January 2019
Back Issue • Photo Archive
Informing the North Texas Journalism / Communication Workforce

- Trump's tariffs on Canadian newspaper overturned
- McClatchy to centralize design, copy editing jobs in North Carolina
- Scripps layoffs at Texas, California, Florida, Indiana newspapers
- The media today: Layoffs, shutdowns and salary cuts

We're in this together.
SPJ is dedicated to the cause of the press and public relations. Our mission is to foster the freedom of our organizations. To those affected by layoffs and buyouts (SPJ members) you are not alone.

Membership does matter request
- Bylaws, creed, dues and more.
- What can we do for you in your country, join our ranks, and help save journalism?

One hundred plus revelers shared the moment at Fort Worth SPJ’s Cool Yule Party, Dec. 5 at the UNT Health Science Center MET Building. Dave Lieber waved his Shady Oak Stetson in the air in homage to Amon Carter, 50 quality gift drawing items found a new home, and Leroy Wilson sold all the barbecue he brought. Throughout, photographer Laurie Ward was everywhere capturing the vibe, one smile, one embrace, one whoop at a time. You wanted an evening to linger in the memory and forever in the heart, this was it.

Quick Hits
- First Amendment Awards application — received by deadline Jan. 7. Info.
- Texas Gridiron Scholarship application — due by Feb. 1. Info.
- Writers Guild of Texas monthly program, “Acquiring an Agent 101,” with award-winning writer PJ Gover (“Time of Long Shadows,” a thriller based on her dad, who was a rocket scientist during the 1960s Cold War) — 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, 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 Area Journalists Meetup ... The DFW Bloggers Classroom

In the Workplace: Get a Job
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Each logo in the ad rail links to the sponsor’s website!

JANUARY 2019

The Gallery

Adviser Laurie Fox talks with UTA Shorthorn multimedia alumni and current staff about Homecoming coverage. Alumni Theo Carracino and Steve Wilson (that’s Evans Caglage in the back) mull over the upcoming Student Publications Centennial and reunion in April. ... Shorthorn alum Tom Fox acts out.

Newspaper design guru Kevin Slimp goes one on one with participants at a two-day workshop in December sponsored by TCU’s Texas Center for Community Journalism.

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POWER TO THE PEOPLE

There’s blue, then there’s Watchdog blue. Dave Lieber’s most recent Sunday night “Blue Light Special” videos included a mini-concert with the melodic and soulful Jana Stanfield designed to pump up his followers, talking with his oldest son about what it was like for the son to be the subject of embarrassing newspaper columns in his youth, exposing a $1 billion lottery scheme, and an aerial view of the newsroom Christmas village he built, beset with controversy due to the opening of the Hot Wheels Expressway.

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Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas update: Citing an obscure legal loophole, the Travis County Sheriff’s Office blocked a grieving mother’s request for evidence of how her 21-year-old son died in jail. KXAN-TV uncovered video and other records of the days leading up to the son’s death and his interactions with jail staff. The ongoing report sparked a new investigation into the response to his medical needs and prompted a legislative effort to eliminate the loophole, which law enforcement agencies across Texas are using to keep details about dozens of other in-custody deaths secret.

Details. ... The Longview News-Journal filed a complaint with the Attorney General’s Office on the morning of Dec. 7 about Upshur County Sheriff Larry Webb’s handling of a request for a high-profile offense report earlier in the month. Late that afternoon, the newspaper received a certified letter, dated Dec. 12, from Webb saying he would send information in an assault complaint against District Clerk Karen Bunn to the attorney general seeking verification that part of the Nov. 14 offense report can be withheld. The report accuses Bunn of assault on a public servant, a third-degree felony. Details. The once-robust Texas Public Information Act lies bleeding. The Texas Supreme Court’s decision in 2018 to deny a newspaper’s petition for review of the opinion of the 1st Court of Appeals in the case of Nehls v. Hartman Newspapers is the latest deep cut. Nehls effectively nullifies the PIA provision that says a court shall award attorneys’ fees to a requestor who substantially prevails against a governmental body in a lawsuit to require release of public information. In other words, the requestor must pay a tax — attorneys’ fees — to get public information, even where the governmental body does not reasonably rely on recognized legal authority in refusing to release the information. Details. ...

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NEW MEMBERS

Kathryn Jones-Malone, Tarleton State University ... Don Buckman, back after 50 years

More...
remembering the ‘cadillac’ of reporters

former star-telegram reporter and local musician robert cadwallader died feb. 8 after his vehicle left the road and struck a tree in johnson county, where he lived. he was 59.

he covered local government, edu-
cation and crime for the star-telegram from 2000 to 2017. he worked as a freelance writer at the waco morning news from 1991 to 2010.

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friends and colleagues recalled, in facebook posts and funeral home comments, cadwallader’s meticulous reporting and his talents as a key-
boardist in blues bands.

‘some night, you’ll catch a punch between the eyes and all of a sudden you’ll see three guys in the ring against you. pick out the one in the middle,’ wrote a letter to the editor january 2019, fort worth spj.

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Back at his day job, a former editor said cadwallader never had to be fed news. ‘he had sources everywhere,’ he said.

cadwallader’s words to young fighters was simple: ‘no wrong notes.

there is no greater joy, that type of group interaction within the band.'