NYT will pause printing of sports and travel sections
An oral history of the day everything changed
Opinion: Journalism needs a stimulus | Curbing local news foraged
Opinion: Journalism is under attack — but we're winning
Millions of children in Spain allowed outdoors for the first time in 6 weeks
Coronavirus and the future of restaurant service
Farmers dumping milk, even as people go hungry — here’s why
At the chapter's annual dinner, seeks a marketing director. Info.
Like so many organizations, Fort Worth SPJ had to cancel a major event this spring, its awards banquet, scheduled for April 17. However, we want to congratulate our scholarship and contest participants in a special way — through a virtual banquet.
As always, we're grateful.
Board of Directors
Society of Professional Journalists, Fort Worth Pro Chapter

17th Annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet
... a Zoom event in the cloud: 7 p.m. Sunday, May 3
Like so many organizations, Fort Worth SPJ had to cancel a major event this spring, its awards banquet, scheduled for April 17. However, we want to congratulate our scholarship and contest participants in a special way — through a virtual banquet.
At the traditional banquet we announce scholarship recipients and honor the winners of the First Amendment Awards contest for professional and student journalists. That’s all still a go plus keynote speaker Frank LeDuc, director of the University of Florida’s Brechner Center for Freedom of Information, will outline the threats facing student news media in America. And the evening may hold a surprise or two.
We hope you can join us for everything you’d expect at such an occasion, minus the chicken. It’s free but with an RSVP required by April 30 — to john@xdycus.com — as access is limited. Your reservation gets you a connection code. A banquet video will be posted on the chapter website.
This celebration is the chapter’s main fundraiser for its 501(c)(3) Texas Gridiron Club Scholarship Endowment. Without the endowment, there likely would be no scholarships to give. In lieu of a large formal event, please consider donating. Checks should go to SPJ-FW, P.O. Box 312, Fort Worth, TX 76113, or you can give online at galleo.org.
Your support means the world to us and to the journalism community we serve. As always, we’re grateful.
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QUICK HITS
• BRIT = Botanic Garden — waving the possibility of reopening mid-May
• Writers Guild of Texas Critique Group — 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 20; Trinity Arts Writers Workshop — 11 a.m. May 21, 2020, via Zoom
• Women’s Run—Fri. 8 a.m., Sun. 11 a.m.
• First Amendment Awards
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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 Summers

In the days of hot types, 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.
Same mission, same spirit color, new address

Tarleton State University in Stephenville is the new home of the Texas Center for Community Journalism. The nonprofit center was based at TCU until the end of 2019 when its founding director, journalism professor Tommy Thomason, retired.

With financial support from the Texas Newspaper Foundation, TCCJ offers free workshops and seminars to Texas community journalists. After covid-19 brought social distancing, two scheduled sessions — at Tarleton on enterprise reporting and in Fredericksburg on generating revenue — had to be postponed. The revenue workshop has been rescheduled for August.

TCCJ co-director Kathryn Jones said the center is exploring ways to resume training, either with Zoom meetings or video tutorials. For now, its Facebook page is staying current by posting news tips, industry updates and roundup of how Texas newspapers are covering the pandemic.

“This critical time is showing a lot of people how vital journalism is to Texas communities,” Jones said. “Many news outlets are seeing their online traffic shoot through the roof, but what they need is for readers to subscribe or even give them donations to keep paying their staffs. Community journalism is really hurting right now when more people than ever, need locally based reporting.”

Tarleton marked the center’s opening with a reception Feb. 20 attended by Thomason, Texas Press Association Executive Director Mike Hodges, Tarleton President James Hurley, university professors and students, and about a dozen community journalists from Aledo, Austin, Aube, Comanche, Decatur, Fredericksburg, Hamilton, Kyle, Snyder and Stephenville.

Thomason said TCCJ is the only center of its kind in the nation to offer mid-career training at no cost for journalists at small-town, rural newspapers and websites. Texas has hundreds of those compared with a relatively small number of big-city news organizations, he added.

“When you talk journalism in Texas, you are talking community journalism,” he said. “These are heroes — the only ones reporting on elections, the only ones covering JV football games, the only ones who take pictures of the prize-winning sheep at the 4-H auction — the only ones who are watching out for the town.”

Many Texas community newspapers have struggled or even closed as ad revenues fell in their small markets, classified ads migrated to online sites, and editors found it difficult to attract trained journalists. The center has provided that training on topics such as feature writing, page design, crafting websites and videos, social media presence and photography.

Welcome to the Tarleton Journalism Center

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OVER & OUT | John Dycus
Fort Worth SP

F.O.I.F.T. UPDATE: A new Texas law aims to provide more transparency through public access to government contracts under the Texas Public Information Act. Specifically, it’s intended to allow newsworthy public policy issues to be held accountable, and public comment to be allowed at regular meetings, not just special sessions.

The Amarillo City Council once tried to ban clapping at its meetings, then decided to start meeting at 7 a.m., a move some locals said was done to reduce public input. Finally, last year’s council caved to public comments to a session an hour before the regular meeting. In South Texas, Hidalgo County commissions and the city councils of Pharr, Mercedes and Donna elected to close public comment at meetings. So did McAllen, where council members asserted that someone could overwhelm the council with over remarks made by citizens. Such actions led to the Texas Legislature in 2019 enacting a law requiring local governments to allow public comment before votes are taken on agenda items. Details.

Hospitals are paying off their startup loans and are trying to buy new equipment. A nationwide collaborative reporting initiative from Reveal, the LaRocque Family catalog … Photos, charts show nature world thriving with humans indoors.

Photos, charts show nature world thriving with humans indoors. Some broadcast networks are experiencing their highest viewing levels

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Photojournalists are finding it difficult to get high-quality images for their stories. They’re on the front lines, privacy issues block access, and there are major health risks.

The Washington Post has subscribed to a new database, called the National COVID-19 Medical Imaging Resource, which gives researchers access to images of patients infected with COVID-19. The database includes X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs from more than 50 hospitals around the world. The database will be used to help researchers develop treatments for COVID-19 and to improve patient care. The database is free to researchers and is available for anyone to use.

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