

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

JULY 2023 • Back Issues

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE





**75+2 FWSPJ**

to subscribe or to submit items, e-  
[john@xdycus.com](mailto: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.

- [Nonprofit news revenue expands to sustain more outlets, staff](#)
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- [Hammer and Hope: The magazine picking up from the 2020 protests](#)
- [The fight for the soul of a school board](#)
- [What a national security regulator could mean for media deals](#)

## 122-0! Union ratifies 3-year DMN deal

In a historic vote, members of the Dallas News Guild who work at The Dallas Morning News unanimously approved a three-year contract — the first contract in the paper's 138 years.

Negotiating sessions concluded several weeks ago. Ninety-two percent of the Dallas News Guild's 133 members voluntarily agreed to pay union dues and were eligible to vote, according to guild election judge **Dave Lieber**. Voter turnout was 99 percent.

Unit chair **Maggie Prosser**, the DMN's suburban public safety reporter, spoke of "an overwhelming sense of relief" after 32 months of negotiating. "We are guaranteed minimum salaries. We get a pay increase each year. We have better protections against layoffs and better severance packages. Finally, members can plan for their futures."

The Dallas News Guild covers all newsroom departments of the DMN and Al Día — reporters, columnists, data journalists, copy editors, librarians, web producers, audio producers, page designers, photographers and videographers.

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

### BIG-TIME SUPPORTER



**SPJ FW Party Time!**

**It's the Summer Eat & Splash Party!**

**Food, Friends, Ice Tea, Water, Wine, Beer and Pool Time**

**Saturday, July 15, 5–9 p.m. Reservation Requested**

**Kim Pewitt Jones' home — 817-480-1229**  
**706 Riverwood Court, Mansfield, TX 76063**  
**Moderate swimwear is appreciated**

Featured food — beef brisket and grilled pork tenderloin, various side dishes provided by attendees

**Please RSVP by Wednesday, July 12, to [pirtlemk@yahoo.com](mailto:pirtlemk@yahoo.com) and tell us what you'll bring, to have a good variety of foods.**

**We will need food items such as chips, dip, ice, beer, wine, salads, beans, BBQ sauce, salsa, rolls, desserts.**

**Potato salad, ice tea, water and fruit will be provided.**

**If you would rather donate money, please make a \$10 donation to help with the cost of the meat and paper goods.**



### QUICK HITS

- GFW PRSA Worthy Awards entry deadlines Aug. 11 and Sept. 1, capped by 10th annual ceremony Friday, Nov. 3, Fort Worth Zoo. [Info.](#)
- FWBG | BRIT — Drawing the Garden: Pollinator Pathway, July 1. [Info.](#)



GET A JOB. Listings in [journalismjobs.com](http://journalismjobs.com) may add to this report. ... The Kerrville Daily Times has an immediate opening for a managing editor, a.k.a. "the driving force behind our newspaper." Full-time position with medical, dental and optical insurance; matching 401(k); paid time off; and vacation and sick leave. [Info.](#) ... Cover cops and courts and local government in "sunny West Texas" for the Odessa American. "It's a great news town, and the right person can make a difference." Includes health insurance and 401(k). [Info.](#) ... The San Antonio Express-News seeks a creative meteorologist to join a new weather science team operating within the newsroom. [Info.](#)

more eChaser on p. 2



COMPLAINT LINES: Public Utility Commission 888-782-8477 | Texas Attorney General 800-621-0508 | Federal Trade Commission 877-382-4357  
CREDIT BUREAUS: TransUnion 888-909-8872 | Innovis 800-540-2505 | Equifax 800-349-9960 | Experian 888-397-3742

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



INTERNSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE. Area college j-students have until July 15 to apply for Fort Worth SPJ's first reporting and social media internship. It will run Sept. 15-Dec. 15 and pay a \$1,000 stipend. Workload is estimated at 15 hours per month, with responsibilities to include social media promotion and coverage of chapter events, plus aggregation of news content for the chapter's digital newsletter, the eChaser. Send completed application to [spjfortworth@gmail.com](mailto:spjfortworth@gmail.com). [Download the form.](#) [Details.](#)

## At Tarleton, a victory for the student press

Tarleton State University must produce records that it withheld under Texas' Public Information Act, following an order handed down in the state's 266th Judicial District Court. The records could help reveal why administrators took editorial control over the campus' student newspaper after telling student editors to remove articles about a former professor's behavior with some female students.



Judge **Jason Cashion** ordered Tarleton to produce the records within 21 days of the June 9 ruling and to redact any information that identifies students. The university also must pay attorney fees and litigation costs. The court will hold an evidentiary hearing to decide the amount.

The nonprofit Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression sued the university in February 2022 for the records. FIRE asserts that Tarleton paid professor **Michael Landis** more than \$61,000 in September 2018 to leave the university after an investigation found instances of inappropriate behavior.

In 2021 Landis threatened to sue the student media outlet, the Texan News Service, for defamation over stories it published at the time. The student editors stood by the accuracy of their reporting, and any defamation suit would have been too late under the statute of limitations. Still, administrators removed the articles from the website.

FIRE wrote the university in August 2021 to defend the student publication. Tarleton replied that the Texan News Service was never independent from the administration — a key point in determining who controls content. A former TNS policy handbook seemed to counter this view.

FIRE lodged several public-records requests. The university provided some records in response but not all, citing confidentiality under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The court disagreed with Tarleton, saying universities cannot invoke exceptions meant to protect student privacy as a way to keep from public view information related to the administration.

More [here](#) and [here](#).

**PEOPLE & PLACES** Grab the ballpoint and break out the calendar, author ("Texas Dames: Sassy and Savvy Women Throughout Lone Star History" and "Texas Ranch Women: Three Centuries of Mettle and Moxie") **Carmen Goldthwaite** has a passel of fresh offerings. Stories: Take the Reader for a Spin launches the summer schedule Saturday, July 8, 10 a.m.-noon via Zoom. A new writers' circle, for beginning and seasoned writers to learn and refine techniques, starts the week of July 11. Other sessions will teach journalists how to use their skills to enhance short stories, novels and memoir. Registration for the first summer session is \$50; some sessions may be held in her Arlington Heights home. A former journalist and former teacher (SMU, TCU), Goldthwaite can be reached at 817 726-0412 or [carmengoldthwaite@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carmengoldthwaite@sbcglobal.net), or through [carmengoldthwaite.com](http://carmengoldthwaite.com). ...



UT Arlington business grad **Miguel Ruiz** has joined the J.O. Agency as a marketing strategist after stints with the Ebby Halliday Companies and as a public affairs officer for six years in the Texas Army National Guard. He oversaw digital marketing for three flagship Halliday companies (over 1,000 Realtors) and within a year was marketing manager for the Halliday brand Williams Trew. He holds multiple public relations certifications from the Department of Defense. In his spare time he documents his experiences at area small businesses as a Google local guide.

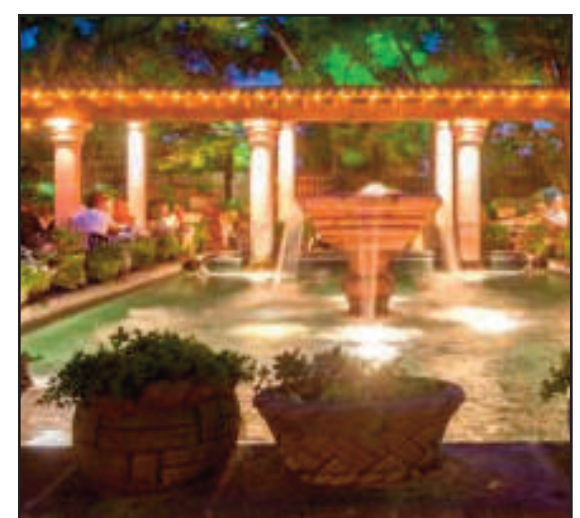
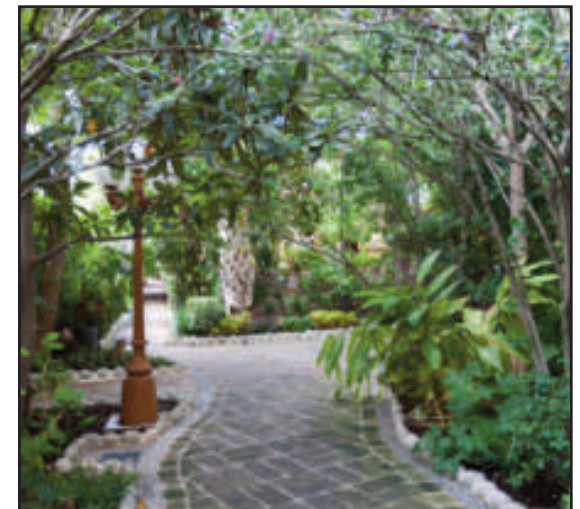


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# VITAL READS: Near and National

## POLITIFACT PANTS ON FIRE!

[Deconstructing spin about the Durham report's conclusions](#) || [Gavin Newsom](#) misleads in claim that Texas 'cut' mental health funds || [A false story about migrants catches fire](#) || [DeSantis](#) said not 'a single book' was banned in Florida. Districts have removed dozens || [Comparing records management of Trump, Biden, the Clintons](#)

## Fort Worth Star-Telegram

[Behind the drag protests: Who is picketing, and why queens won't give in](#) || [Fort Worth family claimed a federal law was racist. Supreme Court ruled against them](#) || [More families are leaving Texas' public schools for home-schooling. Here's why](#)

## Fort Worth Report

[How teens, veterans, farmers finding purpose at this Tarrant County farm](#) || [Gender identity disputes find Texas Boys Choir](#) || [What is Panther Island? Tracing a complex past, present and future](#) || [Nondiscrimination ordinance offers protections, liabilities for LGBTQ residents](#) || [Districts stuck with the tab after legislators fail to increase funding for schools, teacher raises](#)

## FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS ★ THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

[Geren-backed push to allow casinos falls short in House](#) || [Texas Republicans in Congress stand behind Trump after federal indictment](#)

## Fort Worth Weekly

[Still in Control? Why is a Fort Worth kingmaker backing a political newcomer for school board?](#) || [Family Court Cartel?](#) || [Lost Years: A Fort Worth father alleges local police falsely charged him with domestic violence — but he was the one who called 911](#)

## TEXAS OBSERVER

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## TEXAS STANDARD™ THE NATIONAL DAILY NEWS SHOW OF TEXAS

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No time for shy



Scholarship winner **Juan Salinas II** and the many faces of joy: More from the 20th Annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet at the Texas Rangers Golf Club in April. With cameo appearances by **Max Baker** and **Rita Vinson**. [Stacy Luecker photos.](#)



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

**Juan Salinas II** of Fort Worth Report and The Shorthorn (UTA) knew days before that he had received a scholarship, but there's something about hearing your name called. Moral: Life presents too few opportunities to jump and cheer. When it does, take them. ...

Good KERA work from Fort Worth SPJ board member **Kailey Broussard**, blast from the past division: ["A newspaper war, then a news drought: How Arlington had, then lost its daily news coverage"](#)

**SPJ factoids:** In unprecedented times, media outlets lean into **Trump** indictment. [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#)

Gannett journalists in seven states walked out on strike to protest working conditions. And reporters at the Austin American-Statesman, a Gannett paper, have had to take second jobs due to being undercompensated for their work. [here](#), [here](#)

**Caught my eye:** [How will farmers face rising sea levels? Floating gardens](#)

**Closing words** [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: "Life is a dream for the wise, a game for the fool, a comedy for the rich, a tragedy for the poor." — author **Sholem Aleichem**, who also said, "No matter how bad things get, you got to go on living, even if it kills you." ... "The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder." — **Alfred Hitchcock**

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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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- organizations
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