Rock of Truth 2.0

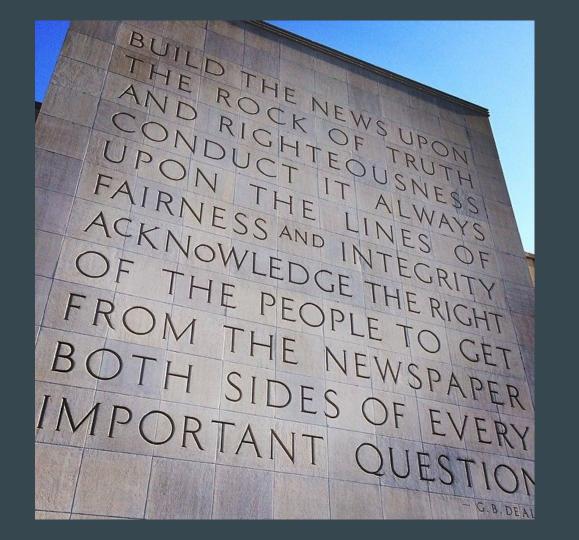
Mike Wilson | @MWilstory Robyn Tomlin | @robyntomlin

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The Pallas Morning News



Rock of Truth



The Dallas Morning News



Dominant print and digital news provider in one of the fastest growing US metro areas

Ownership: A.H. Belo, since 1885

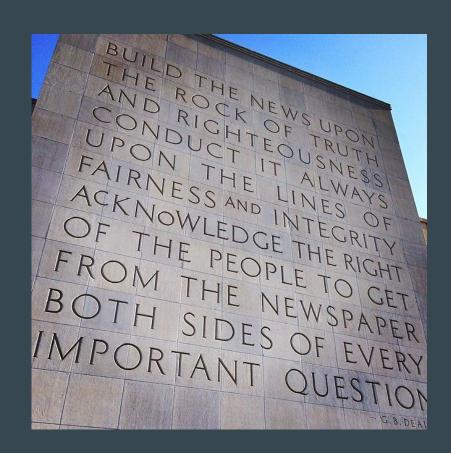
News FTEs: ~270

Print circulation: 140k daily; 220k Sunday

Avg. monthly uniques: 13.5 million (metered

subscription - since May)

Brands: DMN, DallasNews, SportsDayDFW, GuideLive, AlDia (Spanish-language), Briefing



Diversified digital marketing services portfolio

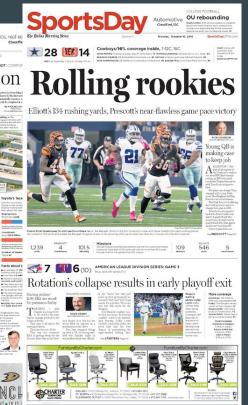
A solid foundation













The Dallas Morning News

Farrell to be a cardina

No holds barred



WORLD Airstrike sparks prote





beauty unite



Trump, wounded by video, tangles bitterly with Clinton







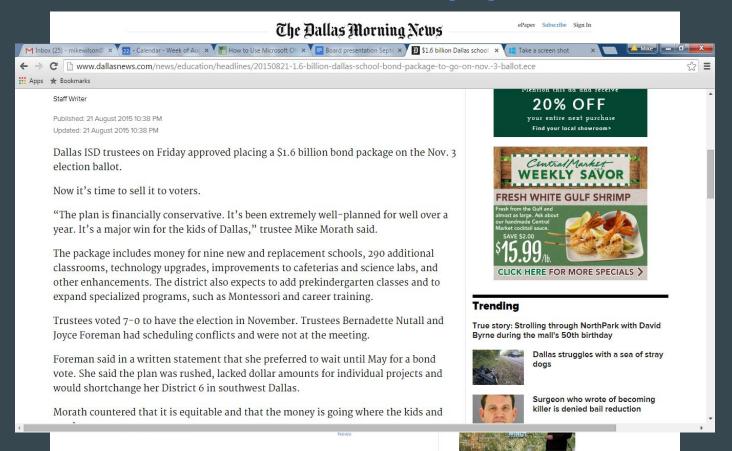
New Vision

"Imagine a newsroom where we think of *The Dallas Morning News* first as a digital news organization."

"Imagine a newsroom where we are driven much more by what the audience needs and much less by what we're used to doing."

-Mike Wilson, May 2015

The online newspaper



New leadership



Mike Wilson Editor February 2015



Robyn Tomlin Managing Editor September 2015

The Empirical Project



Content

- > Understand what content the DMN newsroom should provide, and in what forms, to serve its mission and to engage readers
- > How will DMN find the right balance between various content types and form factors

Capabilities

- > What skills must the newsroom have to produce desired content across platforms
- > What roles and resources are needed and in what numbers

Organization & Workflow

- > How should the newsroom be organized
- > What are the workflows to produce content and engage readers
- > What tech tools are needed and how should they be used

Newsroom of the Future



ORGANIZE coverage around people instead of institutions. Derive content from questions about interesting and important phenomena that affect their lives. (Obsessions)



PLAN all our journalism for digital platforms and distill from that content a great newspaper produced each day by a print-focused team. (Digital-to-Print workflow)



CURATE the best stories available, using our expertise to encapsulate the world for our readers. (Aggregation)



DESIGN new jobs and expand existing ones to build a staff trained in an array of digital skills. (New roles and skills)

Newsroom of the Future



DESIGNATE newsroom specialists with advanced abilities in data, programming, interactive design, curation, audience engagement, video and analytics. (New teams)



EXPAND our training to include mandatory baseline digital training for the majority of the staff, and higher level classes for specialists. (Continuous learning)

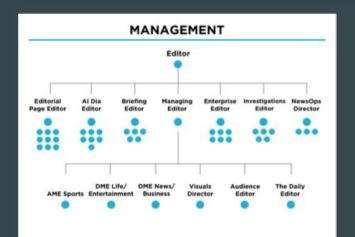


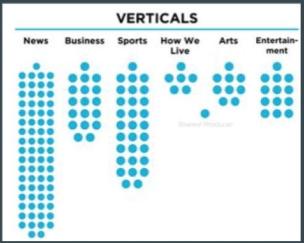
SHIFT our workflow to publish everything online earlier. (Start earlier, post when ready)



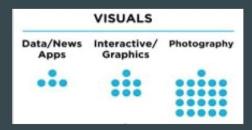
IMPROVE communication and stop duplicating efforts. (Slack, budgeting tool)

A new structure













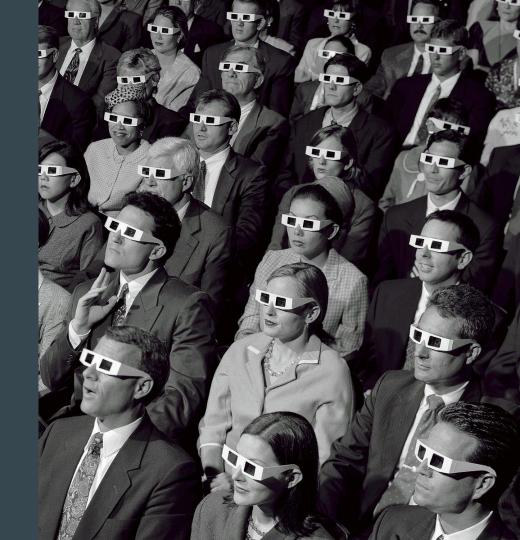
50%

Percentage of full-time staff members (more than 130 people) moved into different jobs or have significantly different roles/responsibilities.

Audience and analytics

Audience Team

- > 18/7
- > Homepage
- Social (FB, FB Live, FBIA, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat)
- > Mobile apps/push alerts
- > Newsletters
- > Headline coaching, A/B testing
- > Story production coaching
- > Analytics
- > Project release planning



Analytics

- > Analytics editor
- > Transparent to all
- > Custom dashboard for writers
- > Tools: Parse.ly, Google Analytics Premium, API's Metrics for News,
- > A/B testing
- > Analytics training



Audience Goals

Why are we doing this?

- > Raise awareness of audience best practices and get journalists using metrics to drive behaviors.
- > Focus on outcomes, not on activities
- > Create a growth mindset
- > Develop personal & team accountability



Personal Metrics report: July 1, 2016

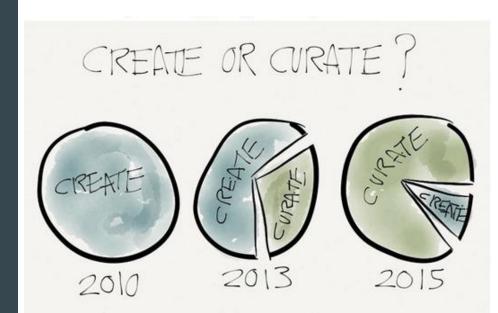
Purpose: The API Metrics for News indexes have been designed not to replace human judgment but to give journalists new ways to understand how readers interact with content. To produce the indexes, the American Press Institute analyzes readership data collected as part of the newspaper's online measurement process.

DMN Index Numbers for: Jane Doe

otal index: 99	Metric definitions		
Overall readership	A weighted measurement of how content performs in terms of: Average page views Reading time per story		
Social readership 65	A weighted measurement of how content performs in a combination of: The percentage of readers drawn to the content by social media The number of times readers shared a stories on Facebook, Twitter and other social media channels The average social share rate		
Local readership	A weighted measurement of how content performs in combination of: Page views by local readers Average time spent by local readers in your posts Social media referrals by readers in your area The percentage of readers who are local		
Loyal readership	Loyal users are those who visit the site three or more times. This index is a weighted measurement of how content performs in regard to: • Average page views by loyal readers • Average time spent in stories by loyal readers		
Average monthly visitors 122,476		Average views per post 3,346	Total engaged minutes 1,548,564

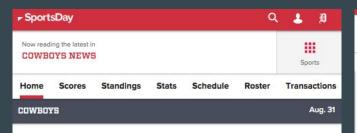
Content

Focus on curation



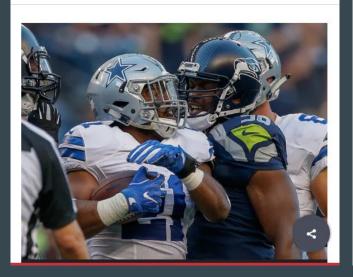
Curation

- > Curated by sports producer
- Sathered from staff tweets, observations and (attributed) links to reporting from *The Seattle Times*
- > This story had 75,0000 visitors; 116,000 pageviews
- Sports publishes an average of 50-60 posts a day
- Overall, posts get an average of 3,500 visitors



Kam Chancellor was a 'little surprised' by Ezekiel Elliott's physical play, says unnecessary roughness penalty 'wasn't no flag'

COWBOYS



Now reading the latest in COWBOYS NEWS



Ezekiel Elliott's professional debut was impressive. He racked up 48 rushing yards on just seven carries against the Seattle Seahawks, a team that has a defense that is considered to be one of the best in the league.

The Seahawks also have one of the hardest-hitting safeties in the league in Kam Chancellor. If anything was more impressive than Elliott's stats it was the way he went at Chancellor, a Pro Bowl safety.

Twice.





Breaking News Team

- > 18/7
- > Heavy focus on news aggregation, social news gathering
- > Not just DFW -- across Texas
- > Breaking news reporters (5)
- > Breaking news producers (3)
- > Breaking news enterprise (3)
- > Breaking news editors (4)



Weatherman Bob Goosmann denied there were any racial undertones to the incendiary Facebook comment that led him to resign as chief meteorologist at KRLD (1080 AM).

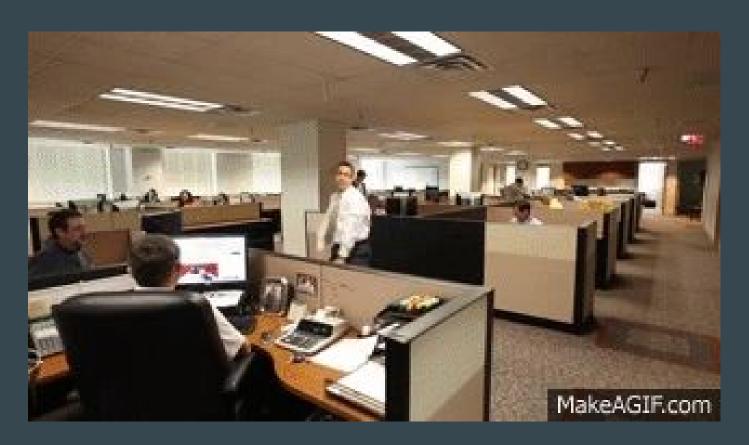




The Facebook message, posted Wednesday, said, 'As many of you have probably noticed, I've stayed away from politics on FB. The DNC parading the mothers of slain thugs around on their stage has me furious.'

The comment came after black women whose children have died while in custody, in police shootings or other gun violence took the stage at the Democratic National Convention.

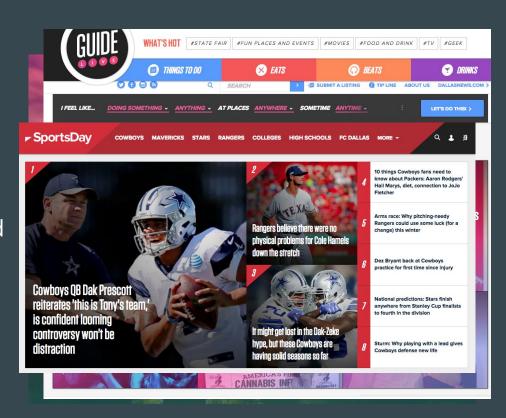
Don't be boring



Technology and tools

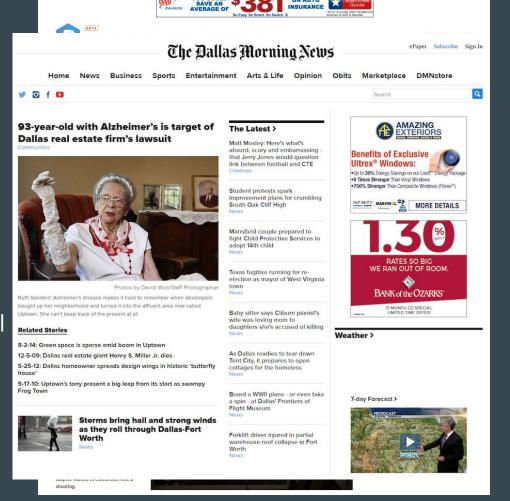
Serif

- > Work with LifeBlue, a Dallas-based boutique design/dev firm
- > Created to power GuideLive
- > Adapted to power SportsDayDFW and SportsDayHS
- > Taken to scale to power DallasNews
- > Easy to use
- > Best in class for building engaging stories

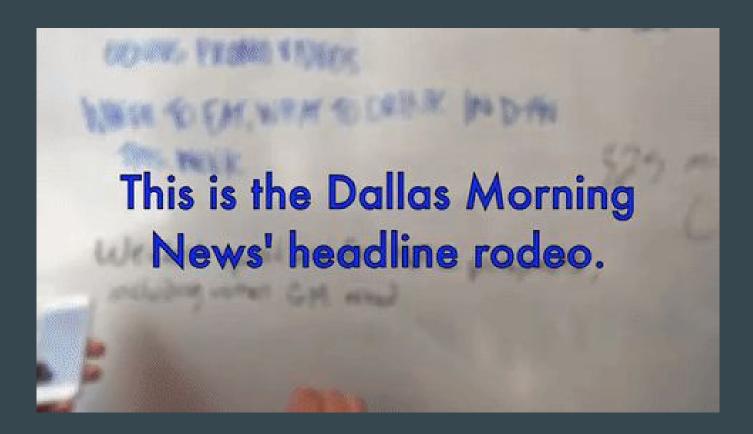


A new DallasNews

- > Fully mobile responsive
- > Strong, visual format
- > Tag- and topic-driven navigation
- > Infinite scroll, article-to-stream nav encourages serendipity, recirculation
- > Algorithmic story streams akin to social
- > Competitive, integrated advertising
- > Coming soon: Stream personalization



Headline Rodeo





Questions?

Mike Wilson | @MWilstory Robyn Tomlin | @robyntomlin

The Dallas Morning News

