

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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PEOPLE & PLACES



Dallas Morning News lifer (and UTA Shorthorn ex) **Tom Fox** was named a [2020 Pulitzer Prize finalist](#) in breaking news photography, a feat his daughter, **Avery**, deemed worthy of a photo itself. That's Tom, with DMN colleagues, seated center stage. The Pulitzer citation reads: *For coverage of a would-be shooter outside Dallas' Earle Cabell Federal Building, which houses federal courts, photographed at great personal risk. Winners were announced May 4.*

QUICK HITS

- Arlington Conservation Council — no monthly meetings are scheduled at this time, but volunteer tending-to-nature activities continue with all due vigor at the Molly Hollar Wildscape in Veterans Park. [Info.](#)
- BRIT + Botanic Garden — has reopened, with crowd limitations. [Info.](#)
- GFW PRSA virtual networking meeting, "Digital Communications: What's In Your Toolbox?," with **Allan Cardozo**, Pavlov Agency; **Richie Escovedo**, APR, Balcom Agency; **Abigail Hodgson**, Cook Children's Health Care System; **Sarah McClellan-Brandt**, Texas Health Resources; moderator **Chris Smith**, Botanical Research Institute of Texas — 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 3. [Info.](#)
- Writers Guild of Texas Critique Group/meeting — 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 17; 7 p.m. Monday, June 22, Richardson Public Library. [Info.](#)
- Urban Alchemy Coffee + Wine Bar, Arlington — [reopening](#). still 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](#)

IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB Listings in [journalismjobs.com](#) and [dfwcommunicators.com](#) appear in this report. The city of Arlington has several telecommunicator positions that are available until filled. [Info.](#) ... Frisco-based Intel 471, a cyberthreat intelligence company, seeks a technical editor/copy editor to handle short information reports, slightly longer pieces and marketing materials. Work from home but with constant contact during working hours. [Info.](#) ... C&S Media Publications, a community newspaper group covering northeast Collin County, has an opening for a general assignment reporter. [Info.](#) ... Palo Pinto Communications is looking to hire an experienced reporter/news director for a publication in a group that includes The Graham Leader, Breckenridge American and Jacksboro Herald-Gazette. [Info.](#) ... The city of Temple, smack in the heart of the Central Texas technology corridor, seeks a "dynamic, professional and creative" public relations manager. [Info.](#)

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

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Trailblazers, every one

Fort Worth SPJ's signature event — the First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet, this year's being the 17th annual — played out on little screens May 3 rather than face to face (or even elbow to elbow), but the people on this page gave it life. More on the scholarship recipients and award winners next month, but for now keynoter **Frank LoMonte** would have you know that the pandemic and the public's quest for protection from it led to an unexpected outcome: a growing demand for unfettered, reliable reporting.

LoMonte, an SPJ Foundation board member and director of the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information at the University of Florida, said he's optimistic despite unprecedented threats to society from covid-19 and to journalists from the president.

"For the first time in my lifetime, I have a profound sense that the public is gaining an appreciation of the importance of verified and trustworthy information," he said. "Think of the people who are wanting that information on a real-time basis and are disappointed and angry and impatient when they don't get it."

He cited actions by Texas state officials in invoking privacy laws to deny access to covid-19 cases in nursing homes. "That makes people less safe. It's outrageous that we have privacy laws that are this open and amenable to abuse that they can be twisted and warped in such a way as to deny people what can literally be life-saving information."

Change is possible, he said, perhaps even likely. "We have a moment to leverage the crisis, because the public is on our side. The public gets it. The public realizes that more information is better than less, that faster information is better than slower."

LoMonte, a former executive director of the Student Press Law Center, called the current climate "a time to double down" on legislatures that have "riddled our open records and open meetings laws" with unjustified exemptions. And he said he's encouraged by the headway being made to undergird student free speech rights, noting that the New Voices movement has successfully lobbied 14 states to expand protections granted public school and university student journalists.

"Before long those 14 states will become 20, will become 30, will become 50. I have no doubt about that. And those of us who work in this field have the opportunity to bend that arc (of history) because it does not bend by itself."

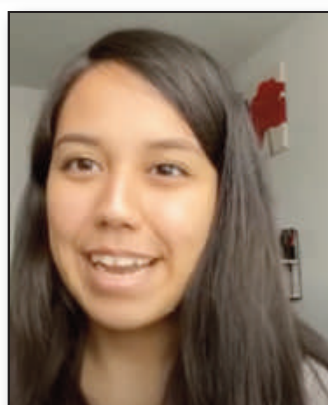
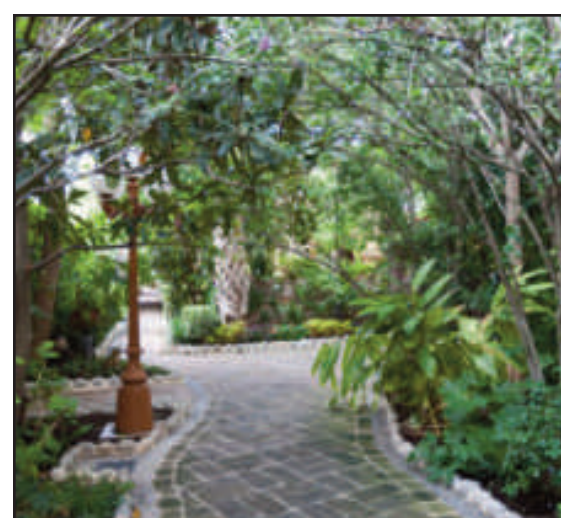
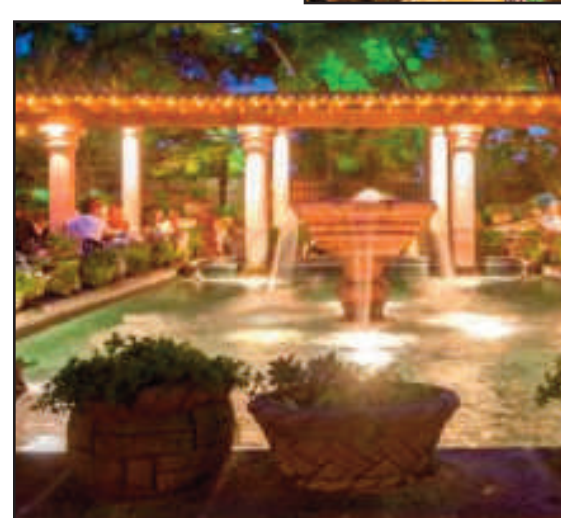
In the meantime, he urges student journalists to "hang on to that sense of outrage" for as long as possible.

"It's the most valuable tool you have," he said, "to be able to recognize things that are outrageous and to call them out when you see them."

— Robert Bohler

[more eChaser on p. 3](#)

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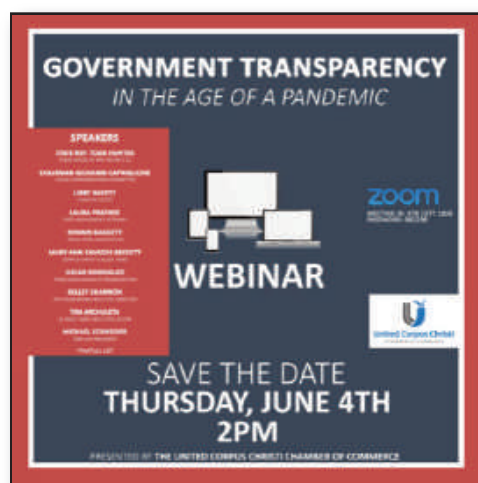
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NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

Katherine Rosenhammer, Lindenwood University

F.O.I.F.T. UPDATE: The Teacher Retirement System of Texas calls itself committed to public transparency, but that hasn't stopped a development company in which the taxpayer-funded retirement system has a big financial stake from continuing the state agency's nearly yearlong legal effort to conceal leasing information following multiple American-Statesman requests for it. The company has filed a lawsuit against Texas Attorney General **Ken Paxton**, seeking to overturn a decision by Paxton's office that the lease is not exempt from public disclosure. [Details.](#) ...



[Rivard Report: Pandemic no time to deny the public's right to know.](#) ...

[Austin American-Statesman: End secrecy on virus deaths at nursing homes.](#)

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

Congrats, **Jenny Dean**, new student media director at Texas Wesleyan. ...

The Arlington Conservation Council, an eChaser supporter and beacon of environmental awareness, has created an e-mail for its members to request help getting groceries, going to the doctor, etc., and the board will make it happen. Thoughtful. And Star-Telegram expatriate **Jack Z. Smith** isn't waiting passively for any vaccine: "I've disinfected myself from the covid-19 virus by drinking a cup of Lysol, so I should be immune from just about anything now." Coping as an art form. ...

Driven to the social distance frontier, society will find new, in some ways maybe better, ways to achieve. Exhibit A: The 17th annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet — still announcing scholarship winners! still celebrating exceptional journalism! — was all virtual, which gave it a certain breakthrough vibe. Digital visionaries **Gayle Reaves**, **Sarah Macias** and **Kim Pewitt-Jones**, producer **Josh Butler**, and presenters **Max Baker** and **Jean Marie Brown** rolled out a nifty show, augmented by scholarship winner thank-you videos, **Jeff Prince** on guitar and keynoter **Frank LoMonte** in a tux coat, piped in live from Gainesville, Fla. I was supposed to sing but did not. Another bonus. Thirty-five viewers connected in real time May 3; [go here to play the video again and again](#). A year ago, who would've thought — ?

SPJ factoids: As covid-19 pushes the 2020 presidential campaign into the cloud, journalists are resorting to phone, text and Zoom interviews to get the [on-the-ground details normally gathered from face-to-face interactions](#). The [American Press Institute suggests](#) reporters learn the ways online videos can be manipulated, get local election officials on the phone as soon as possible, and fine-tune their hyperbole filters. ...

With local news organizations struggling, [65% of Americans support including them](#) in coronavirus relief packages. A \$3 trillion federal coronavirus relief bill from House Democrats would [expand newspapers' and broadcasters' eligibility](#) for forgivable small business loans. Many local news outlets have been ineligible for the Small Business Administration's forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loans because of "affiliation rules" that force them to be measured by the size of their parent companies. [Nearly three-quarters of the U.S. Senate signed a letter](#) to the **Trump** administration encouraging increased advertising in local newspapers and on broadcast stations to help ensure they can continue to operate. ...

The administration is [imposing new restrictions on Chinese journalists working in the United States](#). Chinese journalists in the U.S. who try to do independent journalism privately expressed worries about their future, and American journalists in China have, too. ...

After 22 staff members were laid off, The Plain Dealer, Ohio's largest newspaper, told its remaining 14 employees that [most of them will no longer cover](#) Cleveland, Cuyahoga County or Summit County or stories that might be deemed a "statewide" issue. Those vast content areas are now [under the editorial jurisdiction](#) of cleveland.com, The Plain Dealer's non-union sister newsroom. The Northeast Ohio Newspaper Guild Local 1 calls it "a way to punish people for belonging to a union." ...

For the first time, the Supreme Court of the United States broadcast live on radio and television May 4. The court allowed audio coverage of its oral arguments as they happened, and continued live access to its arguments was to continue through May. SPJ supports the transparency efforts, especially with journalists experiencing [increased difficulties](#) gaining access to records and information.

Caught my eye: [Hungry gut bacteria enable waxworms to live on plastic waste.](#) ... [Killer new cancer drug combines chemotherapy and light therapy.](#) ... [Electrified nanocarbon cleanses polluted water of toxic heavy metals.](#) ... [Post-coronavirus, rethinking the American Way of Building.](#) ... [Study: Global warming to place billions in 'near-unlivable' heat.](#) ... ['Artificial leaf' turns water and sunlight into hydrogen fuel.](#)

Closing words [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: "The people I'm furious with are the women's liberationists. They keep getting up on soapboxes and proclaiming women are brighter than men. That's true, but it should be kept quiet or it ruins the whole racket." — Hollywood Golden Age screenwriter **Anita Loos**

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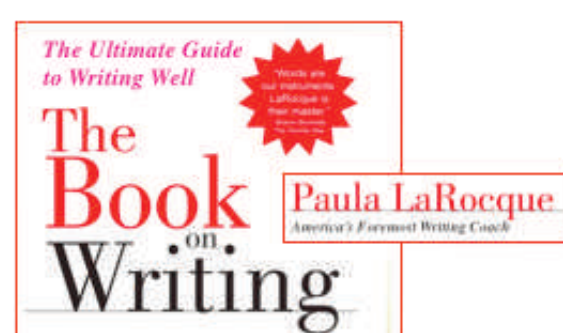
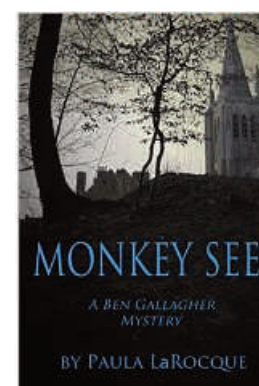
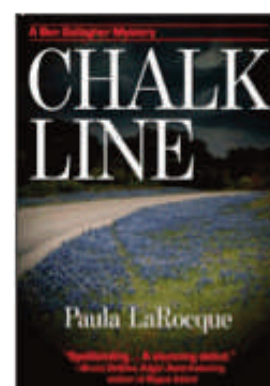
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