

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

MAY - JUNE 2023 • Back Issues

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE





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

Nonprofits have changed the Lone Star news landscape, but nothing has been easy. Join Fort Worth SPJ for an insightful discussion with Fort Worth Report CEO/publisher **Chris Cobler** and Texas Observer editor **Gabe Arana** at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, at Joe T. Garcia's Mexican restaurant (Villa Room) on Fort Worth's fabled North Side. Twenty bucks covers the program *and* Joe T.'s enchilada dinner. Such a deal. Add \$1 to pay with a credit card. [RSVP by May 22.](#)



Career educator Gallagher honored

From teaching English to advising young journalists, Fort Worth SPJ president (four terms) **Eddy Gallagher** has worked diligently for the Texas journalism education community. That dedication was recognized when she was inducted into the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Hall of Fame at its 2023 convention in March at the Hilton Fort Worth Downtown.



p. 2: SPJ does TIPA

In her remarks she thanked the people who have inspired her, including her sister, who died earlier this year, and fellow TIPA Hall of Famers **Dorothy Estes**, who was responsible for her going to college; **Diane Turner**, who worked with her at Tarrant County College; and **John Dycus** and **Donna Darovich**, both long connected with SPJ and UT Arlington.

As a girl Eddy loved to read newspapers; now she has over 48 years of professional journalism experience. "This award is very special," she said, "not only because of its journalism ties but because of the personal connections that I have here."

She recounted her journalism journey, from her days at Texas Wesleyan University and winning awards with the school newspaper, to working at the TCU News Bureau, to teaching and advising the newspaper staff at TCC. She was the TCC student publications director for 18 years. "I loved teaching and enjoyed listening to students when I came back from their competitions at these conferences," she said. "I enjoyed watching them when they won awards."

Gallagher was introduced at the awards luncheon by **Chris Whitley**, whom she hired to advise The Collegian and who succeeded her as TCC publications director. He said he learned how to be a good adviser from her.

"It's fitting that TIPA is honoring her because it is an organization she has supported for decades," he said. "She served as TIPA president not once but twice. She was TIPA's Adviser of the Year in 2005. She was CMA's National Distinguished Two-Year Newspaper Adviser of the Year in 2014. And she was inducted into the Texas Community College Journalism Association Hall of Fame in 2017. So really, this was the only honor left that she hadn't won."

- Alex Hoben

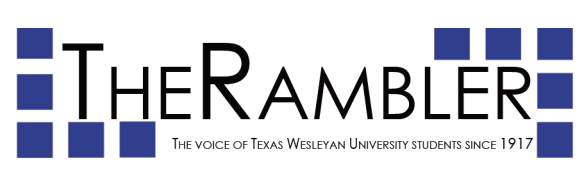
QUICK HITS

- GFW PRSA professional development meeting, "Is the Future of News Nonprofit? The Fort Worth Report Success Story and What It Means," with FWR's **Robert Francis**, **Trish Rodriguez Terrell**, **Thomas Martinez** — 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, Ridglea Country Club. [Info.](#)
- FWBG | BRIT — Summer Blooms Acrylics Workshop, June 10; Concerts in the Garden, May 26-June 11; Get on the bus! Explore all 120 acres in comfort at no charge. [Info.](#)

GET A JOB. *Listings in [journalismjobs.com](#) may add to this report. ...* The nonprofit Fort Worth Report seeks a membership manager with strong digital marketing skills. [Info.](#) ... The Fort Worth Star-Telegram is looking for a reporter/high school sports editor. Full-time position, bachelor's degree required. [Info.](#) ... Houston Public Media, the city's NPR/PBS affiliate (licensed to the University of Houston), seeks a reporter to help establish a news bureau, its first, in the area's second largest county, Fort Bend. [Info.](#)

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

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

Texas Observer survives near death experience

An opportunity to give back to the community

The YMCA's Texas Youth and Government program needs volunteers in the media section where students gain experience creating content for broadcast or a print publication. Maybe you're that volunteer, outgoing, eager to engage, or it's you, the shy retiree. Contact **Christy R. Jones** with the YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth, 817-566-1066, cjones@ymcafw.org.

Jones said students today have little understanding of the reporter's role and how to apply the canons and ethics of journalism. "High school and middle school students come to the program with varying levels of access to journalism. They struggle to think beyond social platforms. The organization also lacks a dedicated media mentoring team that can help educate and introduce journalism skills."

AJ Rea heads YAG District 4 (Fort Worth/Arlington) and is working to keep it going, Jones said, "but without some dedicated volunteers, we are concerned it could fall to the wayside." She said her team member has a deeper knowledge of what's needed, "but I wanted to get the conversation started to see if SPJ could be a resource."

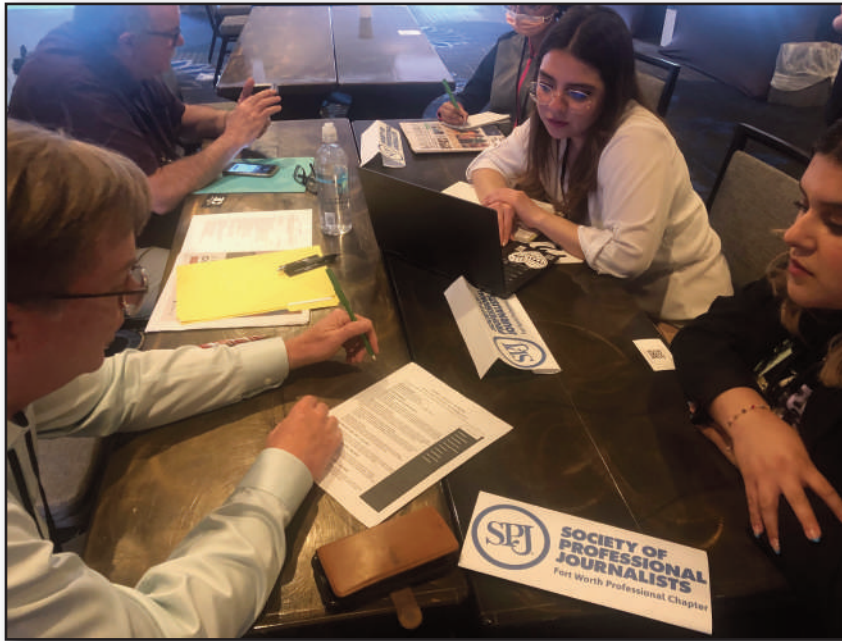
Youth and Government is a YMCA leadership club for high school students to explore the legislative branch, judicial branch and other components of Texas government. It offers opportunities to travel, consider careers and learn from professionals. [More here.](#)

For the second year in a row, Fort Worth SPJ supported college journalists at the TIPA convention. The chapter provided support with a Bronze sponsorship, while more than 300 students gathered at the Hilton Fort Worth Downtown for competitions, sessions with professionals, the Hall of Fame luncheon and a closing awards brunch where several Tarrant-area students took home major awards.



Kay Pirtle, Robert Bohler, SPJ Region 8 coordinator **Laura Garcia** and, *far right*, assistant coordinator **Jessica Priest**.

Chapter members **Chris Cobler, Robert Bohler, Eddy Gallagher** and **Kay Pirtle** spent two afternoons with students and advisers. Cobler, Bohler and Gallagher critiqued more than 20 résumés, advising the students on improving their presentation through design elements, content and a snazzy portfolio.



Robert Bohler and, *foreground*, **Chris Cobler** in full critique mode.

Conversations often drifted into pep talks about grad school, jobs and the benefits of SPJ, including the SPJ Region 8 Conference that was happening the next weekend. • The chapter also had a table where Pirtle talked with more than 100 attendees and handed out 85 SPJ brochures. She and the other three told students and advisers about Fort Worth SPJ programs, scholarships and social media. Thirty-six attendees left e-mail addresses so they could receive the eChaser and learn more.



Kay Pirtle welcomes students to the SPJ table.

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Meet **Sir Jack the rabbit** and **Card the cardinal**, sentinels at South Main Street and Broadway in Fort Worth's Near Southside. Creations of artist **Dale Rogers**, they're on loan to the J.O. Agency from **Greg Morse** at **Worthington Bank**.

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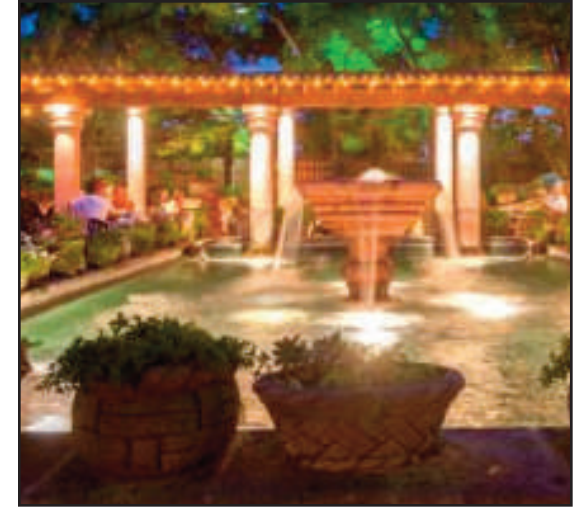
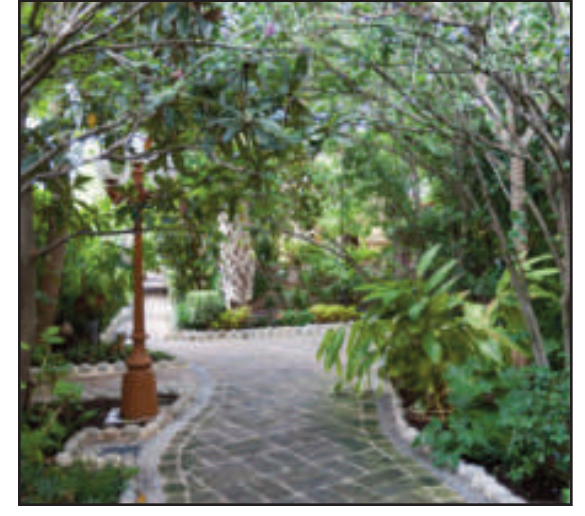
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TEXAS OBSERVER

'We are in a crisis': Texas public schools on the edge || Learning from the dead || Turning anti-Asian hate into law || Goodbye to a neighborhood || Taking back Texas' streets || Bigotry bigger in Texas || Students pay as Texas school districts violate 'threat assessment law' || Prison journalist shows the need for a free press — even behind bars



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Ninety-six attendees made the 20th Annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet at the Texas Rangers Golf Club quite the spirited affair. Stacy Luecker photos.

OVER & OUT | John Dycus, Fort Worth SPJ

Happens every year at our spring banquet. Once the organized fun ends — awards and scholarships are announced, chicken is consumed — the real fun emerges. Seeing the boisterous interchange between staffers from Fort Worth Report, the Texas Observer, TCC and UTA gave me hope. Can these young people and their peers nationwide save a burdened industry? Just maybe they can. ...

Everybody has a Bill Benge story. Bill and his mother were titans in the Tarrant PR/marketing game, and she brought her own extra dash of formidable that few could match. It came her time to die in February 1997, and Bill had a role in the service at Broadway Baptist. Before he spoke, the church organist brought forth a little number on Van Cliburn's thundering pipe organ, which could rattle window casings half a mile away at full throttle, which it was for Claudia Benge. As the mourners regained their aural equilibrium, Bill strode respectfully to the lectern. He looked down at his mother's casket and said, with all due dignity, "How'd you like that, Claudia?" Bill died this year, March 23. He loved people — he "could go out to the 7-Eleven and be gone three days because he found someone to talk to," said his wife, Sharon — and he introduced me to Massey's on Eighth Avenue. Now that's a good guy.

SPJ factoids: The Journalist Protection Act has been reintroduced. It would make it a federal crime to knowingly assault a reporter engaged in newsgathering. here, here

Following the mass shooting at an outdoor mall in Allen, Texas, graphic images began circulating on Twitter of the victims. Since Elon Musk bought Twitter late last year, he has laid off employees on the trust and safety teams responsible for content moderation. here, here, here, here, here

Caught my eye: Where to find the energy to save the world

Closing words [with gratitude to Garrison Keillor and Prairie Home Productions]: "Laughter is the hand of God on the shoulder of a troubled world." — Grady Nutt ... "Falling short of perfection is a process that just never stops." — The New Yorker editor William Shawn

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