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## CALLING ALL STAR-TELEGRAM EXPATRIATES You are invited!

SPJ Cool Yule Party and Star-Telegram Alumni Celebration  
Wednesday, Dec. 5, MET Building at UNT Health Science Center  
Watch for details in your inbox and on the [S-T friends Facebook page](#).

Next at [Fort Worth SPJ](#) ...



Photo by flickr.com

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14 PUTTING A FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT PHOTOGRAPH

### Taking Pictures Legally

A panel of expert photographers and photojournalists explain what and where photographs can be taken legally — by anyone



KERA-TV & FM Studio  
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6:30-8 p.m.

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Free

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### QUICK HITS

- Hispanic Communicators DFW November workshop, "How to make it as a freelance journalist" — 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Nov. 3, The Dallas Morning News. [Info.](#)
- GFW PRSA networking meeting, "How to be Dangerous in Digital," with **Jim Lin**, partner/SVP, Ketchum Digital — 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, Colonial Country Club. [Info.](#)
- Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture, Censorship Session 3, "An In-Depth Look at Banned Books in the U.S." — 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2711 Routh St. [Info.](#)
- Writers Guild of Texas monthly program, "Overcoming the Challenges of Multiple, Main Characters in Memoir," with multi-degreed world traveler **Alice Parker** — 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, 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](#)

### IN THE WORKPLACE

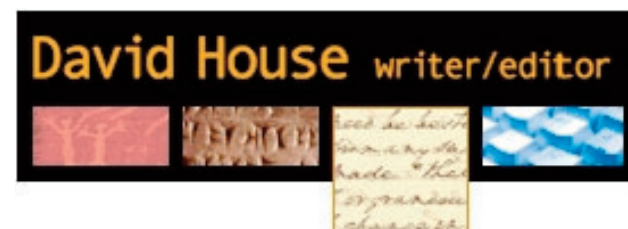


PAVLOV NEW HIRES. The Fort Worth-based, full-service ad agency has added to the team, *above from left*, **Jaime Boatmun** as accounting manager, **Holly Aldriedge** as art director, **Meredith Redfern** as junior account executive, and **Maddie Thannum** as social media coordinator. • A 20-year accounting and bookkeeping veteran, Boatmun will oversee the firm's daily accounting operations. • Aldriedge will apply her skills to concept, design and layout of campaigns for clients including DFW Airport, VIA Metropolitan Transit and Blackland Distilling. A graduate of UT Arlington, she previously spent four years as a graphic designer. • Redfern, a UNT grad, signs on from Fastback Digital and will assist in daily project management on a range of accounts. • Thannum will help implement strategic social media campaigns. She recently graduated from Abilene Christian University and previously was a social media contractor at the Austin agency Giant Noise.

GET A JOB. *Listings in [journalismjobs.com](#) and [dfwcommunicators.com](#) appear in this report.* ... The PR/product placements/social media firm Cooper Smith Agency has an [opening for an account executive](#) in its Dallas office ... SPM Communications, a downtown Dallas-based PR agency, has an [opening for an account executive](#). ... The Herald Democrat in Sherman, Texas, seeks an executive editor to manage its editorial division, which includes five newspapers, multiple magazines and websites. [Info.](#) ... Community Impact Newspaper in Frisco has an opening for a managing editor. [Info.](#) ... Arlington-based L3 Technologies ("a company of innovators, game changers and entrepreneurs") seeks a digital and social media specialist. [Info.](#) ... The Grant Halliburton Foundation, a Dallas-based nonprofit working to strengthen mental health resources for children, teens and young adults, promote better mental health and help prevent suicide, has an opening for a program assistant. [Info.](#)

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

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Fort Worth SPJers **Kay Pirtle**, **Karen Gavis** and **Kim Pewitt-Jones**, above from left, find an eye-catching promotion for next year's national conference in San Antonio. Newly elected at-large director **Yvette Walker**, Oklahoma Professional Chapter, with immediate past Region 8 director (and former Fort Worth SPJ president) **Eddy Gallagher**. Chuck Todd, moderator of NBC's "Meet the Press," with **Kay Pirtle**.

**EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM 2018**

Fort Worth SPJ never misses the national convention, this year held in Baltimore, and representatives often return home with recognitions and always with session takeaways.



Chapter member **Kathryn Jones Malone** replaces Fort Worth's **Eddy Gallagher** as Region 8 director, and new president **J. Alex Tarquinio** named two Fort Worth members to national positions — Gallagher to chair the Nominations Committee ("there go my 'retirement' plans, as if that would have happened") and **Rebecca Aguilar** to lead the Diversity Committee.



Among the takeaways ...

*Stop Scanning: Gathering Better Information from Police Communications*

- Lay a good foundation. Build relationships with PIOs. It's really important.
- Do not report until information is confirmed. Otherwise you risk the situation being a training exercise.
- Ask, "What can you say that won't put your case in jeopardy?"
- Do a ride-along.
- Drop by regularly and ask, "What's going on in the precinct this week?"
- Have a bad relationship with someone? Invite him for coffee.
- Make yourself available. The police need reporters to get information out for them, too.

*Libel and Invasion of Privacy*

- Libel is a false statement of fact, and guilt has much to do with perception. It's hard to say where the lines cross.
- To be sued for libel, a false statement of fact has to be published and defamatory. While defamatory comments typically concern sex, drugs, alcohol, crime or finances, the issues can change over time.
- The statement must damage reputation.
- An opinion is a bit of a safeguard, but facts still need to be checked.
- To qualify for libel, the individual or entity must be identifiable but not necessarily named. A group of 25 or fewer can sue.
- Scrutinize quotes as closely as facts.
- The ability to find information on the internet quickly has led to fewer lawsuits, plus people don't believe everything that's on the internet.
- Third-party comments on a website are immune from libel. However, the commenter can be sued.

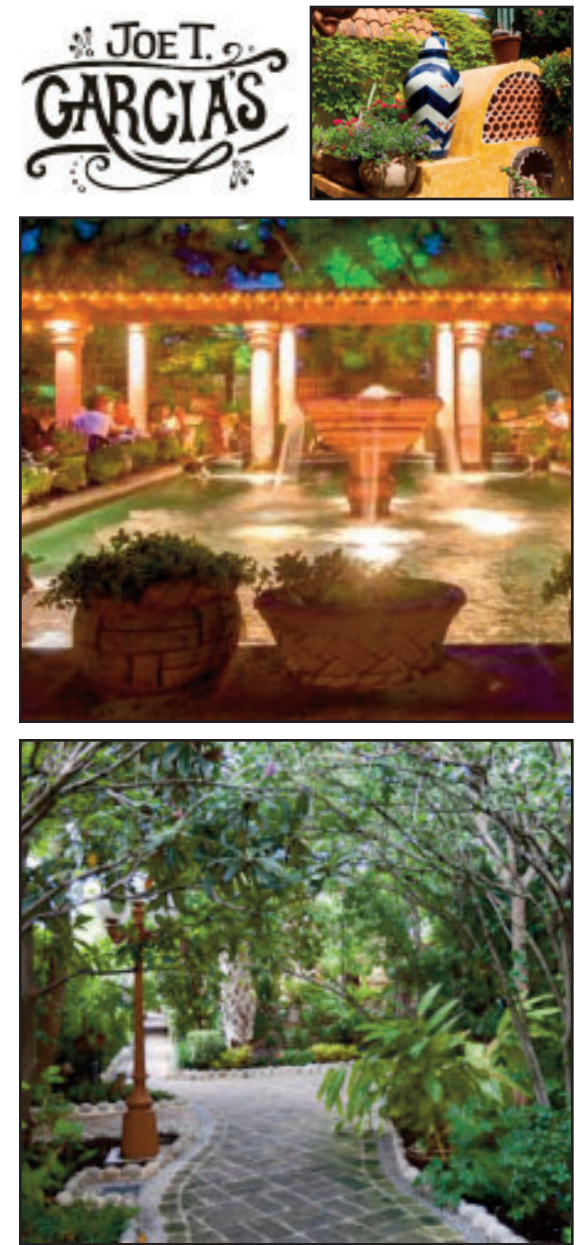
– *Karen Gavis*

**POWER TO THE PEOPLE** DMN Watchdog **Dave Lieber's** most recent Facebook live "Blue Light Special" videos plumbed the wackiest school district in Texas, how someone robbed his bank account of \$4,600, and how his trip to visit Amazon in Seattle led him to conclude the company needs to be broken into pieces. And he reports progress on his campaign to focus the Public Utility Commission more on electricity end users and less on electricity providers.

**Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas update:** Show us the money, then let us see how tax dollars are spent. ... A former Richardson ISD school board member sued the school district and its board of trustees, alleging "continuous and systematic" violations of the state's open meetings law. **David Tyson Jr.**, a black businessman who has challenged the validity of the all-white board in the diverse district, said in the civil lawsuit that the school board has participated in a long-running practice of violating the state's open meetings laws. The result, he alleged, has been that votes are merely "rubber-stamp" formalities. Details. ... A Texas law aimed at making it easier to dismiss meritless lawsuits intended to chill speech should apply in federal court, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and 39 media organizations argued in a friend-of-the-court brief filed in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. In the brief, the media coalition urges the federal appeals court to reverse a district court's ruling and hold that the Texas Citizens Participation Act applies in federal court. Details. ... Texas counties that demanded tens of thousands of dollars to provide billing records in opioid lawsuits have mostly agreed to hand them over for free, after complaints were filed with the Texas Attorney General's Office alleging the cost estimates were excessive and violated the Texas Public Information Act. A number of counties initially quoted as much as \$750 an hour for outside attorneys to review and redact privileged information from billing statements, which are considered public records under Texas law. Details.

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# The Case for a Cease and Desist

## Story theft brings tools for handling copyright infringement

by Joe Snell

It was during a mindless scroll through my Facebook feed one early September morning that I learned a vital lesson in copyright infringement.

I stopped on an article my friend shared from the Assyrian International News Agency (AINA) titled "Dallas, Texas fights to restore Assyrian community." The headline looked familiar. That's because I wrote it for an article I published on my own news site, The Assyrian Journal, more than seven months ago. An accompanying photo was one I took earlier this year at an Assyrian (Middle Eastern ethnic minority) church service in Dallas.

AINA's link sent me to its website, which featured my article and several photos. A small link to my website was below the head, but my byline and photo credits were nowhere to be found.

Turns out that AINA, a site that aggregates Middle Eastern Christian news, is known to remove bylines and post entire articles. A journalist colleague in D.C. said AINA stole four of his stories and he was fighting for recognition.

Colleagues, including advisers for The Assyrian Journal, urged AINA to take down my article and, in the future, to get permission before using someone else's work. AINA's response? It blamed The Assyrian Journal for not showing my byline prominently and criticized our site for not supporting the Assyrian community.

So the article stayed up, although my byline and a photo credit (with wrong photographer name!) were added.

Some friends said I should be happy with the wider coverage — at least my story was being promoted. But I could not accept my content receiving only a byline. I had to worry about AINA taking eyeballs away from The Assyrian Journal, which could dim readership statistics and limit attractiveness to advertisers.

A snippet of my article, a link to my site and an agreement to seek approval next time would have pleased both sides. AINA keeps the content, and I don't sacrifice readers. Instead, it's straight-up copyright infringement. I am blessed to have an effective network of news professionals, so I reached out and within an hour received a number of helpful responses.

A media lawyer asserted that my content clearly was protected and I needed to establish a strong position, but my options were limited. At the least I should e-mail a cease and desist, then a formal letter if necessary.

With the help of the lawyer and other colleagues, I outlined to AINA that my okay was never requested before posting the article. I politely said that my article should be removed and my approval sought in the future. Absent those steps, I would involve an attorney.

The e-mail was direct and set a tone, and it worked. The next day, AINA sent an e-mail confirming it had removed the post.

Throughout the process, I learned how to safeguard my content, including the importance of a "Terms and Conditions of Use" page. If my content gets stolen again, I now know that a simple cease and desist letter can be very effective. Most importantly, I learned that journalists should consistently take action to protect their work.

### PEOPLE & PLACES

As a prelude to its Centennial celebration in 2019, the UTA Shorthorn received the Pacemaker Award from the Associated Collegiate Press at the national ACP convention in October in Louisville, Ky. The Pacemaker is considered college journalism's highest honor; the ACP gave out 11 this year. The Shorthorn won in the newspaper category for the fourth consecutive year.

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

Two exceptional events from your SPJ chapter are on tap this month and next. Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the KERA studios (what a great venue for Dallas outreach!), a panel of photojournalists, including **David Kent**, former Star-Telegram photo editor, and **Ashley Stephenson Landis** with The Dallas Morning News, will explore what a photographer can ethically take a photo of, how to handle an increasingly hostile public as well as public officials, and how the push for digital content has changed their job. Jump in your car and drive over. [RSVP](#). Then, get ready, the Christmas party, Dec. 5 at the MET Building, UNT Health Science Center, has a new name — SPJ Cool Yule Party and Star-Telegram Alumni Celebration — and a wider target audience; otherwise, it's the same worthwhile JPS readers library benefit (bring donate-able books and magazines) with the same quality gift drawing and same killer Wilson's Barbecue, plus **Dave Lieber** will debut select moments from his one-man play, "Amon!" Star-T friends, bring your Star-T friends and homestead a space in the middle of the room to reacquaint, reminisce and renew. Watch for details — they'll find you. ...

Consider [Ozy](#) ("A news site you'll actually love.") and [The Real News Network](#) ("No advertising. No government funding. No corporate dollars.") as potential must-reads. The first one often will give you hope. The second not so much. ...

The saga of Tarleton State assistant professor **Dan Malone** and Title IX and implications for campus free speech [won't go away](#). (Reporter **Steve Miller** won a Fort Worth SPJ First Amendment Award in 2010.)

Caught my eye. [Legal marijuana: The world watches as Canada's massive social experiment begins.](#) ... [Ocean Cleanup system installed and ready for work at the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.](#) ... [New Austin law bans restaurants from throwing out food waste.](#) ... [Judge stops bear hunt, returns Yellowstone grizzlies to endangered list.](#) ... [MIT develops sustainable, mass timber-building prototype modeled after the longhouse.](#) ... [Food-growing vertical gardening system fills in under-utilized urban walls.](#) ... [Google Timelapse traces 32 years of construction and destruction.](#)

Closing words: "The business of the poet and the novelist is to show the sorriness underlying the grandest things and the grandeur underlying the sorriest things." — English novelist and poet **Thomas Hardy** ... "Poetry can keep life itself alive. You can endure almost anything as long as you can sing about it." — poet **James Wright**

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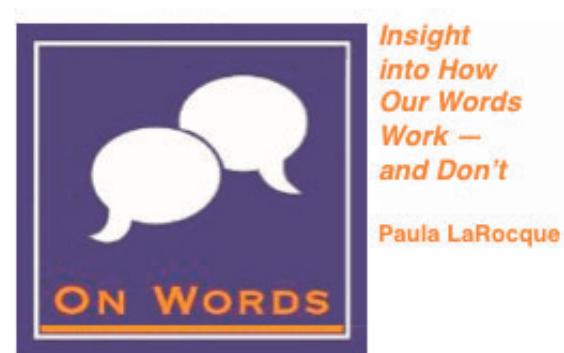
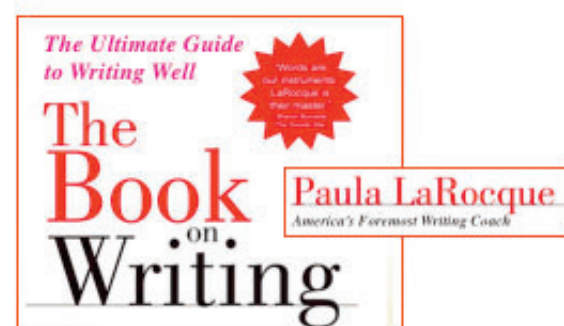
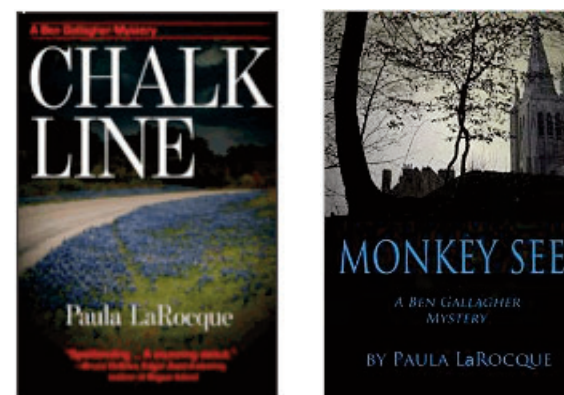


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- [The New York Times](#) [Chicago Tribune](#)
- [San Francisco Chronicle](#) [USA Today](#)
- [Los Angeles Times](#) [Financial Times](#) [Time](#)
- [The Wall Street Journal](#) [BBC](#) [The Nation](#)
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- [Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press](#)
- [Poynter Online](#) [Pew Research Center](#)
- [Columbia Journalism Review](#)
- [Texas Legislature](#) [FOI Foundation of Texas](#)
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- organizations
- [Asian American Journalists Association](#)
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