Local News Special Issue

Editorial Focus

Local news is experiencing deepening challenges in funding its journalism and operations amid a shifting news environment. In this special report, CJR reviews the news desert problem, a dearth of local news sources in many areas, and the “donut effect,” big-time journalists remember their hometown papers, and more.

Stories Include:

- National outlets like The New York Times and The Washington Post are turning their attention back to local stories as demand for coverage grows. What’s their strategy, and will they succeed?

- How two email newsletters, The Miami Tropic and Evergrey, have upended the traditional local news business model and found an audience with millennials.

- BuzzFeed’s Ben Smith on whether local news should be subsidized.

- Columbia’s Emily Bell explores Facebook’s complicated relationship with local outlets.

- The Lakota Country Times, South Dakota’s only “official” Native American newspaper, watched as a nation of journalists descended upon their insulated community to cover Standing Rock, and then rapidly withdrew.

- The New York Daily News invited skeptical readers into the newsroom to see how journalism gets made. We find out whether their experiment paid off.

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