

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

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE



to subscribe or to submit items, e-john@xdycus.com

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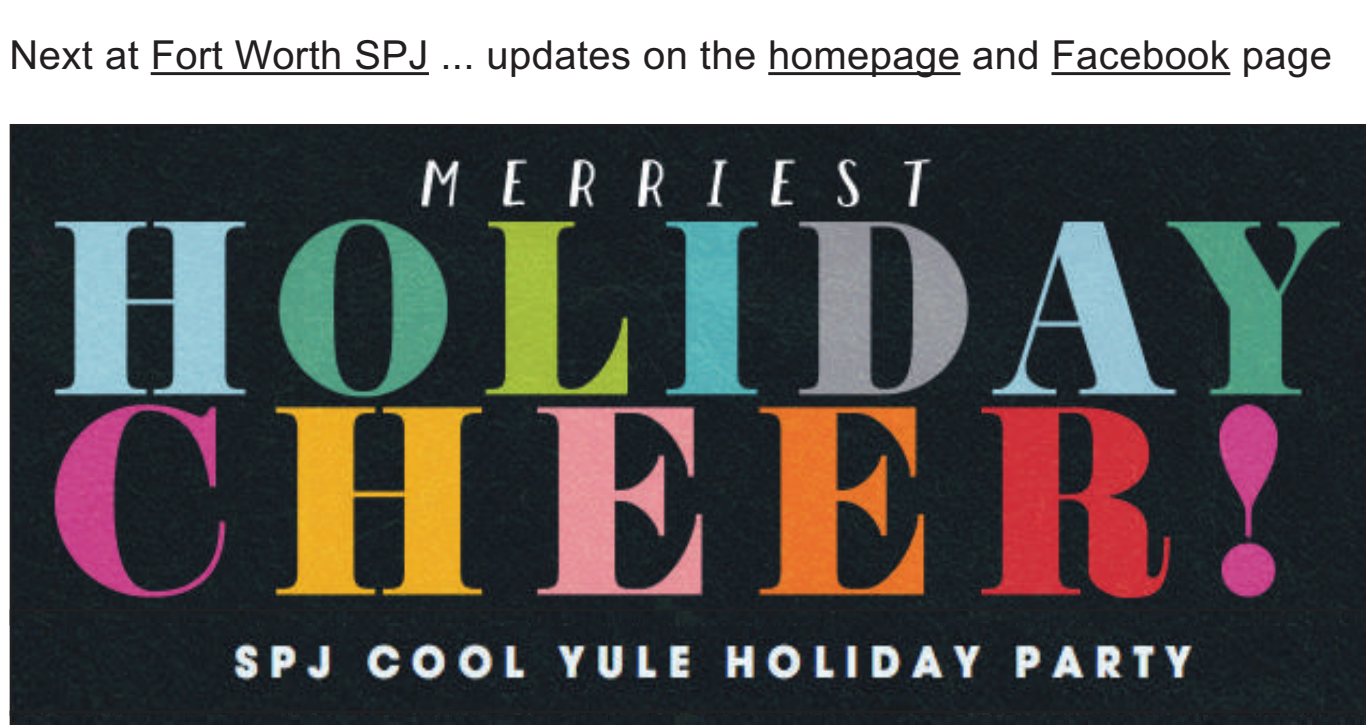
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Next at [Fort Worth SPJ](#) ... updates on the [homepage](#) and [Facebook](#) page



6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, Joe T. Garcia's La Puertita (repurposed little church south of the main building)

Enchilada buffet, cash bar, \$30

Bring books for the JPS readers' library and spending energy for the gift drawing/auction (good stuff here!)

Dave Lieber back as emcee

RSVP by Sunday

QUICK HITS

- Arlington Conservation Council — annual meeting (Zoom) 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19; no program in December. [Info.](#)
- GFW PRSA — holiday mixer, 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, Blackland Distillery, 2616 Weisenberger St., Fort Worth; no December program.
- FWBG | BRIT — Holiday in the Garden, Dec. 11; Lunchtime Lecture Series: National Ecological Observatory Network, Dec. 7; Winter Herbs for Wellness, Dec. 4; Art Talk: Aztec Food & Fibers in Diego Rivera's Palacio Nacional Murals, Dec. 6; Birding Walk with the Fort Worth Audubon Society, Dec. 11; Indian Curry Night Workshop, Dec. 8. [Info.](#)
- Meetups: [hosting an online event](#) Trinity Arts Writers Workshop ... [Fort Worth Area Journalists Meetup](#)

IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB *Listings in [journalismjobs.com](#) and [dfwcommunicators.com](#) appear in this report.* ... The Dallas Morning News is hiring everybody, most of them full-time positions — [residential real estate reporter](#), [multiplatform editor](#), [breaking news reporter](#), [digital producer](#), [managing editor](#), [sports digital producer](#), [editorial editor](#), [food staff writer](#), [Washington correspondent](#), [investigative reporter](#), [Metro editor](#), [science and medical reporter](#), [local government reporter](#), [data and interactivities editor](#). ... Texas Public Radio in San Antonio seeks a producer to support the Morning Edition show with writing and editing for daily broadcasts, and to contribute to the weekly Fronteras program. [Info.](#) ... Hearst Newspapers has an immediate opening for a web developer strong in visual storytelling to join a digital team serving the San Antonio Express-News and Houston Chronicle. [Info.](#) ... Bernadette Davis Communications, a Plano-based growing boutique agency with local and national clients, founded in 2014, seeks a PR/communications coordinator. [Info.](#) ... The Lampasas (TX) Dispatch Record seeks a full-time staff writer/photographer. E- résumé, work samples and cover letter (100-250 words on you, your goals and why you're applying) to publisher **David Lowe** at dlowe@lampasas.com.

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

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Fort Worth Star-Telegram

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“What is good journalism?”

McClatchy move could hurt S-T coverage

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, two S-T community reporters and news consumers in Arlington all took a hit when McClatchy disaffiliated from Report for America. For a year and a half RFA has covered part of the salary for **Kailey Broussard** (Arlington beat) and **Haley Samsel** (area environmental issues), but that arrangement appears to be over.

RFA pairs early-career journalists with news outlets that have identified gaps in their coverage. In June the Los Angeles Times published an op-ed by RFA president and co-founder **Steven Waldman** criticizing the hedge funds that own “half of the daily newspaper circulation in America” and have “a track record of cutting the reporting staff of local newsrooms to increase profits.” Now McClatchy, itself the property of a hedge fund, says it will not participate in the next Report for America cycle.



Haley Samsel

McClatchy owns dozens of newspapers in 14 states. Sources told Columbia Journalism Review that its decision came in response to Waldman’s hedge-fund criticism.



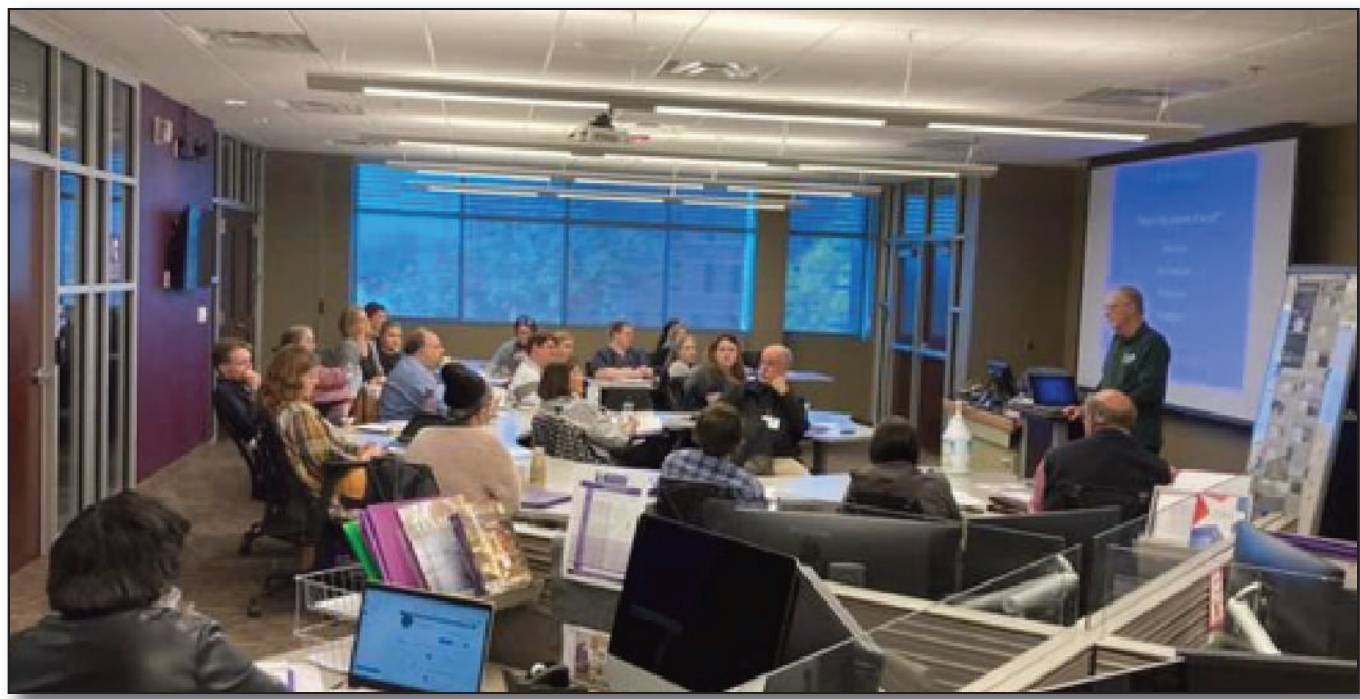
Kailey Broussard

It was not immediately known if Broussard and Samsel will be with the Star-Telegram past May. Broussard speculated that they might shift to other beats with more audience.

The Star-Telegram declined comment. “We are communicating directly with our employees about this and don’t plan to discuss it publicly,” said publisher and editor **Steve Coffman**.

The Fort Worth NewsGuild on Nov. 10 posted that the reporters’ contracts, signed through RFA, will not be renewed. A commenter who goes by JumpinRudy noted: “This is why it’s so hard to like the S-T.”

The NewsGuild post also lists a partial catalog of the stories Broussard and Samsel have covered since they came to town. Many of the stories likely would not have been written without the Report for America funding.



Taking j-training to the townsfolk

That’s chapter membership VP **Robert Bohler** you see hitting the highway for small-town Texas and a training date with its newspaper staff. He and **Austin Lewter** find themselves mobile emissaries these days for the Texas Center for Community Journalism, which Lewter directs.

The center also is again offering face-to-face sessions with community journalists throughout the state. Its Nov. 18 Eye on Design workshop, *photo above*, reached capacity in 24 hours. It was the center’s first on-site overnight workshop in two years.

Newspaper veterans Bohler, Lewter and **Broc Sears** led the design workshop in the Texan News Service newsroom on the Stephenville campus of Tarleton State University. The workshop encompassed an array of digital and print concepts for attendees to take back to their newsrooms and use immediately.

Bohler taught and advised student journalists for more than 20 years. He sees significant differences working with community journalists, even when the subject matter is the same.

“Most college students come into it with a lot of ideals and media savvy but limited life experience — it can be a hurdle to develop the confidence to conduct interviews, cover beats and make news decisions,” he said. “The journalists attending the workshops are older and know the communities they cover. Some of them have been in advertising or production, and now they’re on the news side. Others were professionals in other fields who crossed over. If I had to move to ads or design, I’d be in the same boat.”

He said community journalists have a good idea of what they don’t know, and they’re committed to filling the gaps when an opportunity arises. “It’s rewarding to visit their environment and help them improve their product.”

Lewter and Bohler have taken writing workshops to community newsrooms over the last couple of months. In Snyder they worked with staff members from three Texas papers. Future workshops will be in Ozona and Atlanta.

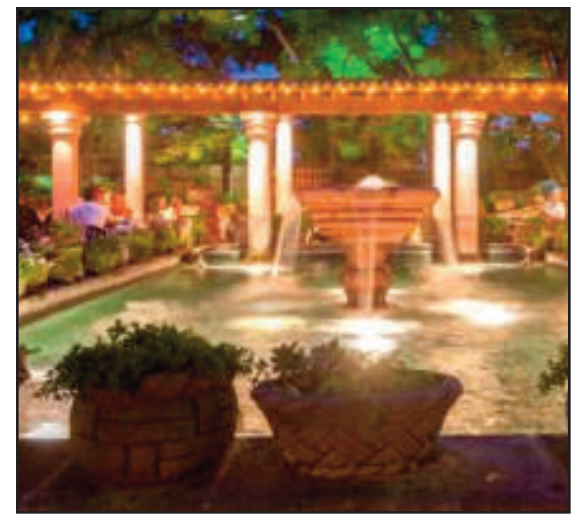
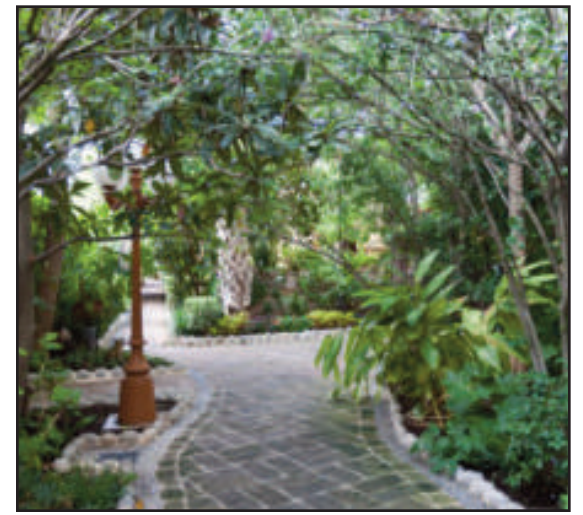
Recently, Lewter spoke at the Texas A&M College of Law on local news sustainability. “It was a wonderful time,” he said. “The media law students were genuinely interested in the future of local news. It was inspiring.”

TCCJ’s spring workshops will include a newspaper management boot camp and a community news symposium. Details will be posted on the TCCJ Facebook page.

The Texas Center for Community Journalism moved to Tarleton in 2020 and partners with the nonprofit Texas Newspaper Foundation to invest in sustainable community journalism. Founded in 2009 at TCU, it provides training and professional development, industry networking and support for almost 400 small-town news outlets.

more *eChaser* on p. 3

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PEOPLE & PLACES Behold, 2021 Worthy Award winners at the gussied-up Downtown Cowtown at the Isis Theater in the culturally evolving Stockyards. [No frowns allowed.](#) ... That was former UTA Shorthorn editor **Brian Lopez** reporting on NPR the other day on [recent developments concerning masks in Texas schools](#) (segment starts at about 4:30).

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

See you at [Joe T. Garcia's](#), 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1 — Cool Yule! ...

Billie Eilish recently stopped by "Sesame Street" and put a numerical spin on "[Happier Than Ever](#)" with Count von Count on a stoop. Surely there is much here for Republicans to oppose.

SPJ factoids: SPJ lauded former New Mexico Gov. and UN Ambassador **Bill Richardson** for negotiating the release of American journalist **Danny Fenster**, who had been sentenced to 11 years of hard labor in military-ruled Myanmar. Fenster [arrived in the U.S.](#) on Nov. 16 after being freed. ...

The United States and China announced an agreement to [ease restrictions on foreign journalists](#) operating in the two countries. ...

The Salt Lake Tribune says it is [healthy and sustainable](#) after transitioning to a nonprofit five years ago. Size and staffing are both up. ...

Maryland hotel magnate **Stewart W. Bainum Jr.** tried and failed to buy The Baltimore Sun before Alden Global Capital bought it and the rest of Tribune Publishing. Now he's [starting his own digital news outlet](#) in the same city and committing \$50 million of his own fortune to get it started. [Fifty journalist hires](#) are forecast. ...

A yearlong investigation by students working with the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland [examines hundreds of public-spectacle lynchings and massacres over decades](#). "[Printing Hate](#)" investigates the cumulative effect of how newspaper headlines and editorials incited racist terror and falsely accused black people of crimes. ...

Indiana Attorney General **Todd Rokita** [wasn't backing down](#) from his office's decision to prohibit journalist **Abdul-Hakim Shabazz** from attending a press conference in October. ...

More than 300 employees at Hearst's magazine division — a majority of the approximately 550 on the magazine plus the 450 in its union — [signed a petition](#) objecting to the company's plan to have them return to the office. ...

High school journalists in Chicago [are pushing back against the Student Online Personal Protection Act](#), which they say has hindered their ability to publish news. The law is meant to protect students' data and give their parents control over how it is used.

Caught my eye: [Mealworms can safely consume polystyrene foam](#) ... [How to save sinking cities and bleaching corals](#) ... [Diabetic mice 'functionally cured' using new stem cell therapy](#) ... [The grid isn't ready for the renewable revolution](#) ... [Reimagine a resilient future with this nature-based tool](#)

Closing words [with gratitude to **Garrison Keillor** and Prairie Home Productions]: "The ideal reader of my novels is a lapsed Catholic and a failed musician, short-sighted, color-blind, auditorily biased, who has read the books that I have read." — English novelist, critic and composer **Anthony Burgess** ... "Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There was never a democracy that did not commit suicide." — **John Adams**

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All about the community of model railroading and rail enthusiasm in the Midwest and Southwest



"There is no greater agony than carrying an untold story."
— Maya Angelou

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