

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

OCTOBER 2022 • Back Issues

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE

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- [Social media platforms, the Big Lie, and the coming elections](#)
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- [An effort to ID Tulsa race massacre victims raises privacy issues](#)
- [The sad state of press freedom in Hong Kong after 25 years of Chinese rule](#)
- [How to stay informed without getting paralyzed by bad news](#)
- [The pathetic semantic squabble in coverage of Biden's democracy speech](#)
- [In Canada, an anchor's ousting sparks a debate on discrimination in media](#)

Next at [Fort Worth SPJ, et al.:](#) **Midterm madness**  
 How did the changes the Legislature made this year affect your ability to vote? What do these changes mean, and how will you cover this contentious election? Join Fort Worth SPJ at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, as WFAA-TV's **Jason Whitely**, VoteBeat's **Jessica Huseman** and former deputy registrar **Laurie James** offer advice via Zoom on these critical issues. And remember, the last day to register to vote in Texas is Oct. 11.

While Latinos are more than 30 percent of Tarrant County residents, the community's political heft has

not matched its growing population. A Fort Worth Report panel Thursday, Sept. 29, will explore [ways Tarrant Latinos can strengthen their political voice](#). The panelists: **Sal Espino**, former Fort Worth City Council member; **Roxanne Martinez**, FW ISD board member and small business owner; **Ricky Rodriguez**, executive director of Tarrant County's Republican Party.

From the National Press Club Journalism Institute, two 10:30 a.m. Zoomers:  
 • [Disinformation, Midterms, and the Mind: How psychological science can help journalists combat election misinformation](#) (Sept. 29)  
 • [Voter Accessibility: Improving election coverage for people with disabilities](#) (Oct. 14). Learn the emphasis issues, especially in local elections.

The PRSA 2022 International Conference returns to DFW for the first time in 30 years Nov. 13-15 at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center. Hosted by the Greater Fort Worth and Dallas chapters, the conference celebrates PRSA's 75th anniversary with keynotes by **Katty Kay** of BBC News, Academy Award winner **Marlee Matlin** and NFL legend **Emmitt Smith**. Organizers promise top-notch thought leaders, an extensive array of breakout sessions, networking opportunities and a Texas-sized welcome reception. Apply by Sept. 29 for the super-saver rate. [More here.](#)

QUICK HITS

- Arlington Conservation Council monthly Zoomer (recorded), "Where we are and where we want to be," with **James Orloski**, Arlington Parks and Recreation Department — 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5. [Info.](#)
- GFW PRSA professional development meeting, "Diverse Perspectives: the Power of Culturally Competent Communications," with **Estela Martinez-Stuart**, Visit Fort Worth; **Bob Ray Sanders**, Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce; Dr. **Monica Zhan**, UTA; moderator **Winifred King**, Cook Children's Health Care System — 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, Ridglea Country Club. [Info.](#)
- FWBG | BRIT — Fall Plant Sale, Oct. 7; ¡Celebremos!: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage, six happenings through Oct. 15; Photographing the Monarch Migration, Oct. 8; Girls' Nature Workshops: Frida's Flower, Oct. 15; Art in the Garden Tours, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. [Info.](#)

IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB *Listings in [journalismjobs.com](#) appear in this report.* ... They're hiring at the Houston Business Journal — an [associate editor](#), plus a reporter to cover [technology and healthcare](#). ... The Galveston County Daily News has an immediate opening for a senior reporter. [Info.](#) ... The Beaumont Enterprise seeks a government reporter with a human interest touch. [Info.](#)

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

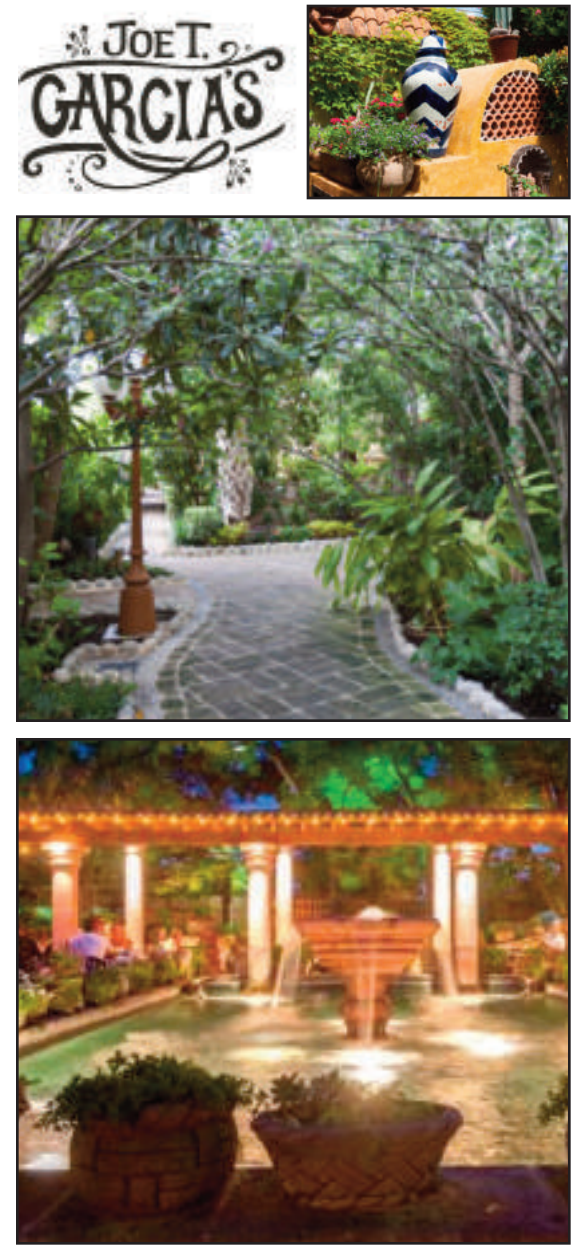
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from top: Thorne Anderson; Steve Mines; Jyoti Madhusoodanan, left; Kathy Kauffman



## A matter of interpretation

**Jyoti Madhusoodanan** knew nothing about the dynamics of reporting with interpreters when she worked on a story about deaf graduate students in the sciences. She wondered whether the responses would sound rehearsed. Then the interviews began, and the interactions were seamless, partly because the science journalist shared some of the topics and even questions with her sources and the American Sign Language interpreter before the interviews began. "I don't think we lost any spontaneity because of it," she said.



The timing of such information sharing may run counter to many journalists' philosophy of interviewing. But media interpreters, who play a critical role in gathering information, say the journalists who hire them should share as much background as possible when the story is assigned.

"The best interpreters are the most briefed interpreters, those who understand where the limits of their background information may hamper or benefit their understanding," said **Steve Mines**, a longtime legal and conference interpreter in Austin who has worked for the State Department.

Mines, who is fluent in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese, may be more familiar working with reporters because he was a stringer in China. He drew on those experiences when he worked for New York Times reporters who interviewed Central American migrants in a Texas detention center.

Mines said his experiences with interpreters taught him that it's critical to set ground rules. He and other interpreters note that many journalists may not know what they should — and should not — expect in language services.

**Thorne Anderson**, a photojournalist who has worked with interpreters covering the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, addresses the reporter-source relationship when training interpreters for a project in Mexico. Language services pros are taught to take the focus off themselves. Because the interpreters play such an important role in the reporting, they are expected to be as committed to accuracy and transparency as the reporters are. Anderson: "I think that's essential to the success of our project."

It's not uncommon for reporters to ask interpreters to be their drivers or even stringers. That's especially true in emotionally charged situations characteristic of conflict zones. But **Kathy Kauffman**, a Spanish-speaking legal and conference interpreter who has interpreted for the BBC and Reuters, discourages journalists from doing that.

Interpreters who take on other tasks risk crossing lines and diminishing the integrity of information reporters gather, said Kauffman, who has interpreted for secretaries-general of the United Nations. She said newsrooms should have guidelines for working with interpreters. "If you're that good a fixer, and your connections are that good, and you can get the insider knowledge, then you're probably not as impartial as you need to be to do a completely accurate and completely impartial interpretation."

Anderson is an associate professor, UNT Mayborn School of Journalism. He has had work in Newsweek and The New York Times, and he knows of situations where reporters have asked someone to play multiple roles. To navigate dangerous environments, having someone who can talk a reporter out of trouble may be more valuable than someone with perfect English.

But interpreters who offer themselves as jacks-of-all-trades may not perform any task well. Anderson believes it's unrealistic to expect an interpreter to deliver 100 percent of the time while filling a variety of other roles.

"It's exhausting for interpreters to work for a journalist. If you can remove from them the obligation of keeping you safe, remove from them the obligation of transportation and the obligation of getting you from one place to another, then they just have more energy to put into interpreting."

Next month: [Tips for working with interpreters](#)

– Margarita Birnbaum  
federally certified interpreter | Texas licensed court interpreter

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- [They named a school after him; now students maybe can't read his book](#)
- [Pregnant HOV lane mom gets first ticket dismissed, then gets another](#)
- [Unpopular chief appraiser stars in Denton County soap opera](#)
- [Readers scold Watchdog for not locking his gate to stop backyard bandits](#)

**F.O.I.F.T. UPDATE** FOI column: [Times of trouble remind us Texas open government laws are here for everyone](#)

[more eChaser on p. 3](#)



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# VITAL READS: Near and National



Republicans criticize student debt plan; Dems highlight loans to GOP companies

Can **Biden** really meet renewable energy goals?

6 truths to know about immigration for the midterm election

Midterms: What does history say? And what could make 2022 different?

What could happen if election deniers win?

## Fort Worth Star-Telegram

It's a first: rooftop movies in Sundance Square

Bickering, walkouts, people quitting: N. Texas city council, mayor in turmoil

How dense is too dense on West 7th? Will new apartments push the limit?

When Texas businesses slash property values, it's at your expense

Prison officer gets lighter sentence for assault than victim's drug sentence

UNTHSC got \$7.2m for Tarrant COVID vaccination work. It gave just 9% of its planned shots

## Fort Worth Report

City manager and the **Basses**: Potential conflict of interest?

Surging electricity prices prompt the question: Is rooftop solar the solution?

As FW ages, high school program teaches how to care for older adults

Dr. **Ed Furber** was a 'mental giant' in medicine. He was also Santa Claus

Think election tests are rigged? Tarrant elections officials plan to prove they're not. You're invited to participate

## FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS



**Richard Connor**: Can you say 'conflict,' **David Cooke**? The bigger problem, of course, is Sundance Square



Damage Control: Can a 2-week suspension make up for years of alleged TAD misdeeds?

Crying for Help: While most non-MAGAs flee Southlake, a few special-ed moms are staying to fight

Primal Love: The low price to adopt a zoo animal is inverse to the joy they bring on your visits



Business groups, legislators push to restore corporate tax incentives

'We win in 2022 and the world changes'

Big leaks, little regulation

Anatomy of a tragedy

Loon Star State: The rights exterminator

To build a theocracy

OVER & OUT | John Dycus, Fort Worth SPJ

Business strategy experts working through Google News Initiative and INN are exploring ways — successful ways — to dramatically boost small-paper income. With this help, 15 news organizations significantly boosted their revenue from business sources last year. [How 15 newsrooms grew sponsorship revenue 250 percent.](#)

**SPJ factoids**: Some members of the unions representing reporters at The New York Times and NBC News' digital services are working from home and protesting the return to office policies. [More here.](#) ...

A federal judge in Arizona halted enforcement of the new state law banning people from filming the police within eight feet. [More here.](#) ...

The BBC received 670 complaints from viewers who thought coverage of the death of Queen Elizabeth II excessive. [More here, here.](#) ...

CNN White House correspondent **John Harwood** abruptly left the network, adding fuel to the #BoycottCNN fire as some viewers grow wary of the network's centrist move. [More here, here, here, here.](#) ...

The adviser to a student newspaper at a Los Angeles high school named after **Daniel Pearl**, a Wall Street Journal foreign bureau chief murdered by Pakistani terrorists in 2002, has been given a three-day unpaid suspension over censorship issues. [More here, here, here.](#) ...

National Geographic laid off six of its top editors in an unprecedented move. In internal discussions, several staff members have referred to the dismissals as the Red Wedding, a reference to a massacre depicted in the HBO series "Game of Thrones." [More here.](#) ...

SaportaReport says the Atlanta Journal-Constitution has plans to stop its daily print editions, moving to a weekend print edition only, but continue its digital news operation seven days a week. [More here, here, here.](#) ...

After the journalism program at Northwest High School in Grand Island, Neb., was canceled, legal action may be taken against the school district for violating students' First Amendment rights. [More here, here, here.](#) ...

A study by NewsGuard found that in congressional primaries and general elections, 8 percent of Republican candidates' shared links came from sites rated as unreliable. For Democratic candidates, the daily average was less than 1 percent. And reliable sources in Spanish remain hard to find, especially relating to abortion and elections. [More here, here, here, here.](#) ...

**Caught my eye**: [Ancient subarctic forests at risk from climate change and war ...](#) [Energy and more energy](#)

**Closing words** [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: "If there weren't so many lies in the world, I wouldn't write at all." — **D.H. Lawrence**, who also said, "The human soul needs actual beauty more than bread."

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### 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

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