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Stars of the Show



Mike Cochran, **Brett Shipp** and **Wes Turner**, from left, all had things to say at the 15th Annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet in April. Click to listen, and while you're there, check out photographer **Bob Booth's** [album of the evening](#).

Next at [Fort Worth SPJ](#) ...
The year ramps up in September. Watch for it.

QUICK HITS

- GFW PRSA monthly luncheon, "Exceptional PR Strategies for Reaching Diverse Audiences" with **Kimberly Sims** and **Shannon McCord**, communications and public involvement specialists at HNTB Corp. — 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, Colonial Country Club. [Info.](#)
- Writers Guild of Texas monthly program, TBA — 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20, Richardson Public Library. [Info.](#)
- Writers Guild of Texas fall workshop, "Guide to Self-Publishing: 10 Steps to Success" with multi-published author **Sarah Bale** — 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Sept. 22, Richardson Public Library. [Info.](#)
- Meetups: [North Texas Editors](#) ... [Bedford Science Fiction Writing](#) ... [DFW Self-Publishing Group](#) ... [GFW Writers](#) ... [Writers Anonymous – Support and Education](#) ... [Fort Worth Chapter – Nonfiction Authors Association](#) ... [Kidlit Critique](#) ... [Trinity Arts Writers Workshop](#) ... [The Writer's Critique](#) ... [Lonestar Sci Fi, Horror, and Fantasy Fans](#) ... [20BooksTo50k - Michael Anderle](#) ... [Fort Worth Area Journalists Meetup](#) ... [The DFW Bloggers Classroom](#)

POWER TO THE PEOPLE Dallas Morning News Watchdog (and SPJ member) **Dave Lieber** has launched an effort "to fix the deceptive retail electricity system," which he asserts operates on "credits, minimums, penalties, fine print and broken promises." [PowerToChoose.org](#) is essentially broken, he e-'s. "The Utility Commission (remember I removed the 'P' because they don't care about the public) doesn't rope in these bucking power companies." As a result, "most Texans overpay because of shopping difficulties, deceptions and whatnot." Throughout his career in Texas, Lieber has exhibited scant tolerance for whatnot that is the least bit murky. More [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

In support of academic journalism

It has been a long, hot summer for journalists all over the world — including in Stephenville, Texas, where journalists' ability to protect their sources is under threat at Tarleton State University. The Fort Worth SPJ board has voted its strong backing of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Dan Malone**, who is an assistant professor at Tarleton, and his student **Quanecia Fraser** and their efforts to protect Fraser's sources in a story about sexual harassment allegations.

Malone, a faculty adviser to the student-produced Texan News Service, was reprimanded in the spring and Fraser was told she may be reprimanded, because they did not report to administrators the names of women who came forward to Fraser with allegations against a professor. The women asked that their names be kept confidential.

The issue is of broad importance to the journalism community. Student journalists frequently break stories on topics such as sexual harassment and assault on and around college campuses. Student media, performing their traditional watchdog role, often are the only campus voice speaking on these matters.

Frequently, the alleged victims request that their names not be released. This creates a conflict between college policies created to carry out Title IX of the federal Civil Rights Act and Texas' journalist shield law — and possibly between college policies and the press freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment.

First Amendment attorneys, a national SPJ official and other relevant observers are also asking questions about Tarleton's actions and about the continuing threat to press freedoms, student journalists and their faculty advisers. The problem has arisen at other campuses as well, and it isn't likely to go away any time soon.

– *Gayle Reaves*

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

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The Gallery



Kay Pirtle, Gayle Reaves and Tracy Everbach, from left, at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference awards dinner, July 21.



Fun in the sun, under a roof



Back when the Star-Telegram still owned Amon Carter's boat for sightseeing Lake Worth, Fort Worth SPJ's summer social acquired the handle of Splash Day. Long since landlocked, the gathering nevertheless retained sufficient charm to lure **Max and Sandy Baker, Margarita Birnbaum, Mike and Sondra Cochran, John Dycus, Eddy and Ed Gallagher, Karen Gavis, Shirley and Bill Jenkins, Paul Knudsen, Linda Pavlik and Jim Lattimore, Kay Pirtle, Gayle Reaves, Tasha Tsiaperas and John Prior, and Phil and Rita Vinson** out to Mansfield on a triple-digit day for impressive potluck and palling around, July 14 at **Kim and Buddy Jones'** house.



more pictures from Paul Knudsen Photography

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GET A JOB. UTA Shorthorn ex **Lindsey Juarez** e-'s: Community Impact is hiring after two new reporter positions opened up in McKinney and Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake. ... The North Lake College Journalism Department seeks an adjunct to teach a class in mass communications and another in media writing, back-to-back Mondays and Wednesdays. Contact **Kathleen Stockmier**, student publications manager, 972-273-3498, kstockmier@dccc.edu. ... The Dallas Morning News is hiring an audience engagement producer. ... The Dallas Business Journal seeks a data reporter. Requirements include 1-3 years of journalism or the equivalent and experience reporting on business data. Familiarity with public-company, bank and regulatory agency filings a plus. [Info.](#) ... From Stars and Stripes: Looking for a Pentagon reporter, copy editor and podcast producer. ... Former Shorthorn photographer **Michael Minasi** is headed to graduate school, and does he have a job for you — his position — at The Courier of Montgomery County, the daily in Conroe, Texas. "This is a great place to go for a dedicated would-be photojournalist fresh out of college and looking for a place to start," he writes. "The coworkers are cool, and on occasion you'll work with our parent company, the Houston Chronicle." [Info.](#) ... The Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., seeks an investigative reporter to produce original content on civil rights and social justice issues. [Info.](#) ... NPR's growing team has several new openings: senior supervising erditor/producer for "Morning Edition"; supervising editor, national desk; news apps developer; news apps data editor; visual newscast-visual editor; visual newscast copy editor; and comedy writer, "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me." All are in D.C. except the last, in Chicago. [Info.](#) ... The Houston Chronicle seeks a finance and economics writer. [Info.](#)

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Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas update: Mayor **Sylvester Turner's** former press secretary has been indicted by a grand jury, accused of failing to turn over public records late last year. The indictment, handed up July 17, says **Darian Ward** misrepresented the number of e-mails responsive to a reporter's request for correspondence about her personal business activities and unlawfully withheld public records. [Details.](#)

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[more eChaser on p. 3](#)

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– photos by Heather Bushart and Cessna Winslow

Tarleton comm students lend a hand in post-Harvey Rockport

Heather Bushart saw pieces of life scattered along roadsides in Rockport, Texas. Abandoned bicycles. Electric toy cars. A teddy bear in a pink tutu. “It was heartbreaking,” said Bushart, a junior at Tarleton State University. “Everywhere you looked, there were reminders of life before.”

Bushart was one of about a dozen Tarleton students who traveled to Rockport in the spring as part of a crisis communications course offered by Dr. **Cessna Winslow**, an assistant professor of communication.

Hurricane Harvey devastated Rockport in 2017, slamming into the South Texas coastal town and causing catastrophic damage. Rockport was ground zero and is still recovering. Winslow was watching the coverage when she had an idea for a course that would wed hands-on instruction and service. “I knew we needed to find a way to embrace this teachable moment.”

A longtime public relations professional, Winslow had experience with both crisis communications and disaster relief. The course seemed a perfect fit. She had co-lead a team of college students from the Ohio university where she previously taught to Louisiana to help after Hurricane Katrina, and her own childhood home was badly damaged in an earthquake in 1971.

“I can remember what it’s like to be homeless and temporarily fostered because of nature’s wrath,” she said. “I understand what it means to start all over and be dependent on the charity of strangers.”

Students in the course studied communications processes, analyzed social and ethical implications, discussed the roles of media, relief agencies and first responders, and learned effective communication techniques. A trip to Rockport during spring break served as the course capstone.

While there, students toured hurricane-ravaged neighborhoods and the town’s Emergency Operations Center, met with the mayor and other community leaders, talked with residents and volunteered with Samaritan’s Purse, a nonprofit, to rebuild homes.

As part of the course, the students created publishable projects, including photo exhibits, feature articles and documentaries, to detail their experiences. Topics ranged from how small businesses were affected to the homeless pets left in Harvey’s wake. (Winslow and a student each adopted an abandoned dog, one of which now answers to Harvey.)

Kendyl Weatherly, a junior communication studies major, created a documentary about the volunteers’ experiences. Before the trip, she had never given much thought to the difficulty of crisis communications. “It was eye-opening,” she said. “We learned the importance of one voice, one message. Rumors can spread fast in disasters.”

Working with another student, Bushart created a photo story, “Foundations of Hope,” documenting residents’ struggles to rebuild. “Every day we saw a lot of brokenness, but I never felt broken at the end of the day. I felt rejuvenated,” she said. “The people we met were hopeful. That was my biggest takeaway. There was hope everywhere.”

– Sarah Bahari, Tarleton State University

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

I would call a success both July chapter activities — the traditional social at **Kim and Buddy Jones’** Mansfield home and an outside-the-box sally into Dallas’ Bishop Arts District. Great food and old friendships marked the former, higher energy and fresh faces the latter, where more than 20 journalists and friends mixed and mingled and cross-county carried on at the Wild Detectives bookstore bar. Thanks, Kim and Buddy, for your hospitality, and hats off to incoming president **Tasha Tsiaperas** for arranging WD and to outgoing president **Max Baker** for urging the board to stage a mixer in Large D. The chapter gambled with this, and the chapter won. This bodes well for programs and perhaps an expanding range of endeavors to protect and further a free press (and have fun doing it!).

SPJ Factoid: **David Hogg**, a student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., shows you’re never too young to be a journalist. He recorded interviews of his classmates as they were hiding in a classroom during the shooting Feb. 14: “If I was going to die, I wanted to die doing what I love, and that’s storytelling.” After the shooting, a tweet impersonating Miami Herald reporter **Alex Harris** went viral. She immediately reported the fake tweets, but Twitter didn’t take them down. Twitter CEO **Jack Dorsey** said the company needs to determine “a scalable and objective way rooted in durable policy” to ensure content is authentic.

Caught my eye. [Solar-powered harvester sucks drinkable water out of thin air. ... How dogs could save the avocado industry. ... Pilot plant demonstrates low-cost conversion of CO2 into fuel.](#)

Closing words: “This may sound brutal, but I don’t cherish the poems that are done. I cherish the poems that are coming. I’d sacrifice all of the poems of the past for whatever is coming up.” — poet/pacifist **William Stafford**

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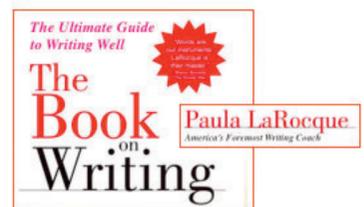
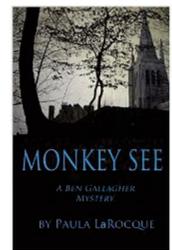
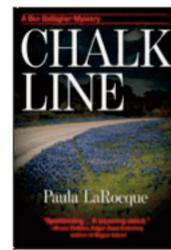
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