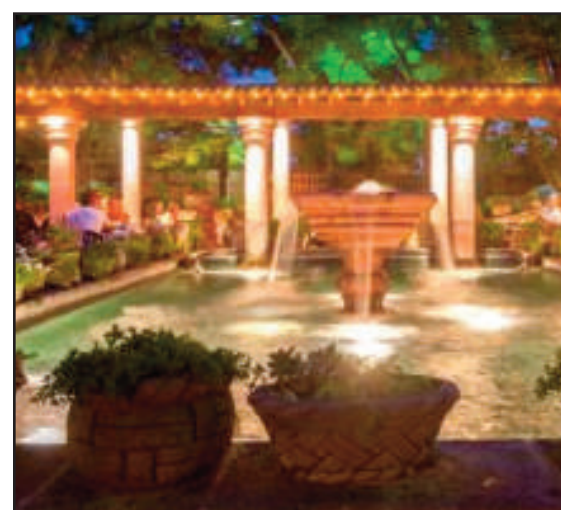
F.O.I.F.T. UPDATE: Spending on each of the last two inaugurations eclipsed that of any other in Texas for at least 40 years, even when adjusted for inflation. A spokesman for the governor has said no state dollars were spent on the festivities. Personnel costs, including payroll and fundraising, skyrocketed during Gov. **Greg Abbott's** two swearing-in celebrations, dwarfing spending in those categories during the **Rick Perry** era, which spanned more than a decade, according to records obtained by The Texas Tribune. [Details.](#)

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

Randy Keck, The Community News, Aledo ... **Sandra K. Murray**, freelance copy editor

[more eChaser on p. 3](#)

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— Kay Pirtle photos



Takeaways, Jan. 22: ‘Who’s covering Arlington’s “news desert”?’

Chapter membership VP **Robert Bohler**: With almost 400,000 residents, Arlington is an anomaly — despite its size, a great number of residents commute to the larger metropolitan areas on either side. Their immersion in other cities results in a significant lack of community within Arlington.

- That lack of engagement is reflected in low readership for public affairs stories, thus reduced coverage of major issues. Jan. 1-20, only 13 Arlington-related stories appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, mostly food reviews and police roundups.
- Small news operations that do cover the city may be reluctant to take on the heavy public affairs responsibility because of high production costs and low readership. The same costs can be applied to producing numerous shorter stories with greater reader interest.
- Much of a daily paper’s usual fare has been cannibalized. Free information from specialty providers makes it difficult for newspapers to charge for it.
- In response, the city of Arlington has expanded beyond traditional media relations to promote its programs. An eight-member staff uses YouTube, Nextdoor, Facebook and local cable TV to connect with the community. The city relies on Twitter primarily to pique reporters’ interest .

Chapter executive secretary **Kay Pirtle**: “**Jay Warren, Zack Maxwell, Reese Oxner** and **Juan Ibarra** really have their finger on the pulse of the community, and moderator **O.K. Carter** kept everything moving with good questions on how to boost readership. Zack said his team has spent days investigating a story and put it on line and it gets 600 hits; then they do a story on the 10 best hamburger places in town and tally thousands of hits. With all the cold, drizzly, nasty weather going on, we had 38 journalists ready to be informed. Two joined on the spot. Chapter president **Karen Gavis** said she’d never seen our room at Joe T. Garcia’s so full. People were discussing current events, laughing, renewing old friendships and having a wonderful time. That’s the SPJ I know and LOVE.”

OVER & OUT | John Dycus, Fort Worth SPJ

The sudden loss of **Angie Summers** is a crusher. She was whip smart, accomplished on multiple platforms, funny, kind, generous, civic minded. She loved the University of Mississippi (did she ever), print journalism, Mission Arlington and all things Arlington, Texas. She loved her mama. Her friend



Donna Darovich: “Angie and I were co-announcers for the Arlington Fourth of July parade for many years. We gave up wearing big-brim decorated hats because of the wind, but we thought we still looked pretty good. She was so funny and so smart, and I’ll take a while to believe she’s gone.” Precisely. ...

SPJ national notes that the **SPJ Freelancer Directory** was mentioned in a court document regarding an **alleged plot to threaten journalists**. Members of a violent extremist group allegedly recommended the directory as a way to identify journalists to target. Nastional says it has no evidence to suggest the directory was actually used for this purpose. ...

Seeing 2020, a nationwide collaborative reporting initiative from Reveal, seeks to empower local and ethnic media outlets to report on the census. To join Seeing 2020, [fill out this form](#).

SPJ factoids: Anticipating the 2020 elections, MPR News in Edina, Minn., launched a service for listeners to **submit potentially false news for fact-checking**. And the media company **Tegna** is **partnering with First Draft** to bolster its reporting and will expand its fact-check initiative, **Verify**, by adding more fact-checkers and authenticating items submitted by viewers.

Caught my eye: **Solar aircraft designed to stay aloft for a year makes maiden flight**. ... **Nearly all coral reefs set for collapse by end of century, study finds**. ... **Even groundwater is contaminated with microplastics**.

Closing words [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: “I’ve never read a political poem that’s accomplished anything. Poetry makes things happen, but rarely what the poet wants.” — American poet **Howard Nemerov**

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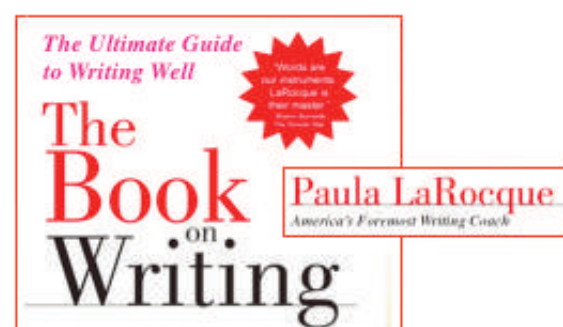
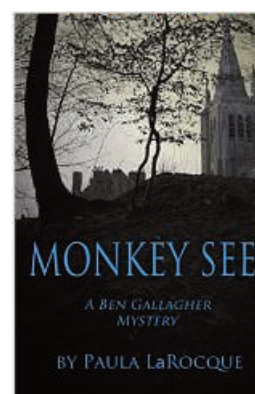
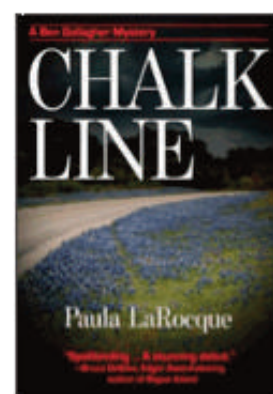
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“There is no greater agony than carrying an untold story.”
— Maya Angelou



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