

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

DECEMBER 2023 • [Back Issues](#)

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE

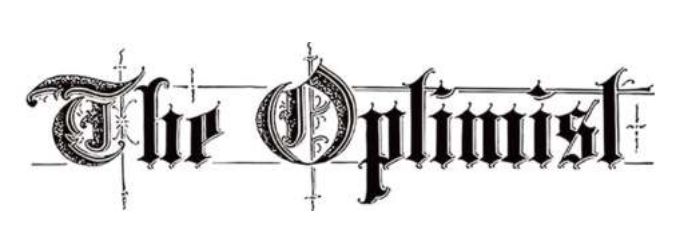
75+2 to subscribe or to submit items, e-
FWSPJ john@xdycus.com

* 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.

VIEWS YOU CAN USE: TAP INTO SPJ REFRESH

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BIG-TIME SUPPORTER



Let's get
Festive
 RSVP
 IT'S COOL YULE PARTY!!!!
 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6TH
 6:30 PM
 JOE T. GARCIA'S LA PUERTITA
 2141 N. COMMERCE STREET
 FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76164



Face it, it's always fun!
 Holiday party pics: 19 years



Retired Fort Worth Star-Telegram reporter/editorial writer **Roger Summers**, 89, is determined to keep alive Tarrant County's journalism history. He was assigned to cover the presidential visit Nov. 22, 1963, and to this day he breaks stories about local papers on his Facebook page, collects and shares Star-T artifacts, and boosts younger journalists with words of praise and recognition. Historian. [Author](#). Collector. Mentor. Fort Worth SPJ honors Roger Summers.

QUICK HITS

- Texas Author Book Club takes a break in December; back in January with **S.C. Gwynne's** "Empire of the Southern Moon"
- GFW PRSA — Holiday Happy Hour, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, Quince on the Trinity River, 1701 River Run, Suite 18

GET A JOB. Listings in journalismjobs.com may add to this report. ... GulfLive.com ("diversity and inclusion are at the core of our mission"), a website dedicated to covering Gulf Coast people and places, has an opening for a breaking/trending reporter to write on everything from the weather to business closures. This is a remote position (\$40,000-\$55,000 annually) with a preference for candidates based in the Texas coast. [Info](#). ... All kinds of action at The Daily News in Galveston County — [assistant managing editor](#), [reporter](#), [page designer](#). The paper was first published April 11, 1842, making it the oldest newspaper in the state. ... The Denton Record-Chronicle seeks a "passionate, entrepreneurial, innovative" audience and engagement producer. Position is entry level, full time and eligible for overtime. [Info](#).

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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

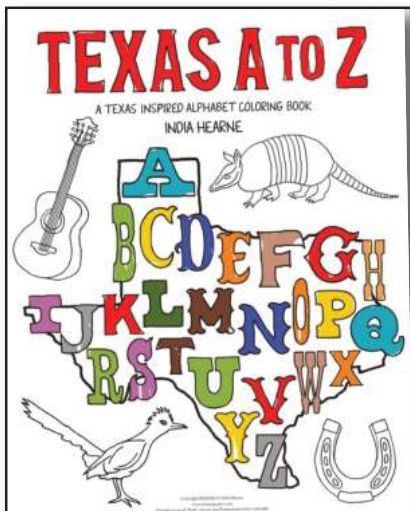
["What is good journalism?"](#)

PEOPLE & PLACES The specialized niche agency HOLLAND collective took Best of Show for its "Fort Worth Food + Wine Festival: A Campaign of Integrated Success" in Greater Fort Worth PRSA's 2023 Worthy Awards competition. More than 130 PRSA members and guests celebrated successes at the 10th Worthy Awards gala, Nov. 3 at the Fort Worth Zoo. The competition received 63 entries in multiple categories; the PRSA Hoosier, Indiana Chapter provided judges. Go [here](#) for a list of winners and [here](#) for a photo gallery.

... Star-Telegram ex-luminary **Barry Shlachter** is churning out the product at his "wee boutique press," Savory House/Great Texas Line — everything from "Texas A to Z," which teaches kids their ABCs along with iconic animals and Texana, to guide books, to football books (Red Raiders, Frogs, Longhorns, Aggies), to a kids gardening book, to the exotic sounding "Speak Cajun in 30 Minutes or Less" and "Texas: Limericks: From Abbott to Zephyr." In the works are "Cindy Ella," a Cinderella story reset in West Texas where mandatory ranch chores turn Cindy Ella into a skilled cattlemoman; a Hill Country winery guide, a coffee table book, and a look back at Route 66 illustrated with photos taken over the last 40 years. All of this hollers for details. [Reach Shlachter here.](#) ... As the North Texas population continues to grow, how can leaders tackle affordable housing needs and limit the displacement of residents? A Fort Worth Report community conversation will explore possible answers Wednesday, Dec. 6, in the Nick and Lou Martin University Center (Texas Wesleyan University, 3165 E. Rosedale St.) with **Mike Brennan**, president of Near Southside Inc.; **Joel Burns**, former Fort Worth City Council member; **Shawn Lassiter**, executive director of BRAVE/R Together; **Stacy Marshall**, president/CEO of Southeast Fort Worth Inc.; and moderator **Dennis Chiessa**, an architect and UT Arlington assistant professor. Breakfast will be served at 7:30, and the program, with a Q&A, will begin at 8. Park free.



Holland Sanders and Ivy Lopez with HOLLAND collective



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Announcing Fort Worth's signature competition, honoring work that defends the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution; furthers the people's right to know how governments and businesses affect their lives; and champions the powerless and disadvantaged. SPJ membership is not required to enter. [Everything starts here.](#)

TRINT DISCOUNT: SPJ members can get 10 percent off a subscription to Trint, which uses AI transcription to quickly convert audio and video files to text, making them editable, searchable and collaborative as a document. Enter discount code SOPJ10 at checkout. This code is for new users buying the starter and advanced plans only and applies to the first 12 months of subscription for either monthly or annual plans.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

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- [Meet the man driving Patriot Mobile Action](#)
- [How to shop for cheaper electricity in Texas: A Coppell man has a plan](#)
- [Disabled homebuyer learns 'get it in writing' the hard way](#)
- [Texas wears the crown as the bitcoin mining capital of the world](#)
- [Electricity Club is where Texans share electricity woes and wins](#)
- [Should you pay a little every month to protect your water and sewer lines?](#)

F.O.I.F.T. UPDATE Family members of victims killed and wounded in the May 24, 2022, shooting at Robb Elementary filed sanctions against the Texas Department of Public Safety for selectively sharing crime scene images with The Washington Post. The original media lawsuit was filed in August and seeks to release the department's 2022 report and findings from the shooting, which the department has concealed despite numerous requests under the Texas Public Information Act. [Details.](#) ... The Odessa American's almost four-year battle with the city over public records access is over as the Texas Supreme Court declined to take up the OA's appeal of an appellate court decision in March to dismiss the lawsuit. [Details.](#)

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VITAL READS: Near and National

POLITIFACT (PANTS ON FIRE!)

Fact-checking House Speaker **Mike Johnson** and Democratic claims [here here here](#) || [What we learned about Elon Musk's year at Twitter/X](#) || [Fact-checking foreign policy, front and center at the third GOP debate](#) || [Dispelling a common myth about fentanyl as election workers get letters with traces of it](#)

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

[Infected teeth, uncontrolled diabetes: A 13-hour wait for free surgery at Fort Worth clinic](#) || [Efforts to bump Trump off the 2024 ballot raise fears of election chaos](#) || [Some parents want Fort Worth ISD's board to limit outside speakers. Can it do that?](#) || [Texas becomes 'ground zero' for kids losing their Medicaid health insurance](#) || [Education finance stalemate leaves Fort Worth-area school leaders worried](#)

Fort Worth Report

[North Texas ozone alerts hit highest number in a decade. Are millions in fines coming?](#) || [As Granger steps aside, these Tarrant County Republicans consider a run](#) || [Longtime election judges offer skeptics a front-row look at election security](#) || [Federal budget cuts could derail Amtrak's big plan for Fort Worth passenger rail](#) || [Tarrant's evicted children and the state's hidden homeless crisis](#)

FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

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Fort Worth Weekly

[H2 Uh-Oh: Colleyville's MAGA mayor allegedly tried to steal public water, got busted, asked for a favor, got denied, then whined about it on social media](#) || [Fort Worth Terrorism: This month is the 70th anniversary of a nonfatal car bombing to intimidate new Black neighbors](#) || [Helter Keller: A small but resourceful group of parents fights the power of the Christian Nationalist school board in northeast Tarrant County](#)

TEXAS OBSERVER

[Why was 11-year-old honor student Timothy Murphy put in solitary for three days?](#) || [Biden quietly gave border wall contract to company Trump used](#) || [Unmasking Texas neo-Nazis](#) || [Domestic abusers under protective orders often get to keep their guns](#) || [Here's why Texas can't vote on cannabis or abortion](#) || [Legislature votes to seize immigration authority from feds](#)

TEXAS STANDARD THE NATIONAL DAILY NEWS SHOW OF TEXAS

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

RSVP deadline is Sunday for the party of the year. See p. 1 for your Cool Yule reminder and photo moments with a smattering of the happy celebrants who have made this occasion so joyful over the years. Special this year, we're honoring the remarkable and highly respected author/historian/Star-Telegram retiree **Roger Summers**. Come for the memories, come for the food, come for the gift drawing with its robust list of items, including (but not limited to!) a weekend at The Dawn Condominiums in Galveston across Seawall Boulevard from the ocean; a \$1,000 pair of precise-fit boots from Ramblin Trails Custom Boots; an overnight stay for two at The Crescent in the heart of the Cultural District; elegant dining at Grace with an overnight stay for two at the Hampton Inn Fort Worth Downtown; and Friday and Saturday night for two in the Stockyards at Courtyard by Marriott plus free breakfast and parking and four tickets to Billy Bob's. This is one of the chapter's major fundraisers, and a head count is vital so we don't order too much food (or not enough!). Hit the yes button on the invite, or if the Evite never found you, RSVP straight to me — john@xdycus.com. Do it now while it's fresh on your mind. Never delay fun. See you Wednesday, Dec. 6, at Joe T Garcia's. ...

This makes me happy. The UT Arlington student (city!) newspaper garnered Pacemakers in both online and multiplatform at the national ACP/CMA student media convention, Best of Show for its website, a Pacemaker nomination for the print edition, and another 41 contest awards for staff and individual work. It was enough to make an adviser's heart swell with pride. "While we were in Atlanta for the convention, the Texas Rangers won the World Series for the first time in history, and Shorthorn staff were everywhere," **Laurie Fox** writes. "They worked around the clock a few nights chronicling ALDS coverage with one lone MLB reporting credential, playoff activity throughout the Entertainment District, World Series prep, fan watch parties, 5 a.m. TV call time with the mayor the day after the team clinched, the trophy shot at Love Field, the World Series parade — it was all such a blur. But they ran with the pros. Their energy and commitment were unmatched. I had to write it down because I just don't want to forget it."

Caught my eye: [What is eco-grazing? Ancient horses and bison battle Spain and Portugal's wildfires](#)

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**

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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



RESOURCES

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