

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

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* 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.



A memorial service for Dr. **Bill Stone** — Navy man, community volunteer, generous civic benefactor and the kind face of academic journalism for multiple generations of UTA students — will be Friday, Aug. 5. Dr. Stone died July 14. He was 91. [More here.](#)

- Inside the new wave of post-**Trump** activism on the right
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- Election deniers have taken their lies on tour — to nearly every state
- New Supreme Court case biggest threat to US democracy since Jan. 6
- Highland Park, **Jayland Walker**, and a holiday defined by shootings
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Next at [Fort Worth SPJ](#) ... updates on the [homepage](#) and [Facebook](#)

BIG-TIME SUPPORTER



FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS



Gridiron Show finds its forever home | P.2



QUICK HITS

- Arlington Conservation Council monthly Zoomer (recorded), "Volunteering with Arlington Parks and Rec," with **Montana Williams** — 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3. [Info.](#)
- GFW PRSA professional development program, "Mindfulness and Messaging: Mental Health, Youth and the Content We Create," with **Laura Van Hoosier** and **Kim Brown**, Cook Children's; **Cynthia Powell**, UNT HSC; **Kristi Wiley**, Jordan Elizabeth Harris Foundation — 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3, Ridglea Country Club. [Info.](#)
- FWBG | BRIT — Luncheon Lecture: An Overview of Botanical and Ecological Work to Guide Conservation, Aug. 2; Drawing the Garden, Aug. 6; Gardens for Peace (G4P), Aug. 6; Heirloom Plants, Aug. 10; Dog Days, Aug. 20-21. [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](#) and [texaspress.com/job-board](#) appear in this report.* ... Sports editors are in high demand at [The Daily Sentinel](#) in Nacogdoches and the [Fort Bend Herald](#). ... The Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University seeks a full-time staff writer to help it improve lives through data, research, engagement and action. [Info.](#) ... DebtHammer, a company that helps people escape predatory loans, has an opening for a deputy managing editor with a background in personal finance or news. [Info.](#) ... UTHHealth Houston seeks a PR media specialist to turn scientific/medical research and news into easy-to-understand stories on deadline. [Info.](#)

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

Fifty years of Texas Gridiron Show memorabilia have landed at UTA Special Collections, where the items will be cataloged and made available for journalism historians to make a fuss over. **Donna Darovich, Verlie Edwards, Eddy Gallagher, Cathy O'Neal, Linda Pavlik, Kay Pirtle, Carolyn Poirot, Susan Waring** and SPJ national president **Rebecca Aguilar**, almost all of whom performed in the stage show, presented the material in June. UTA's **Sara Pezzoni** coordinated the exchange. To contribute additional keepsakes (the add-in window never really closes), contact [Edwards](#) or [Pezzoni](#).

Edwards, the Fort Worth chapter president for the final Gridiron performance in 1996, called the show a "must attend" for politicians and civic leaders. Everything — the pointed song parodies and biting stage lines, the choreography, the snappy patter — was done in fun and for a cause. In five decades spoofing current events and the newsmakers behind them, the Gridiron raised an estimated \$400,000 in scholarships.

There was one rule. According to the final Yellow Jaundice, the Gridiron's irreverent newspaper (on yellow newsprint!), scriptwriters were "never to kick a person when he or she was down because this would be cruel." Besides, noted the late Gridiron star **Irv Farman**, "if you really want to hurt a guy, you ignore him."

The all-male Sigma Delta Chi (now SPJ) put on the first shows, on the Friday evening closest to April Fool's Day. For 20-plus years, the Gridiron stayed all-male, even attendees. Women could see the dress rehearsal if they were family of member-actors or by invitation. In 1969 SPJ opened its membership to women, and women joined the Gridiron cast in 1972. The next year they were allowed to attend the performance.

Prior to women joining the audience, two or three skits were selected each year to perform the following morning at Women in Communications' annual Celebrity Breakfast. Performers were selected based on who could best remember their songs following an evening of cast parties.

Occasionally newsmakers were asked to join the cast. The first non-SPJ actor was Tarrant County Commissioner **B.D. Griffin**. All-world pianist **Van Cliburn** took the stage, as did CBS News anchor **Bob Schieffer** and Texas Gov. **Ann Richards** and — you get the idea.

At intermission newsmakers were brought on stage to read scripts handed to them as they stepped before the audience. The stars here were always the good-natured duo of political opposites, U.S. House Speaker **Jim Wright** and U.S. Sen. **John Tower**. One year they donned the top hat, grabbed a cane and performed a soft shoe routine.

UTA Special Collections represents a happy ending for the boxes of invitations, programs, scripts, photos, news clippings, video tapes and costumes, rescued from the cobwebby corners of someone's garage. Seventy-five years after its debut, the Gridiron still can make a little news.

PEOPLE & PLACES **Kathryn Jones** on the upcoming SPJ elections: "Want to make a difference in SPJ? Consider running for a national or regional position. Up for grabs this year are vice president, secretary/treasurer, two at-large directors and Region 8 coordinator." After two terms, Jones is stepping down as RC. More at [SPJ Election Central](#). Deadline to declare candidacy is 7 p.m. Sept. 15. Private message Jones on Facebook to learn more about the RC position.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

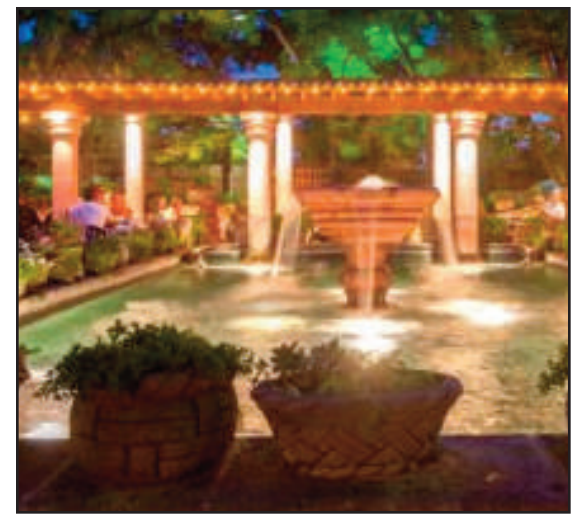
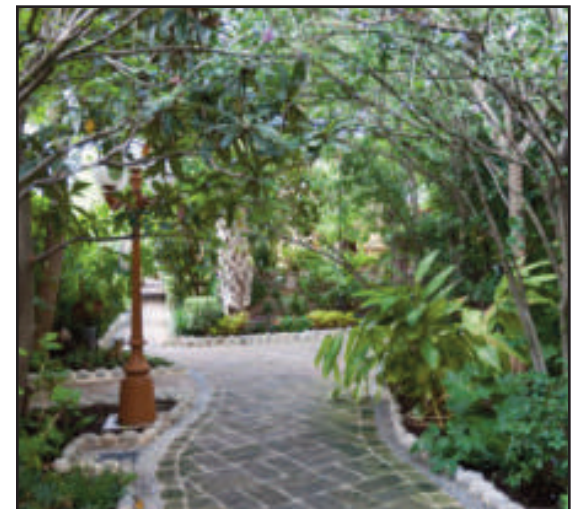
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F.O.I.F.T. UPDATE The Uvalde mass shooting at Robb Elementary School happened May 24. On July 12 the Austin American-Statesman published the video from the tragedy and a column by editor **Manny Garcia** on why his newspaper and KVUE decided to show the footage. Authorities easily could have released it by then. "We have to bear witness to history," Garcia writes, "and transparency and unrelenting reporting is a way to bring change." [Details](#).

[more eChaser on p. 3](#)



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FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS **THE TEXAS TRIBUNE**

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Bill Stone was the nicest guy in the room, and so supportive — of his family, of SPJ, of the right things (Arlington Kiwanis, Mission Arlington). When I think of Dr. Stone I think of the UTA communication department, and vice versa, and that always brings a smile. ...

Way to go, team **Verlie Edwards, Donna Darovich, Cathy O'Neal, Linda Pavlik** and **Carolyn Poirot** and all who gathered or gave Gridiron pieces for UTA Special Collections. Fort Worth journalists' charmingly acerbic song and dance revue, at once rough around the edges yet a showcase for oft-impressive homegrown talent, will live on in the most elegant space at a top-tier university. Gives me chills. Thank you, Verlie. This is a coup. ...

Roger Summers reminds that a \$20 million nonprofit news/information effort is forming in Houston and will be naming a CEO and hiring journalists and others. It will be free, though readers will be encouraged to donate. "All of this," Roger suggests, "will have much impact."

SPJ factoids: A month after the Robb Elementary shooting in Uvalde, journalists continued to be railroaded by law enforcement as police resisted releasing information. More [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#). ...

Twitter has launched Twitter Write, which will loosen the 280-character limit and allow for articles to be embedded in the post. TW is designed to not only benefit traditional journalists and authors with a larger following but also bloggers, newsletter publishers, comedians, content creators and many others. More [here](#), [here](#). ...

A recent report has documented the closure of 360 U.S. newspapers since 2019, greatly impacting poor and rural communities. An additional 2,500 papers have shuttered since 2004. More [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#). ...

Nine in 10 journalists in the U.S. use social media for their work (Pew Research Center), with Twitter and Facebook far and away the preferred platforms. More [here](#), [here](#), [here](#). ...

Arizona has banned, with some exceptions, people from taking close-range recordings of police. More [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#). ...

The Sarasota Herald-Tribune, a Gannett-owned newspaper in Florida, published a guest column that defended the Proud Boys. It was later removed. More [here](#). ...

The latest edition of the Reuters Institute Digital News Report finds that selective news avoidance has increased. More [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#). ...

Gannett is scaling back its editorial and op-ed pages, saying those pages are the least read. More [here](#), [here](#), [here](#). ...

The Pulitzer Prize board rejected former President **Donald Trump's** request to revoke awards given The New York Times and The Washington Post for their reporting on Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. More [here](#).

Caught my eye: [System uses ultrasound to keep bats away from wind turbines](#) ... [Recyclable wonder-fuel promises twice the range and zero emissions at half the price](#) ... [Why every home should be a thermal battery](#) ... [New CO2 powder could help fight climate change](#)

Closing words [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: "Any idiot can face a crisis. It's day-to-day living that wears you out." — **Anton Chekhov** ... "The story is the first thing and the last thing." — **Norman Rockwell** on the subject of art

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