Texas will offer online voter registration through DMV after Dem lawsuit

《QUICK HITS》

Next at Fort Worth SPJ

Texas will offer online voter registration through DMV after Dem lawsuit. Info.

《IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB》

Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference

Oct. 15-16 | 17th year | DETAILS

A forum for journalists, writers, readers, students, educators and the public to hear, be inspired by and practice the craft at the highest level.

Among the featured:

• former Washington Post executive editor Marty Baron
• WP award-winning writer DeNeen Brown
• CBS News chief Washington correspondent Major Garrett

QUICK HITS

• World Health Organization launches global health lab network
• Facebook 'transparency report' turns out to be anything but

The journalists leaving Afghanistan, and those who haven’t made it out

Vietnam and Afghanistan: Different wars, similar endings?

A First Amendment precedent

What the Pfizer-approval story says about our media ecosystem

Regulatory repression as Russia turns the screw on independent journalism

The Taliban spin machine

A dark time for Afghanistan’s journalists

A depressing vacuum in Afghanistan coverage, as Kabul falls

The world’s northernmost alt-weekly moves south

What’s the difference between freelancers and gig workers?

The IPCC report, infrastructure, and a missing climate connection

The eviction moratorium, the child tax credit, and episodic poverty news

A press near blackout in Afghanistan

Humility, the media, and the pandemic

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 Sumners

* In the days of hot type, a chaser was a running press. The plates were ready. Those pages were said to be “chasing” a running press.
No hurricane aftermath for this conference

From heavy hitters and in-depth presentations to interacting remotely with fellow attendees, SPJ21 promises robust insight and information exchange, safe from nature’s wrath on the Gulf Coast. Registration closes 10:59 p.m. Aug. 30.

Hear White House correspondent and “Washington Week” moderator Yamiche Alcindor, Latino USA anchor/executive producer Maria Hinojosa and Pulitzer Prize winner Clarence Page. Interactive workshops and breakout sessions led by the industry’s brightest minds pack all three days, highlighted by super sessions that run the table for timeliness and impact — “Objectivity: Bridging the Growing Divide,” “Eyewitness to Horror: Marking the 20th Anniversary of America’s Darkest Day” and “Identity, Representation and the Media.”

Celebrate student journalism, teaching, advising and chapter success at the student summit and awards. José Diaz-Balart, anchor at Noticias Telemundo and NBC Nightly News, will join the conversation. Meet the candidates for directors and regional coordinators at the opening business meeting, then later learn the results at the closing business meeting. This is also where delegates will vote on proposed SPJ bylaws and amendments.

Launch the conference experience with a preview of the documentary “Storm Lake,” which profiles Art Cullen, his family and colleagues at Iowa’s Storm Lake Times as they fight for the survival of their biweekly small-town paper. A Q&A with Cullen follows. “Storm Lake” is Wednesday night. And you’re just getting started.

Details and more.

US newsroom union momentum growing

The News Guild-Communication Workers of America has increased its membership in record numbers this year, according to union president Jon Schleuss. Journalists at The Dallas Morning News and Al Dia joined in 2019, at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram late last year, and at the Austin American-Statesman in February.

Schleuss said in an America’s Work force Union podcast Aug. 16 that the union had gained 1,565 members so far in 2021. From 2019 to 2020 the union averaged 1,411 joining annually, with a high in 2019 of 1,499. This year’s record was set when reporters, editors, designers, videographers and social media editors at Forbes voted July 27 to join The NewsGuild of New York Local 31003. On Aug. 19 the Asbury Park Press, Home News Tribune and Courier News, all Gannett members, announced that they had unionized with The NewsGuild of New York. Since June, the union, which represents 30 publications, has also gained membership from the Kansas City Star, The Atlantic and Insider.

Since the Morning News formed its guild in 2019, management announced a $1.1 million increase in a revised severance policy for laid-off employees, retroactive to 2019 job cuts. In the wake of a call by the guild for greater diversity and inclusion in decision-making, the newspaper in July named Katrice Hardy the first woman and black journalist to lead its newsroom. Hardy was executive editor at The Indianapolis Star, which won this year’s Pulitzer Prize for national reporting, and Midwest regional editor for the USA Today Network.

— Robert Bohler story and photo

PEOPLE & PLACES

The Texas Center for Community Journalism, a trailblazing concept founded by j-prof Tommy Thomason at TCU and now residing at Tarleton State University, has a new leader. Austin Lemaire, co-publishing editor of the Jefferson Jimplectile and most recently regional publisher for the Whitesboro Publishing Co. A graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University and Stephen F. Austin State University, Lemaire has held leadership roles at several newspapers throughout Northeast Texas.