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[Covid-19 spawning global press freedom crackdown](#)
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[How to get a small business loan under the \\$349 billion coronavirus aid bill](#)
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[Questioning conventional wisdom | 15 myths about covid-19](#)
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Next at [Fort Worth SPJ](#) ...

The intensity of the coronavirus outbreak has forced cancellation of this year's awards and scholarship banquet scheduled for Friday, April 17. This will not affect the chapter awarding scholarships and naming winners in the First Amendment Awards contest. Other ways are being considered to celebrate those winners, to raise money for the scholarship fund, and to thank those who continue to support SPJ and journalism in this very troubled time. More information will be coming soon. Stay safe.

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POWER TO THE PEOPLE There's a bright side here. Really.

- [If nothing else, a self-imposed quarantine should help you appreciate life.](#)
[After Allen ISD superintendent left to lead his hometown district, the wheels came off his career.](#)
[It's easy to cheat a system that offers half-price discounts on HOV lanes.](#)
[As Californians flood into Texas, differences in the same history textbooks reflect a culture clash.](#)
[China said 'no' to more recyclables, so where does our stuff go, landfills?](#)
[Is anybody lower on the planet than a #CoronaScammer?](#)
[Will a trillion-dollar bailout bring us closer to the end of Social Security?](#)
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— [TreeHugger.com](#)

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QUICK HITS

- Arlington Conservation Council meetings canceled
- BRIT is temporarily closed; "just as the wildflower seasons come and go, we know that this season, too, will surely pass — until then, please know this: We are in this thing together"
- GFW PRSA held a virtual networking meeting in April
- Urban Alchemy Coffee + Wine Bar is temporarily closed but delivering
- Meetups: [hosting an online event](#) Fort Worth Chapter – Nonfiction Authors Association ... [Trinity Arts Writers Workshop](#) ... [20BooksTo50k - Michael Anderle](#) ... [Fort Worth Area Journalists Meetup](#) ... [The DFW Bloggers Classroom](#)

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 IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB [Listings in journalismjobs.com and dfwcommunicators.com](#) appear in this report. The Texas Observer seeks an editor-in-chief to "shape the next chapter of our storied publication." [Info.](#) ... The Houston Chronicle seeks a "versatile high-energy reporter" to cover immigration at a time when immigration is one of the most urgent issues facing Texas and the nation. [Info.](#) ... For journalists and former journalists in Austin: [a different kind of job.](#) ... Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas seeks an "organized, proactive" public relations specialist. [Info.](#)
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[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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7 POINTS OF PANDEMIC SURVIVAL | Updates with Dr. John Campbell
 Q&A on coronaviruses from the World Health Organization

“What is good journalism?”

Texan News Service
 March 27 at 4:27 PM · 🌐

Students in news gathering and reporting classes at Tarleton State University have spent the last week contacting city, county, school district and public health officials in the Cross Timbers’ nine counties to find out how many cases of COVID-19 have been reported and how local governments are responding to the crisis.

As the situation changes day-by-day, the information will be updated for Bosque, Comanche, Erath, Eastland, Hamilton, Hood, Palo Pinto, Parker and Somervell counties and their main cities and school districts.

TEXANNEWS.NET
Coronavirus overview for Cross Timber counties – Texan News Service | Tarleton State University
 Coronavirus overview for Cross Timber counties by texannews · March 27, 2020...

Undeterred by the global health crisis and their schools closing — by having to file stories from their kitchen or their car — college journalists in North and Central Texas soldiered on, informing their readers.

NEWS • ARTS & LIFE • SPORTS • OPINION • EVENTS • ADVERTISING • MULTIMEDIA • SOCIAL MEDIA

COVID-19 Cases in Texas

Texas currently has 1,027 confirmed cases of coronavirus as Wednesday morning.

Of those cases, there have been 13 deaths due to the virus in Texas

Chronicling COVID-19: how the virus has impacted Denton and UNT
 Malgorza, Midland, Orinam and Midland.
 March 26, 2020

North Texas Daily
 Chronicling COVID-19:
 How coronavirus has impacted UNT, Denton, state of Texas
 26th March, 2020

Taken March 28 and 29, starting at top, page 1/Facebook snapshots and snippets from Texan News Service, North Texas Daily, The Shorthorn, The Optimist, TCU360, The Rambler, The Collegian, Baylor Lariat and The Lasso.

CORONAVIRUS NEWS LIFE+ENTERTAINMENT OPINION SPORTS MULTIMEDIA SPECIAL COVERAGE

Faculty Senate discusses commencement, a potential pass/fail grading system, university leadership

Will college students get \$1,200 from the CARES Act? For most, probably not
 By Brayden Garcia, The Shorthorn

Faces of UTA: the students still on campus during the COVID-19 pandemic

UTA to issue partial refunds to students for parking, housing and dining services

NEWS SPORTS OPINION FEATURES LIFE MULTIMEDIA POLICE LOG PRINT EDITION

SWRC closure and dining service changes to take place on campus
 The Student Wellness and Recreational Center (SWRC) closed as of March 20 in efforts to keep students safe. Other student services on campus are following [.]

The Optimist 27 Mar
 NEWS | The Abilene Cultural Affairs has postponed its event honoring I Coates to Sept. 26. Read more by c the link below:
<https://acuoptimist.com/2020/03/cultural-affairs-cou...>

The Optimist 27 Mar
 EDITORIAL | We are committed to providing daily news for our community. Read more about the Optimist's transition online by click the link below:
<https://acuoptimist.com/2020/03/>

TRENDING NOW Horoscope: March 28, 2020:

What to watch during quarantine
 ENTERTAINMENT By Robbie Vaglio
 The best shows and movies you should watch right now if you aren't already, according to some FDM professors.

Tarrant County updates emergency plans but does not enact 'shelter-in-place' order
 POLITIFROG By Benton McDonald March 23, 2020
 The commissioners court adopted fines and jail sentences for residents not complying with emergency management plans in an emergency meeting Sunday.

Spring semester to be finished online, graduation moved to August
 NEWS By Renee Umsted March 21, 2020
 In an email, Chancellor Boschini announced distance learning would be continued throughout the rest of the semester.

ABOUT US NEWS OPINIONS SPORTS ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES MULTIMEDIA RAMBLER TV Q

COVID-19 HAS INDEPENDENT TEXAS RESTAURANTS FACING DISASTER

WESLEYAN ATHLETES SAD TO LOSE SEASONS

ACADEMIC ADVISING ADJUSTS TO COVID-19 REGULATIONS
 Latest News March 26, 2020 0 comment

STAYING STRONG WHEN MOTHER NATURE COMES TO COLLECT

WESLEYAN SHUTDOWN BRINGS EMOTIONS OUT OF STUDENTS REMAINING ON CAMPUS

FEATURE NEWS ENTERTAINMENT OPINION SPORTS ADVERTISING

J. Ardis Bell dies at 95
 March 25, 2020

Anger, frustration rises as TCC slowly reacts to pandemic
 March 23, 2020

Campuses transition to online for students, staff
 March 23, 2020

NEWS ARTS & LIFE OPINION SPORTS LARIAT TV NEWS MULTIMEDIA SPECIAL ISSUES ADVERTISING

Baylor-backed emergency meal delivery recognized at White House
 Matthew Muir · March 27, 2020

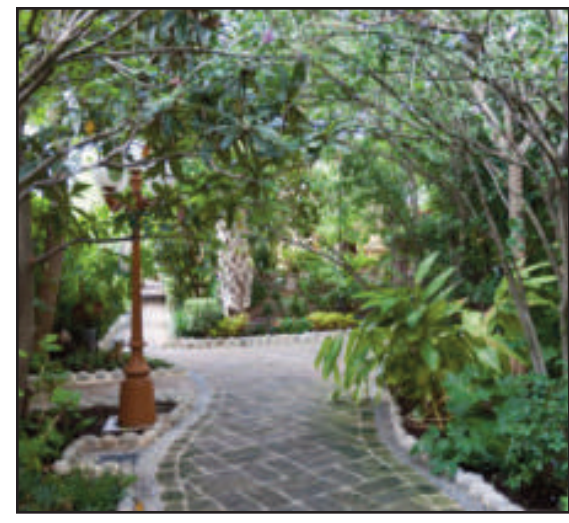
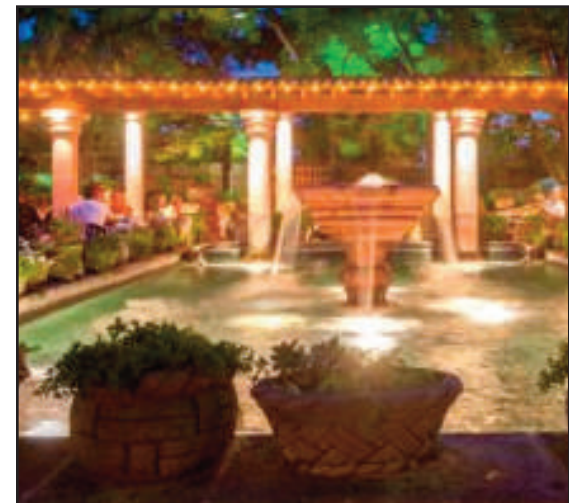
Rediscover intentionality in grief

Big 12 commissioner remains hopeful fall season won't be devastated by pandemic

Study abroad students continue international studies online

'Little Pines Everywhere' proves intriguing, yet subjective TV adaptation

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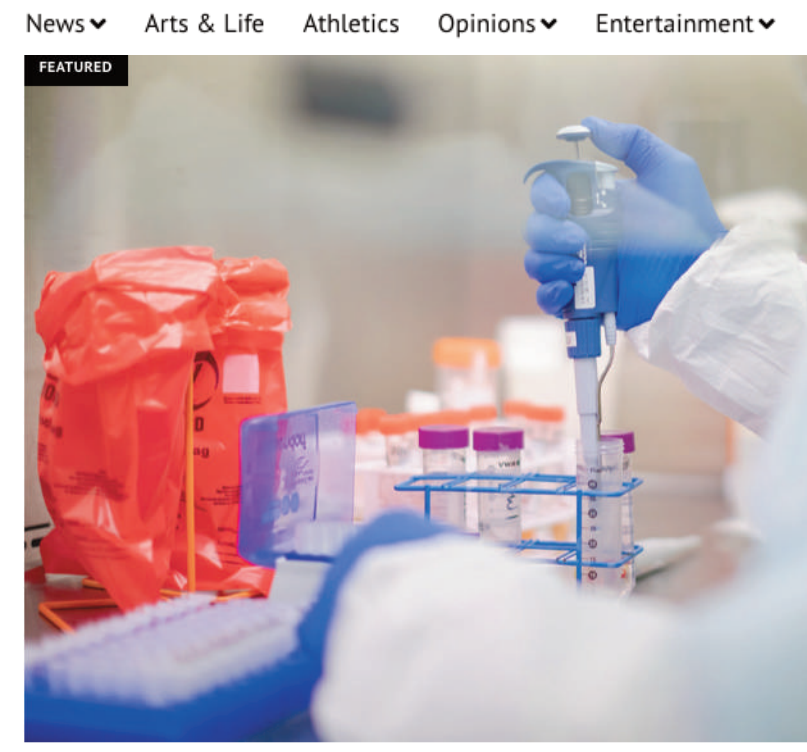


Plant to planet.



TCC Student Publications director **Chris Whitley**: “The Collegian student staff at Tarrant County College worked from home to put together an eight-page digital version, the first digital-only TCC newspaper in the school’s 53-year history. Students wrote about how the college initially defied the governor’s order to close, only to reverse itself after a firestorm of criticism. Students posted about each twist and turn regularly on The Collegian’s social media pages. Meanwhile, photographers surveyed the empty campus, and designers crafted pages on their home computers. The Collegian originally meant to take the following week off because staffers were supposed to attend the state college media convention. With that canceled, they decided to continuously create digital editions every week for the rest of the semester, come what may. ‘Virus ain’t stopping us,’ said editor-in-chief **Jill Bold**. And so launched a motto around which to unify for the semester.”

How student reporters and j-faculty in North Texas are adapting



Denton County confirms 17 new COVID-19 cases,

Sun starting to shine again on Texas government

Texans had something to celebrate during Sunshine Week, March 15-21. Essential elements of contracts between governments and private companies are public again. Sen. **Kirk Watson**, D-Austin, and Rep. **Giovanni Capriglione**, R-Southlake, shepherded Senate Bill 943 into law last year, reopening key contracting records.

How taxpayer dollars are spent had been easily accessible for years under the Texas Public Information Act. Then the Texas Supreme Court in 2015 blocked the sunshine, resulting in the Attorney General's Office issuing more than 4,000 rulings through 2019 allowing governments and private entities to withhold contract details, sometimes even hiding the final price. Gone from public view were records on school construction contracts; prison supply purchases; Uber, Lyft and Yellow Cab licensing; naming rights agreements at public buildings and stadiums; marketing deals between governments and private firms; and many more tax-dollar expenditures.

The new law straightens the path a bit. Among its victories is disclosure of the city of McAllen's contract with **Enrique Iglesias** to perform at a holiday festival. For four years, the city refused to reveal what it paid and promised Iglesias, but the newly released contract shows it paid \$485,000. Oh, and it agreed to charter a flight for the entertainer from Mexico and supply his backstage with steak, sushi, sashimi and aloe juice with pulp.

Other previously concealed contracts are now coming to light. Open government advocates and everyday Texans will be watching.

Accuracy is crucial, whether in news reporting, vetting political candidates or checking someone's background for employment, credit scores or lending. Birthdates in public records enable getting it right, except another court ruling closed off this vital information. Legislation is needed in 2021 to enhance accuracy.

When it comes to police records surrounding an in-custody death, families and the public need to know what transpired to hold law enforcement accountable. Many law enforcement agencies use that part of the Public Information Act intended to protect the living who were arrested but never convicted to instead hide records when an arrested person dies in custody. It is beyond time to close that loophole.

It's also time for a law to codify what the AG's office has long stated: *Electronic information shall be provided in the format a requestor prefers if it is stored that way and can be provided at no greater expense or time.* If government data resides in a searchable, sortable electronic spreadsheet and is requested that way, it should be provided as a spreadsheet — not in some other, less useful format.



Stay tuned. One thing's certain about the quest for open government in Texas — the effort never ends.

— **Kelley Shannon**, executive director
Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas

PEOPLE & PLACES

Step 1: Identify box. Step 2: Take position outside box. Step 3: Think. Redeployed employees at Cook Children's Health Care System are making surgical masks in-house to address the shortage fueled by the pandemic. The PPE (personal protective equipment) lab hopes to start production of face shields, head protection and gowns soon. Donations of 100 percent cotton fabric and elastic bands are being accepted. ...

SPJ Region 8 coordinator **Kathryn Jones** has a poem, "Castaway at Midnight," on tejasCOVID.com, a new online literary journal for creative responses to the coronavirus crisis. "I wrote it one night when I couldn't sleep," she says. "Check out other works on this site; they can bring you comfort and inspiration."

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

McClatchy, the second largest local news company in the United States, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Feb. 13. The filing will allow McClatchy to restructure its debts and, it hopes, shed much of its pension obligations. The new owners, likely led by the hedge fund Chatham Asset Management LLC, plan to operate McClatchy as a private company. Impact on employees in its 30 newsrooms was not immediately known. ...

Sorry to hear of **Julian Haber's** passing. An Air Force veteran, pediatrician and published author on a range of topics, he touched countless lives. He loved a spirited conversation, and he always had a question for the speaker at the monthly meetings; he and wife **Marian**, longtime former adviser of the Texas Wesleyan newspaper, were regulars for several years. He was 84. ...

The 17th annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet will be a virtual affair. Watch for details. ...

More on students covering the coronavirus pandemic even after their campuses have shut down. To honor the young journalists, SPJ, the Associated Collegiate Press, Society for News Design and National Press Photographers Association launched a contest, the CCC Awards (for College Coronavirus Coverage). A rotating slate of judges will choose finalists by noon each Monday until the pandemic has passed. Deadline is every Friday at 11:59 p.m., with categories in general content, photography and design. Winners and how to enter are here and on SPJ's and ACP's social media.



SPJ factoids: March 11 marked one year without a White House press secretary briefing, although the briefing room has been used for coronavirus updates. "The press will report a story to the best of their ability whether they are briefed by the administration or not. But regular briefings generally lead to better and more responsible reporting," a bipartisan group of 13 former White House press secretaries wrote in an open letter. ...

SPJ has posted a Newsroom Guide to COVID-19 with tips on keeping yourself safe while reporting on the pandemic, recommendations for event planners and other information.

Caught my eye: Habitat destruction + biodiversity loss = perfect conditions for diseases ... How many people will Trump's fuel efficiency rollback kill? ... JUPE Health an 'immediate response to hospital overcrowding' ... Coronavirus pandemic triggers reduction in global air pollution

Closing words [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: "A library is like an island in the middle of a vast sea of ignorance, particularly if the library is very tall and the surrounding area has been flooded." — author **Daniel Handler**

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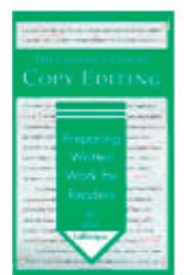
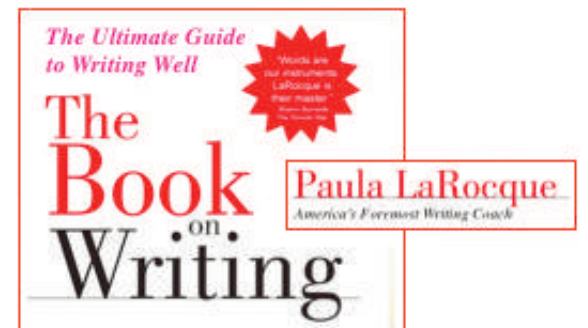
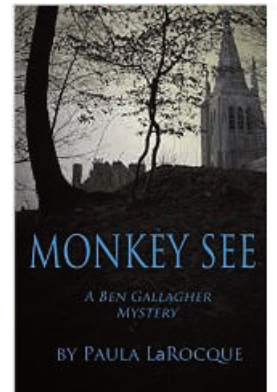
All about the community of model railroading and rail enthusiasm in the Midwest and Southwest



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

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