

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

\* 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.

- [Australian defamation ruling threatens media companies](#)
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- [Facebook plans to show users even less political news](#)
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- [The link between Texas' new abortion law and its new voting laws](#)
- [E. Tammy Kim on Seattle's street paper](#)
- [Bothsidesism and the benefits cliff](#)

Next at [Fort Worth SPJ](#) ... updates on the [homepage](#) and [Facebook](#) page

When a university tells its student journalists to remove content, this not only compromises the public's right to know but shortchanges the students' educational experience. Administrators did just that at Tarleton State University in August, and it merits a [Zoom panel at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6](#), with **Frank LoMonte**, director of the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information at the University of Florida and past executive director of the Student Press Law Center; **Chris Whitley**, president of College Media Association and student publications director at Tarrant County College; **Dan Malone**, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and former Tarleton State newsroom adviser; and **Kathryn Jones**, former TSU faculty member and SPJ Region 8 coordinator. **Jake Batsell**, the William O'Neil Chair in Business Journalism at SMU, will moderate. Representatives from Texan News Service and Tarleton State University have been invited. [Background](#).



**Mike Blackman**  
1943-1921  
*Exemplary newspaperman*

"He was not only a superb editor but a caring, good man who knew when you had a good story."  
 "Mike had the keen eye and instincts to make a story measurably better. ... Reporters loved him."  
 "In nearly 50 years as his friend, I never heard him say anything mean or hurtful about another person."  
 "... a great writer and journalist, a soft soul in a rugged Texan's body, and able to hold his own with anyone at the Pen & Pencil in Philadelphia."

**QUICK HITS**

- 2021 Worthy Awards reception — 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4. [Info](#).
- Arlington Conservation Council remote monthly program, "Marvin Nichols: Why Bad Projects Get Good Spin," with **Janice Bezanson**, Texas Conservation Alliance — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6. [Info](#).
- GFW PRSA 2021 half-day professional development program, "Using Social Media to Maximize Brand Potential," with **John Young** and **Lorren Thomas**, Southwest Airlines, and **David Valentine**, CEO, Avadel Agency — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, Ridglea Country Club. [Info](#).
- FWBG | BRIT — "¡Celebremos! A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage" continues through Nov. 7; Fall Plant Sale, Oct. 9; DIY Native Bee Houses, Oct. 16; Identifying the Birds in Your Garden, Oct. 23. [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 Denton Record-Chronicle has two full-time job openings — [high school sports reporter](#) ("aggressive, experienced, digitally savvy") and [copy editor](#). ... The Austin Business Journal seeks a full-time staff writer to cover retail, restaurants and food/beverage startups. [Info](#). ... The Houston Press ("small but scrappy newsroom with a 30-year history of excellence") has an immediate opening for a full-time staff writer. [Info](#). ... The Transportation Department of the North Central Texas Council of Governments seeks Interns to help strengthen engagement in air quality and transportation projects. [Info](#).

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

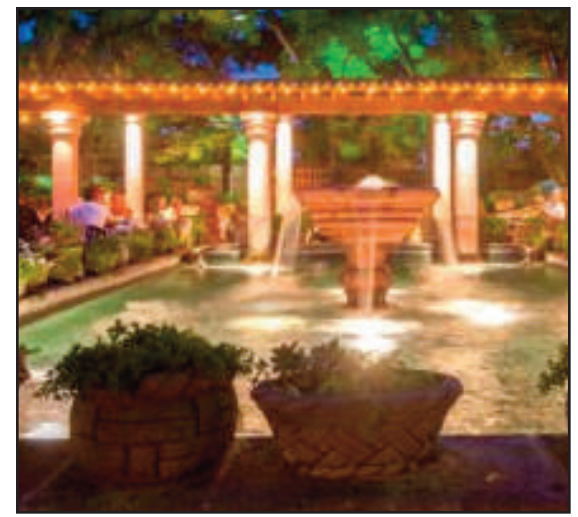
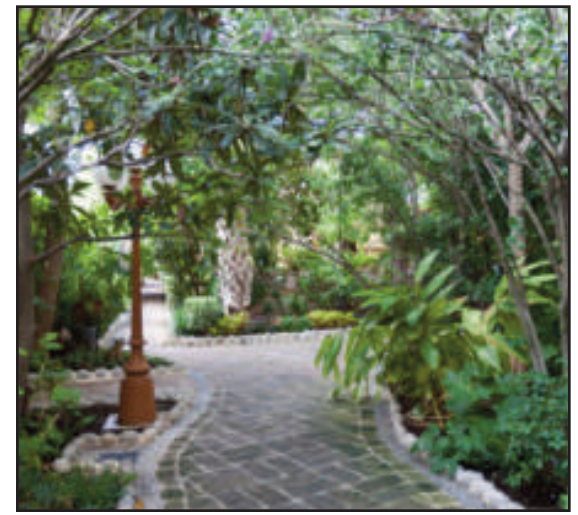
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["What is good journalism?"](#)

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FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN



BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS



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

**PEOPLE & PLACES** | Messenger Media publisher/editor **Cheryl Smith** has been appointed to the SPJ national board. A veteran journalist (more than 40 years) and graduate of Florida A&M University — and member of the Fort Worth SPJ board — she has served as regional director and secretary for the National Association of Black Journalists and president of the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists. She sits on the board of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. In addition to chairing the communications department at Paul Quinn College, she has taught at UNT, Texas Woman's University and Dallas College. ... **Kate Lattimore Norris** has been named vice president of Pavlik and Associates. She has been with the full-service communications firm for more than 12 years, most recently as director of community engagement. In her new position she will lead in developing executive communications strategies for Pavlik's public and private sector clients. Norris is pursuing a PhD in public administration and public policy at UT Arlington. She holds a marketing MBA from the University of North Texas and a BA in art history and religious studies from TCU.



Cheryl Smith



Kate Lattimore Norris

**NEW MEMBERS** **Alex Boos**, KTVT | CBS DFW ... **Amanda Rider** ... **Jacob Sanchez**, Fort Worth Report

## SPJ21: Plenty of positives

SPJ is stronger than ever. That was executive director **John Shertzer's** opening message at the virtual national convention. Have some details:

- SPJ is in a stronger position than it was at this time last year, which itself was stronger than the year before.
- Student membership has grown 20 percent.
- SPJ is the healthiest it has been financially in years, with more than \$550,000 in the bank now compared to less than \$300,000 in 2020.
- The 2020-21 board of directors dealt with several unusual challenges but prevented any from becoming obstacles to progress.



John Shertzer

SPJ has established a membership partnership with CMA/ACP, and the organizations will cohost the 2022 convention in Washington, D.C. Among other goals met in the year just past, Shertzer highlighted establishment of the New Ethics Response Team, funded by Newmark Philanthropies, and the Student Trustee Council.

[SPJ21 session replays](#)

The Scripps Leadership Program has been revived and refreshed as the Future Leaders Academy, and the first is set for November. SPJ items can now be purchased at an online store, and a new membership database should offer more options to organize and present membership information.

In chapter developments, 2,667 members fill 54 professional chapters; average pro chapter size is 48. One hundred twenty-six campus chapters have 697 members, with the average chapter size six members. Forty-three percent of members are not affiliated with a chapter.

Leadership's plan for SPJ involves:

- Creating more robust opportunities for members to engage with each other, one way being through communities.
- Strengthening advocacy and the chapters.
- Continuing to amplify ethics as the organization's calling card.

During the business meeting, delegates approved all of the proposed bylaws changes. The proposals were sent to the general membership before the conference.

— Kim Pewitt-Jones

[more eChaser on p. 3](#)

# VITAL READS: Near and Far

INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS | REPORT FOR AMERICA

[After the deluge: Ida's gone, and Louisiana public schools are reopening](#)

[A man died at an NYC construction site, and no one told his story](#)

[Trump-deported asylum seekers asking administration to help them return](#)

[Fresh data shows racial disparities in career and technical education](#)

How we've navigated the pandemic: Tarrant residents share their stories

## Fort Worth Report

[That ol' horned lizard, he's coming back!](#)

[Fort Worth could get environmental museum, but it needs to fight for it](#)

FW teachers fund their classroom libraries. The public library wants to help

## Fort Worth Star-Telegram

[Lower property tax rate and a few more firefighters: FW passes '22 budget](#)

[This nonprofit is expanding its services to help residents in 76119](#)

Last troops exit

Afghanistan, ending America's longest war

## FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS

[666 new Texas laws went into effect Sept. 1. Some are high impact](#)

[Texas home prices up 76% over decade](#)

[Federal mandate takes vaccine decision off employers' hands](#)

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

**Dale Hansen** once embarrassed me so badly that I had to laugh

[How one woman's passion led to the opening of a new Dallas city library](#)

[North Texas woman goes two weeks without air conditioning, then meets company owner with a heart](#)

**Paxton** report clears Paxton of any and all crimes. He's brilliant, this guy

[At historic cemetery, old-time board's ouster turns traditions upside down](#)

[Millions still waiting for tax refunds, but IRS doesn't answer the phone](#)

[With new cryptocurrency mining on city land, Denton is suddenly a player](#)

[Bogus Texas contractors admit they stole \\$850k from clients. This time somebody cared. Hello, FBI!](#)

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

This gives me hope. As more [local news outlets shrink and close](#), journalists and organizations are getting creative to help save local news. The [National Trust for Local News](#) is trying to build a \$300 million fund to help keep communities informed. The trust works to catalyze the capital, ownership structures and business models needed for established local news organizations to succeed. **Elizabeth Hansen Shapiro**, who started the trust, [hopes to sell local news bonds](#) to a national philanthropic capital market. In another effort, the [Institute for Nonprofit News](#) has started its largest collaboration ever with more than 50 participating newsrooms to [cover rural America from coast to coast](#). The project [leverages the reporting power of established newsrooms](#) with the sourcing and expertise in place to strengthen coverage in all markets, large to small.

**SPJ factoids:** Two new open-source tools to strengthen collaborative data journalism were released awhile back, but still. [ProPublica's beta of Collaborate](#) lets journalists, both individually and in newsrooms, work together to review, verify and report on data that they've collected by uploading spreadsheets or linking to Google Sheets, Google Forms or Screendoor. The [Associated Press unveiled AP Datakit](#), a command-line organizer designed to better structure and manage projects, making it easier to standardize and share work among members of a team. ...

Journalists [fell for an incorrect story](#) on rural Oklahoma hospitals becoming overwhelmed by victims of ivermectin poisoning. A local news outlet first reported the story but [did not provide context](#), and other outlets didn't fact check or do further reporting. The flawed story was widely shared. ...

Federal marshals arrested an Ohio man [accused of running toward and heckling](#) MSNBC correspondent **Shaquille Brewster** and his crew as they were reporting live by a Mississippi beach after Hurricane Ida. The man [got in Brewster's face](#) before Brewster calmly tossed the report back to anchor **Craig Melvin**. The man could be heard shouting, "Report accurately!" ...

The United States has sanctioned [four Iranian intelligence operatives](#) over a failed plot to kidnap a U.S. journalist critical of Tehran. ...

A [new study](#) found that states with coalitions for open government are more likely to have counties that are more transparent, meaning faster response, more complete response and more communicative in the public records process. [More in the Journal of Civic Information](#). ...

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals [rejected Rep. Devin Nunes', R-Calif., defamation suit](#) over a 2018 Esquire article about his family's Iowa dairy farm but revived the lawmaker's claim that reporter **Ryan Lizza** libeled him when he linked to the story in a tweet. This puts the court into a [contested area](#) of First Amendment and defamation law. ...

A judge sentenced the man who killed five Capital Gazette employees in 2018 to the [maximum penalty allowable under law](#). ...

The NewsGuild of New York has filed [unfair labor practice charges against Gannett](#), the largest local media company in the country.

**Caught my eye:** [How we will all solve the climate crisis ... Western US may be headed for a once-in-500-years megadrought ... Marshall Islands prove that all stories are climate stories ... SEG tech generates electricity using shadows and light ... Colorful corals may be calling crucial algae back home ... California trash-to-hydrogen plant promises dirt-cheap, super-green H2](#)

**Closing words** [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: ... "An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have. The older she gets, the more interested he is in her." — **Agatha Christie**

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## Cowcatcher Magazine

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



UNsung: REMEMBERING JEWELL HOUSE

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... "The ideal reader of my novels is a lapsed Catholic and a failed musician, short-sighted, color-blind, auditorily biased, who has read the books that I have read." — English novelist, critic and composer **Anthony Burgess**