

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

NOVEMBER 2023 • [Back Issues](#)

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE



Help us help you: [Take the survey](#)

[First Amendment Awards deadline Jan. 15](#)

[The toll on the press so far in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon](#)

[Opinion: Nebraska governor's reporter comments infuriating, dead wrong](#)

[Voting rights victory](#)

[A new Republican governor is in, and this professor is out](#)

[El Paso residents say 'border crisis' manufactured, reject militarization](#)

[Poland's hard-right government wages war on a US-owned network](#)

[Horror in the Middle East](#)

[Era of climate migration is here, leaders of vulnerable nations say](#)

[A moment of truth for press freedom in Europe](#)

[New fronts open in battles over race on campus](#)

["Byline": Transforming global news coverage by recruiting, training and employing women journalists worldwide](#)

[How Australia's politicians rallied behind Julian Assange](#)

[Threats facing student journalism haven't gone away](#)

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

November program details were being finalized at press time. Check your email, the website, Facebook.



Cool Yule!

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, Joe T. Garcia's La Puertita (repurposed little church south of the main building)

Enchilada buffet, cash bar, \$30

Bring books for the JPS readers' library and spending energy for the gift drawing/auction (good stuff here!)

Dave Lieber back as emcee

RSVP by Dec. 4 (watch for Evite invitation)

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

[Oncor breaks the nickel barrier per each kWh, costing consumers more](#)

[Find out how much you're saving on your 2023 property tax bill](#)

[It wasn't easy being a renegade Richardson police officer. Even harder if you're a woman](#)

[More Texans share nightmares of working with Cinch Home Warranty](#)

[What surprise did Dale Hansen find when he visited his old ranch in Keller?](#)

[With football prowess and academic superiority, Southlake Carroll was a winner. Until now](#)

QUICK HITS

• Texas Author Book Club, third-Thursday discussion, **John Graves'** "Goodbye to a River" — 6:30 p.m. Nov. 16, Fielder Museum in Arlington, 1616 W. Abram. [Info.](#)

• Arlington Conservation Council monthly Zoomer (recorded), "Texas Turtles Presents," with **Carl J. Franklin** and **Viviana Ricardez** — 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1. [Z-link.](#)



GET A JOB. *Listings in [journalismjobs.com](#) may add to this report. ...*

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram has three reporter positions open — [local government](#), [growth](#), [accountability](#). ... Thirty miles to the east, the Dallas Observer needs a staff writer. [Info.](#) ... The Austin Business Journal seeks an assistant managing editor. [Info.](#) ... Escape the big city and live in the town **Larry McMurtry** (and **Cybill Shepherd** and **Jeff Bridges** and **Timothy Bottoms**) made famous. The Archer County News seeks a reporter. [Info.](#) ... Be the membership manager at The Texas Tribune. [Info.](#)

more eChaser on p. 2

BIG-TIME SUPPORTER



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?”

It's last call for the Press Club of Dallas. The club, for 75 years the journalism hub around which so many wheels turned, will discontinue doing business by the end of 2023. There will be one last happy hour (of course) Tuesday, Nov. 14, at Bar Louie in Las Colinas. Past president **Paul Wahlstrom**: “Come celebrate the people who shaped our history and the events they created.” RSVP to **JoAnnHolt**, joannaholt@gmail.com. Press Club memorabilia will be donated to the Dallas Historical Society.



Each logo in the ad rail links to the sponsor's website!



They came to hear the prez: a Zoom sampling.

Finances a concern, but SPJ president optimistic

SPJ national president **Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins** told close to 30 Texas SPJ members, including San Antonio Chapter president **Michael Drudge** and Houston president **Ruth Nasrullah**, in October that she has high hopes for SPJ's future while acknowledging issues with finances.



Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins
 Check out a longer version of this story and the meeting video.

SPJ's national board voted Sept. 27 at the national convention to cancel the 2024 convention. The reason? Money. Blaize-Hopkins, then the president-elect, made the motion to cancel; she said it would be irresponsible to have the convention when there isn't enough money to pay for it. SPJ national is currently undergoing an audit for the 2023 fiscal year.

Blaize-Hopkins, a tenured journalism professor at Santa Monica College, was sworn in Oct. 1. The first Black woman to be elected SPJ president, she said she has been working ever since. “I'm one of those people who likes to hit the ground running,” she said. “So I was taking meetings Sunday right after convention.”

In the Zoom meeting she partially addressed the four-year financial initiative that SPJ Foundation board member **Frank LoMonte** presented during the convention. She said she could not give any specifics because she simply didn't have them yet. SPJ also has hired nonprofit fundraiser **Lucas Metropulos** and intensified its search for an executive director, perhaps a recent;y retired journalism dean or someone who has run journalism nonprofits. “This is going to be a passion project for them,” she said, “and I think we already have a short list of folks we can reach out to.”

Fort Worth SPJ president **Eddy Gallagher**, who has served on the national finance committee, said that during her term the committee did not meet and she never was told where the money was or where it went. “We were suggesting where it should go, which was in a fund to raise money and not be spent on anything, and I still want an answer to that.”

Blaize-Hopkins said 2021-22 president **Rebecca Aguilar** had requested an investment account be made and \$500,000 would go into it as a nest egg, but none of that happened. “It was put into the general operation fund,” she said. “By the time I took over as vice president and ended up a member of the finance committee ... \$131,000 of that money (was) all that was left.”

Blaize-Hopkins is forming three task forces to probe the sustainability of local and ethnic media, research the effects of generative artificial intelligence (AI) on journalism, and address journalists' mental health. One meeting participant, **Robert Buckman**, an SPJ member for over 50 years, encouraged her to talk to some older SPJ members and hear their opinions.

“I don't want to outlive SPJ, and I'm counting on you to do your part this year to try to keep it solvent,” he said. “But encourage participation on some of these task forces from members of other regions besides some of the big chapters who tend to control things. A lot of good people are out there with a lot of good ideas.”

— Alex Hoben

PEOPLE & PLACES Former SPJ Region 8 coordinator **Kathryn Jones** is among 100 international poets published in the latest Last Stanza Poetry Journal, a compendium of “mysteries and revelations, secrets and clues [that examine] the complexities of the unknown and things later realized.” Editor **Jenny Kalahar** liked Jones' poem “Spiral World.” Finishing Line Press will publish Kathryn's first book of poetry, “An Orchid's Guide to Life.” ... The Dow Jones News Fund invites applications — by Nov. 16 — for paid summer internships. Interns will receive week-long training, \$1,500 scholarships, memberships to journalism groups and access to the DJNF alumni network for jobs and mentoring. More than 70 newsrooms are participating. Info. Still on campus, the Houston Chronicle seeks college juniors, seniors and recent grads to fill summer 2024 internships in reporting and photo. Apply by Nov. 22.



Greater Fort Worth PRSA announced **Opal Lee**, the “Grandmother of Juneteenth,” as its 2023 Communicator of the Year and **Matt Zavadsky**, the chief transformation officer at MedStar, as its 2023 Douglas Ann Newsom PRSA Professional of the Year. Info.



GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

John DYCUS

- Editing of a robust nature.
- Verbs activated.
- Syntax syncopated.
- Nuance nurtured.
- Prepositions expunged.
- Books.
- Manuscripts.
- Magazines.
- Wherever text is vexed.
- Experience? 50+ years.
- References? Of course.

john@xdycus.com
 817.264.3106

VITAL READS: Near and National

POLITIFACT PANTS ON FIRE!

Fani Willis had over 200 anonymous campaign contributions. Here's why that's not fraudulent || What we've learned from fact-checking viral posts about the Israel-Hamas war || How Biden flipped on not building 'another foot' of border wall || Where does Hamas get its weapons? || No draft talk despite TikToks

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Southlake Carroll students respond to banned books by forming club to read them || Southern Poverty Law Center: 72 hate and extremist groups call Texas home || 11 men, 0 women: In this Texas county, Republican commissioners appoint only guys || Fort Behavioral Health halts adolescent programs after allegations of mistreatment || Is there environmental racism in FW? This group says yes — and it's fighting back || Stunning underwater cave unearthed by drought draws explorers

Fort Worth Report

Fort Worth planned to demolish 9 homes for flood control. Now they're for sale || Report: Maintenance, repairs ground F-35s 45% of time || Girls Inc. vote sends ripples through community || Arlington ISD adopts lowest property tax rate in 10 years || After prominent PAC meets with white supremacist, most Tarrant candidates remain silent

FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Driverless cars are multiplying on Texas roads. Here's what you should know || Tarrant County officials urge taxpayers to be cautious when paying by mail || Back to The Tower: Reata reveals new location as lease expires in Sundance Square

Fort Worth Weekly

Texas-Sized Horror: Thanks to two Fort Worthians, the annual Road Kill anthology has metastasized from a shared vision into a monster || Forgotten War: White Texans' hatred toward Mexican immigrants is nothing new || X'ed Out: The launch of a supposedly less political, less misinformation-spreading rival to Twitter may be pure makeover marketing, but it's oh-so-addicting

TEXAS OBSERVER

Ghosts from Texas' past || DPS still avoiding a public hearing on Uvalde massacre || Abbott demands vouchers — or else || USPS is falsifying safety docs as workers die of heat || No path to redemption for devout death row inmates || Study: More infants die in states that restrict abortion || The tower sniper's wife

TEXAS STANDARD THE NATIONAL DAILY NEWS SHOW OF TEXAS

Paxton whistleblower Blake Brickman on why he and fellow staff are taking their case back to court || Biden administration waives 26 federal laws, clearing way for border wall construction || Whistleblowers beg leaders to 'stop the chaos' as more than 900,000 Texans are kicked off Medicaid || Why Texas school funding still isn't fair

OVER & OUT | John Dycus, Fort Worth SPJ

And to think, back in January we were this close to having a thoughtful, articulate, inclusive, productive patriot as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. ...

Gayle Reaves, Kay Pirtle and Kailey Broussard represented the chapter with vigor and flair at the national convention in Las Vegas at the end of September. Watch for Gayle's SPJ23 analysis in next month's eChaser. SPJ finds itself fiscally stressed. One issue is shrinking membership and, thus, lighter dues income. If you're a longtime member and think you maybe haven't received a dues notice in a while, chances are you really haven't. Let us know, and we'll help you square up. ...



Kailey Broussard



Kay Pirtle

Anyone concerned for SPJ's future should read this, then tap into the SPJ Refresh listserv. Stout programming Ideas flying around here, deficit revelations, philosophical insights, podcasts like Clearing the FOG with such determined gag rule opponents as veteran Washington journalist **Kathryn Foxhall**. Join. ...

Recommended for you: "Why What Happened in Kansas Matters to Us All," Houston SPJ's archived conversation, stunning and surreal, with Marion County Record editor/publisher **Eric Meyer**, and "I'm Proud of You," Circle Theatre's adaptation of Tim Madigan's 2006 memoir built around his abiding friendship with **Fred Rogers**. If Tim has his hands in something, it's quality, and I'm inclined to say the same for Mr. Meyer, even on first exposure. Real men step up, and these guys belong on the list. Because you can't have too many heroes.

I made a career in academia, so the increasing Republican interference in university procedures hits home. As the botched hiring of **Kathleen McElroy** continues to play out, I take with me this response to an American Association of University Professors survey: "The recent events at Texas A&M have sent a chilling message to me and many other faculty, tenured or not, that the current state government is intent on suppressing or attacking protected speech by every means possible. And the means grow ever more possible, especially now that the top universities in Texas have pliable presidents. Say what you will about the past presidents at my institution, they were willing and able to resist these efforts. No longer." Read the story.

Closing words [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: "The pursuit of truth and beauty is a sphere of activity in which we are permitted to remain children all our lives." — **Albert Einstein**

Each logo in the ad rail links to the sponsor's website!

Cowcatcher Magazine

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



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

UNSUNG: REMEMBERING JEWELL HOUSE



RESOURCES

- [AP headlines](#) [Journalist Express](#)
- [The Washington Post](#) [Denver Post](#)
- [The New York Times](#) [Chicago Tribune](#)
- [San Francisco Chronicle](#) [USA Today](#)
- [Los Angeles Times](#) [Financial Times](#) [Time](#)
- [The Wall Street Journal](#) [BBC](#) [The Nation](#)
- [The Christian Science Monitor](#) [Newsweek](#)
- [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) [Bloomberg](#)
- [International Herald Tribune](#) [Cato Institute](#)
- [U.S. News & World Report](#) [ABC News](#)
- [CBS News](#) [CBS 11](#) [WFAA-TV](#) [CNN](#)
- [NBC 5](#) [ABC News: The Note](#) [Daily Kos](#)
- [Star-Telegram](#) [The Dallas Morning News](#)
- [Fort Worth Weekly](#) [Fort Worth, Texas](#)
- [Fort Worth Business Press](#) [Texas Monthly](#)
- [Dallas Observer](#) [The Hill](#) [Drudge Report](#)
- [The Texas Observer](#) [The Village Voice](#)
- [FrontBurner \(D Magazine\)](#) [Salon](#)
- [Burnt Orange Report](#) [The New Republic](#)
- [The American Conservative](#)
- [Center for American Progress](#)
- [Fort Worth Report](#) [The Texas Tribune](#)

- the industry / tools of the trade
- [11 Rules of Writing, Grammar and Punctuation](#)
- [writers.com](#) [wilbers.com](#)
- [Ethics AdviceLine for Journalists](#)
- [THE SLOT: A Spot for Copy Editors](#)
- [Center for Public Integrity](#) [Editor & Publisher](#)
- [Investigative Reporters and Editors](#)
- [Coalition of Journalists for Open Government](#)
- [National Institute for](#)
- [Computer-Assisted Reporting](#)
- [Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press](#)
- [Poynter Online](#) [Pew Research Center](#)
- [Columbia Journalism Review](#)
- [Texas Legislature](#) [FOI Foundation of Texas](#)
- [Merriam-Webster](#) [Encyclopedia Britannica](#)
- [NewsLink](#) [Wikipedia](#)

- organizations
- [Asian American Journalists Association](#)
- [DFW Network of Hispanic Communicators](#)
- [National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association](#)
- [Native American Journalists Association](#)
- [Society of Environmental Journalists](#)

antidote
[The Onion](#)

send additions for the list to:
john@xdycus.com