

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

SEPTEMBER 2022 • Back Issues

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE





**75+1** FWSPJ *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.

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- [Who gets credit for a surprisingly functional Congress?](#)
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- [The maddening coverage of the Mar-a-Lago search](#)
- [Sources: \*\*Abbott\*\* has 'total veto power' over who leads Texas' power grid](#)
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- [An encyclopedia of local anchors who ran for office](#)
- [Repression in Russia, renaissance outside of it](#)
- [Kari Lake, and the danger of local-news anchors jumping into politics](#)
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Next at [Fort Worth SPJ](#) ... updates on the [homepage](#) and [Facebook](#)

## SPJ national reopens executive director search

**John Shertzer** resigned as executive director, effective Aug. 26. Early this month he will take a similar position with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. At SPJ he succeeded **Alison Bethel McKenzie**, who left in April 2019 after 13 months. **Jennifer Royer**, who joined SPJ headquarters in August 2014 as its first communications strategist, is the interim ED.

Shertzer's accomplishments included shepherding SPJ through the pandemic and negotiating the sale of its headquarters real estate, SPJ leaders said. "John got SPJ through uncharted covid-19 territory, negotiating relief from hotels and other vendors to keep SPJ from losing vast amounts of money in vulnerable convention deposits," said **Bill McCloskey**, a member of SPJ's Finance and Bylaws Committee.

"He guided the switch to virtual conventions and kept the headquarters office functioning with everyone working from home. He realized that the virtual office was so effective that the organization was able to negotiate sale of its Indianapolis headquarters real estate at a nice profit." McCloskey said he was "sorry to see such an effective leader depart" and also sorry that "volunteer leadership again had no succession plan in place."

Texas chapter presidents praised Shertzer's leadership as SPJ struggled with issues such as continuing problems with its membership database. "I appreciated John's calm demeanor and willingness to help," said **Ruth Nasrullah**, Houston Pro Chapter president. "On more than one occasion I sent him anxious e-mails about the database and the Houston chapter's challenges with member growth and retention, and he always responded with thoughtful, concrete suggestions."

**Michael Drudge**, president of the San Antonio Pro Chapter, said Shertzer brought "much-needed stability and prudent leadership" to SPJ. Region 12 coordinator **Jennifer Ellis** commended Shertzer for "distilling member surveys into a smooth elevator pitch for SPJ with the core four: We are champions for journalists. We are fighters for the First Amendment. We are stewards for ethical journalism. We are producers of journalism's future."

Shertzer also supported good programs, helping SPJ Florida launch the Race & Gender Hotline and boosting SPJ's International Community. **Elle Toussi**, a journalist with Boom Dia Media and SPJ IC co-chair, called Shertzer an "empathetic and dynamic leader who not only listened, but acted on the information he was given. It was under his leadership that the IC was able to get some bearings in SPJ."

Shertzer had parting words for chapter leaders and campus chapter advisers in his final e- to them: "Keep believing in the power of journalism!"

- Kathryn Jones

### QUICK HITS

- Arlington Conservation Council monthly Zoomer (recorded), "Bin there, done that: What recyclers should and should not put to the curb," with **Misty Adams**, Arlington environmental programs coordinator — 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7. [Info.](#)
- GFW PRSA half-day professional development seminar, "In the Hot Seat: An Exercise in Emergency Communications," with **Catherine Cuellar**, **John Patterson**, **Jennifer Moreno**, city of Dallas, and **Sparkle Bell**, APR, strategic communicator in various roles during Houston's biggest hurricanes — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, Ridglea Country Club. [Info.](#)
- FWBG | BRIT — ¡Celebremos!, Sept. 15-Oct. 15; Gentle Yoga, Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28; Native Sunflower Plant Talk and Book Signing, Sept. 16; Lunchtime Lecture Series: The Life and Scientific Legacy of Lena Artz, Sept. 6; Birding Walk with Fort Worth Audubon Society, Sept. 24; Bountiful Blooms Acrylics Workshop, Sept. 10. [Info.](#)

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

### BIG-TIME SUPPORTER



### FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS



Texas Center for Community Journalism funding boosted

The Texas Center for Community Journalism has received a 25 percent increase in its annual funding. Financial support for the organization, housed on Tarleton State University's Stephenville campus since 2020, comes through the Texas Newspaper Foundation, which has renewed its \$20,000 yearly pledge. The Texas Press Service contributed a fresh \$5,000.



TCCJ offers support for almost 400 small-town papers. Created by Dr. Tommy Thomason at TCU, it offers free training on a variety of topics vital to small newspapers' survival.

Over the past year, TCCJ director Austin Lewter and contributors from the center have logged more than 3,800 miles to present writing and design workshops at community newspapers statewide. TCCJ also hosted in-person workshops in Stephenville and Austin.



IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB Listings in journalismjobs.com and dfwcommunicators.com and texaspress.com/job-board appear in this report. ... The Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri is growing its Innovation in Focus series and has an opening on the team. The series experiments with new ideas, products and resources that could advance community-centered newsrooms. The new team member will lead the monthly experiments, write and edit pieces for rjionline.org, and contribute to a newsletter. Go here and search 43228 in staff positions. ... Fast-growing, remote-only cryptocurrency media company Bitfo seeks an experienced journalist with an appetite for tech and an interest in blockchain technology. Bitfo covers bitcoin, Ethereum, DeFi and NFTs, and the company says its sites have millions of page views per month. Info. ... Two openings at the Dallas Business Journal — reporter and digital producer. ... The nonprofit San Antonio Report seeks an "energetic and curious" reporter to cover the education beat. Info.



Sandra Brodnicki

PEOPLE & PLACES Fort Worth Report and KERA News are working together to cover stories impacting Tarrant County. FWR journalists are heard regularly on KERA News 90.1, and KERA reporters are getting bylines on fortworthreport.org. More here. ...



Laura Van Hoosier

Sandra Brodnicki, APR, Fellow PRSA, and Laura Van Hoosier, APR, Fellow PRSA, have been named to the PRSA College of Fellows, bringing the number of fellows in the Greater Fort Worth Chapter to 11. Brodnicki is a co-principal in the S&G Group, Arlington-based strategic planning and communications consultants. Van Hoosier is assistant vice president of public relations and communications for Cook Children's Health Care System. ... "Amon Carter was a cultural phenomenon that you don't find anymore in the United States," Dave Lieber told KERA News' Jerome Weeks. "He ran Fort Worth for 50 years. He ran the city. He ran West Texas. He was the dominant figure in this region for half a century." And as embodied by actor Kelvin Dilks, Carter will dominate the stage at the Artisan Center Theater in Hurst for a four-performance September run of Lieber's acclaimed one-man play, "AMON! The Ultimate Texan." In its initial run "AMON!" was performed 36 times in six Texas cities, going as far west as Abilene. Carter owned the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and created WBAP-AM and Channel 5. Coincidentally, this is the 100th anniversary year of WBAP.

Watch the larger-than-life Amon G. Carter take a dig at Dallas over the Texas Centennial.



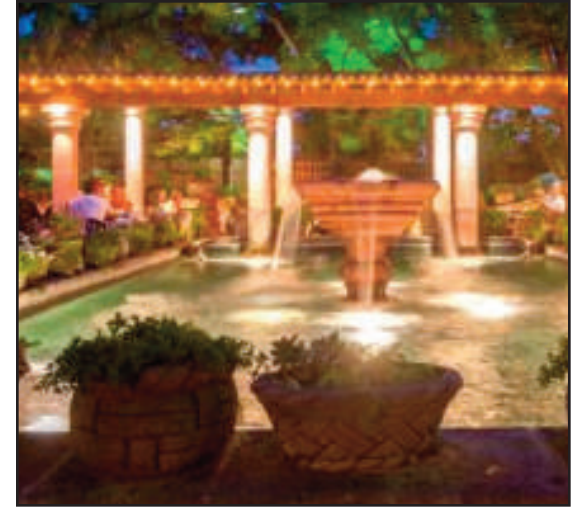
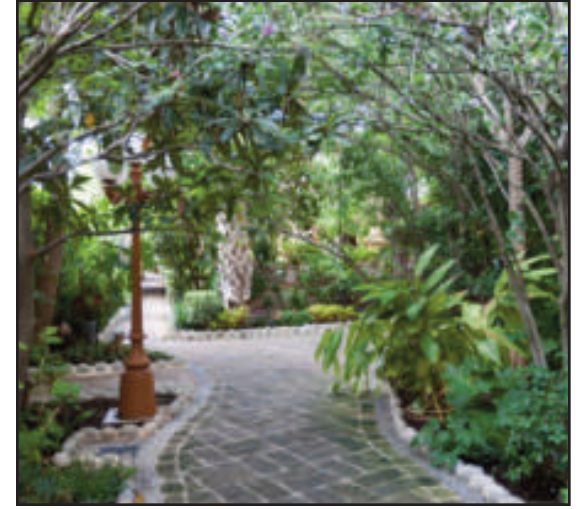
POWER TO THE PEOPLE

- You can prevent the terrifying SIM card theft
This Texas woman is fighting for her home (all she wanted was a new roof)
When is Texas going to tap the billions in rainy day fund to fix a few things?
Once upon a time, Texas homebuilders. Corruption ruined it all
Beware of thieves with Zelle scammers pretending to be from your bank
6 things you need to know about the new charge on your phone bill
Death by sadness: Equifax fails: Denton County dysfunction: spam calls
Nuclear Regulatory Commission gets an F for response to records request
Electricity power brokers work in secret | AT&T's error | text scams alert

F.O.I.F.T. UPDATE More than a dozen news organizations on Aug. 1 filed a lawsuit against the Texas Department of Public Safety, accusing the agency of unlawfully withholding public records related to the May school shooting in Uvalde. Details. ... A Katy ISD police officer temporarily removed a book from a high school library in July after a woman filed a criminal complaint alleging the district was providing "harmful" material to minors. The book, "Flamer," by Mike Curato, had been formally reviewed by a committee and deemed appropriate for high school students. Details. ... Two years ago, Bexar County sheriff's deputy Brandin Moran killed Jesus Benito Garcia in a rain of gunfire while a sergeant with the Elmendorf Police Department looked on. TPR requested body cam footage for both officers in an attempt to answer questions around Moran's use of deadly force and a significant difference in narrative. Details.

more eChaser on p. 3

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# VITAL READS: Near and National



How Facebook pages exploit Russia's war in Ukraine with false videos

6 problems with **Herschel Walker's** tweet about domestic drilling

The lies, lies everywhere issue

Unpacking the Inflation Reduction Act | **Cotton** dunks on 'slush fund'

## Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Why some Texas schools are trying 4-day weeks

'Crisis ... into catastrophe': FW schools grapple with teacher shortage

What is the 'Remain in Mexico' policy that the president ended?

Follow-up to Keller schools pull 'Anne Frank,' Bibles from libraries

Sexual assault in prison: Overwhelmed mental health system fails to help

## Fort Worth Report

Married 67 years, daughter captured their final days

Code violations concentrated in FW's most impoverished neighborhoods

Development drives neighborhood underwater while city fights road flooding

How does FW make downtown better? Developers: Get out of its own way

## FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS



Is **Alex Jones'** trial about free speech rights?

Bumps, bipartisanship in long fight for semiconductor bill

Texas bans government entities from working with firms that 'boycott' fossil fuels

False 2020 voter fraud claims led to threats against Tarrant election chief



Tyrant County

Trust in God or guns? Or trucks?

New vision for Crockett Row



**Molly Ivins** had a few things to say about climate change deniers

West Texas town comes out for drag queens

Pandemic inspires new crop of farmers

Next on the GOP's list: Starving queer kids

'No real consequences' for toxic emissions events

OVER & OUT | John Dycus, Fort Worth SPJ

Newly resigned SPJ executive director **John Shertzer**, with his impressive tally of significant achievements, is a good guy. I'm sorry he's gone. ...

In The New Yorker, Aug. 11: "August, despite its reputation, has never been a slow month or news. Wars start in August. Coups happen. Markets crash. Governments fall. Sometimes, the news is even good. Consider the developments of the past week or so. Gas prices are dropping, with the national average falling below four dollars a gallon for the first time in months. Inflation might be peaking, and unemployment remains vanishingly low. The Senate passed a sweeping bill to address climate change and health care, less than two weeks after the bill, the Biden administration's top priority, experienced an unlikely resurrection. President **Joe Biden**, finally recovered from covid and emerging from more than two weeks in quarantine, also signed bipartisan legislation to invest tens of billions of dollars into scientific research to aid veterans suffering from exposure to burn pits, and accepted the proposed accession of Finland and Sweden to nato. The President also announced the killing of **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, perhaps the world's most wanted terrorist, after a two-decade manhunt." So, naturally, let's talk Trump. ...

**Liz Cheney** maybe didn't start out a patriot, but she sounds like one now.

**SPJ factoids**: A Republican rally featuring Florida Gov. **Ron DeSantis** and Senate candidate **J.D. Vance** in Ohio placed heavy restrictions on the press, which drew a flurry of reactions. More here, here, here. ...

Rappler, an independent news organization in the Philippines founded and run by **Maria Ressa**, 2018 Time Magazine Person of the Year, 2019 SPJ Fellow of the Society and 2021 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was ordered to shut down. More here, here, here, here. ...

A recent poll shows that U.S. adults have lost confidence in news media, the criminal justice system, the presidency, the Supreme Court, public schools and even the military. More here, here, here, here. ...

Media coverage of **Joe Biden's** presidency may have contributed to his approval rates dropping. Brookings nonresident senior fellow **Marvin Kalb** notes that journalists have a better chance of publishing if a story focuses on administrative failings rather than successes. More here. ...

The San Antonio Express-News, The Texas Tribune, ProPublica and The New York Times, among others, filed a public record request for documents regarding the Robb Elementary School shooting. More here, here, here. ...

It has been 50 years since journalist **Jean Heller's** investigation exposing the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. More here, here. ...

**Andrew Travers**, editor-in-chief of The Aspen (Colo.) Times, was fired after publishing two opinion columns criticizing billionaire **Vladislav Doronin**. More here, here, here, here.

**Caught my eye**: Electricity-free air con: Thermoacoustic device turns waste heat into cold using no additional power ... Large meta-study reveals aspirin bleeding risks outweigh heart benefits ... For every \$1 spent cutting food waste, restaurants get back \$7

**Closing words** [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: "I remain one thing and one thing only, and that is a clown. It places me on a far higher plane than any politician." — **Charlie Chaplin** ... "Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you." — famed architect **Frank Lloyd Wright**

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"There is no greater agony than carrying an untold story." — Maya Angelou

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