

eChaser*

Society of Professional Journalists,
Fort Worth Professional Chapter

MARCH 2021 • [Back Issues](#) • [Photo Archive](#)

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE



to subscribe or to submit items, e-john@xdycus.com

Still in legal limbo: They were arrested while covering protests last year

Press freedom comes second to self-interest, as MBS gets a pass

The vultures come for Tribune, as Baltimore Sun looks to escape

President **Biden's** first month with the press

Gas, coal, wind, solar: Expect the politics of energy after Texas' blackouts

E. Tammy Kim and **Swe Win** on covering the coup in Myanmar

| [What life is like under Myanmar's terrifying internet shutdown](#)

Facebook and the news after Australia: What happens now?

A critical moment for press freedom in Algeria

How to count half a million lost lives?

The debate about fixing America's information ecosystem

Vaccine rollout coverage: Political warfare, inequity and insufficient data

India cracks down on journalism, again

Covering the insurrection, one month on

In China, journalists are targets and collateral

Parler says it's back

From: John Lumpkin

To: Colleagues in North Texas journalism

By now, many of you have heard about [Fort Worth Report](#), which will bring a fresh resource in the growing movement of nonprofit digital news. Led by a local board and with seed funding from the Burnett Foundation, FWR vows vigorous community-sourced coverage of civic issues, local government, education and culture.

Hiring the news staff is underway. Initial newsletters should begin this month, with the website ramping up in April.

You recall **Al Pacino** in "Godfather III," where he's trying to leave and they keep pulling him back in? I'm honored that my background (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Associated Press, Schieffer School of Journalism) was deemed appropriate for a board invitation. Any board that **Wes Turner** co-chairs, I want to be on.

And the street cred keeps coming. **Trish Rodriguez Terrell**, a marketing and fundraising executive who started her career as a journalist (a dozen years at the Star-Telegram), is chief development officer. **Thomas R. Martinez**, a seasoned editor and reporter with 25 years experience at community newspapers in Texas and Colorado, will join March 15 as founding managing editor.

Editor and CEO **Chris Cobler** was the first Donald W. Reynolds Nieman Fellow for community journalism at Harvard University, in 2006, and was president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. Up against metro newspapers with many more resources, his news staff at the Victoria Advocate (he was editor and publisher) outperformed them on deep-dive local issues: <https://www.headlinersfoundation.org/showcase-awards/2019/victoria-county-emergency>, <https://www.headlinersfoundation.org/charles-e-green-awards-list/marina-starleaf-riker-2018>.

He and his wife, **Paula**, are relocating to Fort Worth, where they already have a fondness for Joe T. Garcia's, developed when they lived in Denton and Chris was editor of the Denton Record-Chronicle.

So here we go, Fort Worth. We're excited to join the Star-Telegram/Business Press news mix and make you a journalism offering you can't refuse!

More on Fort Worth Report [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#). Reach Chris Cobler at chriscobler@fortworthreport.org and John Lumpkin at jolumpk3@gmail.com.

QUICK HITS

- Arlington Conservation Council remote monthly program, "Environmental Restoration," with wildlife biologist/environmental scientist **Peter McKone** — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 3. [Info](#).
- GFW PRSA remote webinar, "10 Tech Tools to Make Your Life Easier," with **Kate Snyder**, APR, principal strategist at Piper & Gold Public Relations — noon Wednesday, March 3. [Info](#).
- BRIT — it's all happening at the speed of YouTube/Zoom. [Info](#).
- Meetups: [hosting an online event](#) Fort Worth Chapter – Nonfiction Authors Association ... [Trinity Arts Writers Workshop](#)

IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB Listings in [journalismjobs.com](#) and [dfwcommunicators.com](#) appear in this report. ... The Houston Chronicle seeks an experienced reporter to run with the innovation beat — energy technology, the accelerating transition to clean energy, and the efforts of Houston's critical oil and gas industry to make the transition. [Info](#). ... Irving-based marketing agency Connex seeks a digital marketing specialist to plan and execute marketing campaigns. [Info](#). ... The Austin Business Journal newsroom is expanding and needs a staff writer to cover economic development with a focus on the suburbs. Storylines might range from Tesla building a \$1B factory east of Austin to developers constructing a huge crystal lagoon in Leander. [Info](#).

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.

BIG-TIME SUPPORTER



Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS



Paula and Chris Cobler

VITAL READS: Stories from INN newsrooms

INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS

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[Across Chicago suburbs, a local nonprofit newsroom steps up](#)

[Covid-19 vaccines may be ready for teens this summer](#)

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[US marshals act like local police with more violence, less accountability](#)

[Texas was 'seconds and minutes' away from catastrophic blackouts](#)

[Under pressure: The Oregon community desperate for water](#)

[Inside clean energy: Explaining the crisis in Texas](#)

[CDC recommended prioritizing farmworkers for the vaccine; a few large agricultural states have not](#)

[Rural providers get creative with vaccine delivery but suffer lack of supply](#)

[Vaccinating the most vulnerable — undocumented women — will be difficult](#)

['I can't do this anymore': How four middle schoolers are struggling](#)

[See the need, meet the need: A nonprofit newsroom jumps the start](#)

REPORT FOR AMERICA | REPORT LOCAL

['Under-resourced': U.S. amps up sequencing as covid-19 strains spread](#)

[It's been a year since the Watson explosion in Houston. What's being done to prevent more?](#)

[Families separated at border suffer long-term mental health challenges](#)

[Why a growing number from Louisiana are driving to Mississippi for vaccine](#)

[Hedge funds eye markets that could net billions, as Lake Powell levels drop](#)

[Standing Rock youth urge Biden to shut down Dakota Access Pipeline with 93-mile run in frigid weather](#)

[To enact a sexual assault law, students themselves got in the driver's seat](#)

POWER TO THE PEOPLE *paywall code https://dmn.pub/watchdog*

• [Very carefully: How to shop for cheap electricity in Texas in 2021](#)

• [Only customers cared, until now: Texas electricity is a laughingstock](#)

• [At Texas Capitol, 1,000 air cleaning units installed to fight the virus](#)

• [One thing after another, broken furnace to no water — can you relate?](#)

• [The Punisher: Both sides now using comic book character](#)

• [Texas has failed to run an efficient driver's license program for years](#)

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

Sorry, but this issue is a page short. No excuses to speak of. Not a trend. ...

Welcome, Fort Worth Report. May you meet your goals and then some. And thank you, Fort Worth Star-Telegram and Fort Worth Business Press, for scrambling every day in the news trenches, fighting fierce fiscal odds, that your communities might realize and understand and benefit. Hey, Joe citizen, if you know any working journalists, college or pro, thank them. Then thank them again. They are essential workers.

SPJ factoids: More than 200 current and former employees of public radio are demanding reform in their field through an open letter entitled "[An Anti-Racist Future: A Vision and Plan for the Transformation of Public Media.](#)" ...

Alan C. Miller, founder and CEO of the News Literacy Project, says the media "[needs to be discerning](#) about the vaccination-related events it reports," and how it does so. "Above all, it must avoid sensationalizing such incidents." After more than a dozen journalism organizations [requested that journalists in the field be inoculated](#) ahead of the general population, the CDC's covid-19 vaccine distribution plan lists media members as essential workers to be given the vaccine in Phase 1c. ...

More Freedom of Information Act requests [were filed over the past four years](#) than at any time in American history. ...

Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered the release of the man convicted and later acquitted in the beheading of American journalist **Daniel Pearl** in 2002. **Ahmad Omar Saeed Sheikh** has spent 18 years on death row. Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** said the U.S was prepared to prosecute. ...

NBC News veteran **Tom Brokaw** is retiring from the network after 55 years. He advises to go see more of the country — and not just to visit. ...

The disinformation crisis continues, and journalists are being affected directly. Journalist **Joe Gould** had [his byline stolen and put on a fake story](#) about the secretary of defense. Alaska journalist **Matt Buxton** got his Twitter account suspended after accurately reporting a senator's spoken vaccination lies. Twitter later said it erred in suspending the account. ...

Seven of South Carolina's newspapers closed in the past year, [raising concerns about accountability](#). "Corruption is flourishing in the rural corners of South Carolina as newspapers fold or shrink coverage," writes **Glenn Smith** and **Tony Bartelme** of The Post and Courier. "[Uncovered.](#)" a project from The Post and Courier, aims to fill some of that void. ...

As the United States [reached another tragic milestone](#) for deaths related to covid-19, media outlets are helping put into perspective the enormity of the 500,000 lives lost. The Washington Post provided [three ways to visualize](#) the monstrous death toll in this country, while a [New York Times Sunday front page](#) scattered dots across it, with each dot representing a death. ...

Viewers are questioning [why the major networks continue to give a platform](#) to people who spread baseless claims about the 2020 election being stolen.

Caught my eye: [Anti-food waste app finally arrives in US.](#) ... [Covid-19 has reached Antarctica](#), the last untouched continent.

Closing words [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: "Talking about spiritual activity to a secular audience is like doing card tricks on the radio." — memoirist **Mary Karr**

Each logo in the ad rail links to the sponsor's website!

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