

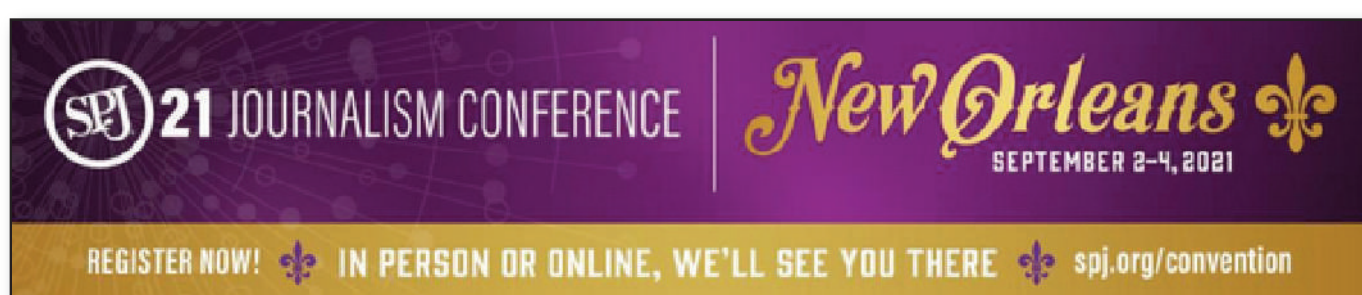
In these times when journalists are disrespected, condemned, ridiculed, assaulted and constantly face layoffs, pay cuts and worse, let it be known that we honor and support journalists and journalism. Keep at it. Your work is important to the people and essential to democracy itself. - Roger Summers

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE



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

P. 2: WHAT YOU'LL MISS IF YOU DON'T SIGN UP



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- [Sports media goes all in on gambling](#)
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- [The world's northernmost alt-weekly moves south](#)
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- [A dark time for Afghanistan's journalists](#)
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- [Regulatory repression as Russia turns the screw on independent journalism](#)
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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

- Worthy Awards 2021 Call for Entries — final deadline Sept. 3 (\$100). [Info.](#)
- Arlington Conservation Council remote monthly program, "Covering City Council: Are We on the Same Page?" with **Kailey Broussard**, Fort Worth Star-Telegram — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1. [Info.](#)
- GFW PRSA monthly program, back to Zoom, "Growing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion within Your Team and Organization," with **Shunda Robinson**, GM Financial — noon Wednesday, Sept. 1. [Info.](#)
- FWBG | BRIT — "¡Celebremos! A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage": artistic performances and exhibitions, dining and shopping opportunities, movie showings and Day of the Dead commemorations, Sept. 15-Nov. 7; Autumn Vinyasa Flow & Social Hour: Connection, Sept. 2; Tea at the Garden: September Afternoon Tea, Sept. 11; Book Club: "Seeds of Hope," Sept. 20; Homeschool Family Focus Group, Sept. 20; Birding Walk with the Fort Worth Audubon Society, Sept. 25. [Info.](#)
- Meetups: [hosting an online event](#) Trinity Arts Writers Workshop ... [Fort Worth Area Journalists Meetup](#)

IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB *Listings in [journalismjobs.com](#) and [dfwcommunicators.com](#) appear in this report.* ... The Houston Business Journal has two slots to fill — [economic development reporter](#) and a [commercial real estate reporter](#) to cover the expansive region outside the city core. ... Or, 20 minutes east, cover [general assignments](#) or [sports](#) for the Fort Bend Herald, a tri-weekly based in Rosenberg. College graduates are encouraged to apply, with experienced writers preferred. ... Cook Children's Health Care System seeks a social media coordinator to join its public relations team (contract position up to 40 hours per week, ideally transitioning to full time within 90 days). [Info.](#)

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

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[“What is good journalism?”](#)

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.](#)



Union office in La Ciotat, France.

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 Día 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 2018 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 director — **Austin Lewter**, co-publisher of the Jefferson Jimplecute and most recently regional publisher for the Whitesboro Publishing Co. A graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University and Stephen F. Austin State University, Lewter has held leadership roles at several newspapers throughout Northeast Texas.

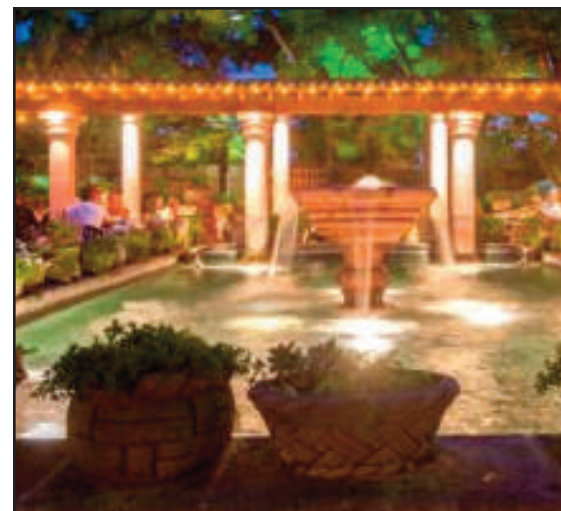
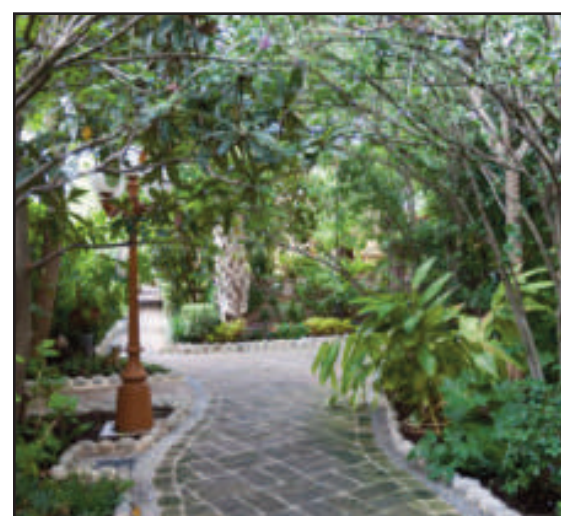
Texas Center for Community Journalism



Lewter

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

The Fort Worth SPJ board has written a letter to Tarleton State University criticizing administrators for removing articles from the student-run Texan News Service website. The articles, written in 2018, report on allegations by several undergraduate students of inappropriate conduct by a history assistant professor, who subsequently left the university. [Background](#). ...

Mike Sweeney [has a story to tell](#) (and a delightful, if resolute, way to tell it).

SPJ factoids: CNN fired three employees who violated its coronavirus safety protocols by [going to the office unvaccinated](#). The Washington Post is [requiring employees](#) to have the covid-19 vaccine, with exceptions for medical conditions and religious concerns. ...

Daisy Veerasingham, the new Associated Press president and CEO, is the [first woman, first person of color and first person from outside the U.S.](#) to lead the AP in its 175 years. ...

Jackson, Miss., will have to pay [more than \\$170,000 in legal fees](#) to Gray Television after the Mississippi Ethics Commission ruled the city violated state law by taking more than a year to get public records to WLBT-TV. ...

New research reveals [imbalances in U.S. immigration news coverage](#) and opportunities for expanding geographic areas of coverage and topics. ...

Media outlets are struggling with [how to report on the coronavirus vaccine](#) and the new delta variant effectively and correctly, without causing confusion and panic. ...

In anticipation of the Beijing Winter Games in six months, one issue is how reporters can successfully [cover the events and stay safe](#). ...

Journalists in Venezuela are [presenting newscasts on buses](#) — one of several ways they're fighting to preserve press freedom in the South American nation. ...

A [new report by NewsGuild Gannett Caucus](#) found that women and people of color at 14 unionized Gannett newsrooms are paid less than their male and white colleagues. Gannett called the report "a misleading document based on outdated data." ...

A [spurious libel prosecution case](#) against award-winning journalist and SPJ Fellow of the Society **Maria Ressa** was dismissed "with prejudice," meaning the complainant cannot file a new claim. ...

Over 90 media outlets [have closed down](#) since the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. Local journalists are feared to be at greatest risk, especially female journalists. [Retaliation for past coverage](#) of the Taliban and reporters being forced to stop their work are both possibilities.

Caught my eye: [It's not the heat, it's the damage ... Threat to the water supply is real, and only getting worse ... US finally trying to unlock the power of wave energy ... Reforestation is great! But we're running out of seeds ... How covid-19 PPE litter is affecting wildlife ... Hungry, hungry microbes in tree bark gobble up methane](#)

Closing words [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: "I hate a song that makes you think that you're not any good. [...] Songs that run you down or songs that poke fun at you on account of your bad luck or your hard traveling. I am out to fight those kinds of songs to my very last breath of air and my last drop of blood." — **Woody Guthrie**

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



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