



University of Vermont

Center for Community News

LOCAL NEWS AS A PUBLIC GOOD – INCREASING VISIBILITY THROUGH UNIVERSITY-LED STATEWIDE NEWSLETTERS

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Key Findings

In 2025, CCN surveyed programs in all 50 states to investigate if they have a local media newsletter or site, specifically with ties to a higher education institution, that covers the news *behind* the news and regularly reports on the state of the local news ecosystem.

There are at least six with some similarities and differences. One common theme is that they all provide meaningful reporting, analysis, and actionable intelligence to some degree about the state of local news in their state or region.

While there is a dearth of state-based media newsletters, the study also found there is an appetite for them. Respondents in nearly half the states indicated they believed their state could benefit from something like it. Several said they were interested in learning how to create one.

The MacArthur Foundation recently named increasing the visibility of local media as one of four core elements in their Local News Strategic Plan. Press Forward has also set a goal for each community to assess their community's information needs.

State-based media newsletters keep tabs on the rapidly changing local news landscape in real time, providing information for journalism professionals, foundations, academics and students, donors, public officials, and others. They build community by highlighting successes and challenges, spotlighting opportunities, and regularly educating stakeholders about the health and importance of a state's news-and-information ecosystem.

States with newsletters that cover their local news scene:

- **Colorado:** [Inside the News in Colorado](#), produced by Corey Hutchins, Colorado College.
- **North Carolina:** [NC Local](#), produced by Catherine Komp with ties to Elon University.
- **California:** [Inland Empire MediaWatch](#), produced by Thomas Corrigan, California State University in San Bernardino.
- **New England:** [Media Nation](#), produced by Dan Kennedy of Northeastern University.
- **New Jersey:** [The Newsroom Digest](#), produced by the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University.
- **The Midwest:** [Gateway Journalism Review](#), operated out of Southern Illinois University.





Introduction

Across the country, academics, journalists and researchers are increasingly offering snapshots and checkups about the health of local news in their individual states.

Often emanating from higher-ed journalism programs, these important initiatives, which [have spread in recent years](#), show how a state's news and information ecosystem looks and where residents are getting their local news. They also help inform the philanthropic community when it comes to funding local journalism.

Such news-mapping and assessment efforts have taken root in [Oregon](#) and [Georgia](#), [New England](#) and California, and places in between like [Nebraska](#) and [Minnesota](#), and more.

What happens once such assessments are complete, however, is another story.

Very few states have a dedicated publication, site, or newsletter that regularly and independently reports on and analyzes ongoing developments in the local media scene, particularly one affiliated with a college or university, according to the results of a survey of programs and states by the Center for Community News.

After canvassing press associations, journalists, and college and university professors across all 50 states, two themes quickly emerged from the responses: Nothing like that exists in our state — and we wish it did.

The news behind the news

The University of Vermont's Center for Community News commissioned Corey Hutchins to conduct this report because of the successful "[Inside the News in Colorado](#)" that Hutchins writes and publishes to nearly 5,000 subscribers each Friday on the Substack platform.

The newsletter's tagline: "The news behind the news in Colorado."

The free-to-read newsletter reports on, comments on, and analyzes the goings-on in Colorado's media scene. It connects local developments to what's happening nationally and explores what makes the state's local news ecosystem unique. It pokes and prods, critiques, and uplifts, and seeks to spark debate and a better understanding about the practice of local journalism and the importance of journalism as a public good.

Each newsletter has at least one originally reported story and a handful of shorter aggregated items. Each edition ends with a roundup of up to two dozen "odds & ends" relevant to the Colorado local media scene — complete with an emoji in true newsletter fashion.





Recent editions included a deep dive into [challenges facing a Denver-area nonprofit newspaper chain](#) and its national owner, how Trump's attacks on public media are [impacting Colorado broadcasters](#), proposed legislation that would tweak the state's [open-records laws](#), and how some local journalists were [reporting on ICE raids](#). The newsletter covers when new outlets [launch](#) and when they [close](#), it tracks when journalists move [from newsroom to newsroom](#), it reports on [local media initiatives](#), and generally keeps a finger on the pulse of the state's media environment each week. At least once a year, relying on public data, the newsletter publishes [pay scales for journalists](#) at Colorado newsrooms. Every year on Jan. 1, Hutchins publishes a [year-end column](#) rounding up what happened throughout the year in the state's media scene.

Financial support for the newsletter, which carries legal liability insurance as an S-Corp, comes from underwriting, sponsorships, and advertising, which are laid out in an "[About](#)" section that also explains the newsletter's goals, funding, and any potential conflicts.

It's a lot of work each week, to be sure.

But it comes easy in part because Hutchins is also the manager of the Colorado College Journalism Institute, where he maintains the database of the [Colorado News Mapping Project](#), advises the Colorado Media Project and sits on the board of the state chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Hutchins also worked for the better part of a decade as [a correspondent for Columbia Journalism Review](#) which was invaluable training and he teaches a class at Colorado College called "Inbox Journalism: Writing for Newsletters."

Why state-based media newsletters are important

One of the strategies of a recent [strategic plan for local news](#) published by the MacArthur Foundation included creating the "enabling environment for news and information by supporting networks, policy, and public understanding of the sector."

State-based media industry newsletters can do that by building community among those involved in a state's local media landscape. They do so by highlighting successes and challenges, spotlighting opportunities, and regularly educating stakeholders about the health of a state's news-and-information ecosystem. And through doing this they showcase the key role of local media in the vitality and health of the state's communities. Local news is a public good.

"In every state, local news ecosystems and trusted sources are changing so rapidly — each month, even each week new things pop up, old things shut down, and thousands of residents are impacted," says Melissa Milios Davis, network manager for [Press Forward](#), the nationwide philanthropic initiative to support local news with chapters in more than 30 states. "Newsletters like Inside the News in Colorado can help all stakeholders — policymakers, community and business leaders, educators, funders — understand not only





the ‘news about local news’ — but also who is behind each of these publications, the broader context, and what’s at stake.”

States that have them: ‘The similarity is that everybody cares about local news’

Decades ago, newspapers used to employ media reporters and columnists who focused on local media as a beat. There are very few of them left.

National media trade publications like [Columbia Journalism Review](#), the [Poynter Institute](#), Harvard’s [Nieman Lab](#), and [Editor & Publisher](#) cover industry news at the local level here and there. Journalism support organizations like [LION](#), the [Knight Foundation](#), [Democracy Fund](#), and others run regular newsletters about the local news industry. [Local News Industry Pulse](#) rounds up a “weekly briefing of news, policy, trends, and more in the local news industry.” A group of local news producers published [Local News Blues](#) as a way to “externalize the conversations so many of us local news producers have been having behind the scenes” until December 2024.

Those of a certain generation likely remember the legendary media blogger Jim Romenesko whose reporting and commentary offered a mole’s eye view of the U.S. local media scene until he stopped doing it a decade ago.

Columbia Journalism Review used to have regional correspondents covering certain parts of the country who focused exclusively on local media issues and who would each publish about two stories a month. The grant-supported [United States Project’s](#) most recent post is from 2022. (I was a correspondent for it from 2013 to 2020.)

Across the country, state press associations send out their own newsletters, offering industry updates, opportunities, and some local media tidbits. And some states or cities have press clubs that do something similar, like the Idaho Press Club “[Communicator](#)” or the Youngstown Press Club’s [News Flash](#), which promises “local media news.” But because state press organizations or clubs accept dues from paying members, they don’t offer much critical coverage or provide regular robust independent reporting.

Not every state, however, is bereft of someone regularly keeping tabs on the local media scene — but they are few and far between.

North Carolina

In North Carolina, Catherine Komp writes a free weekly newsletter called [NC Local](#) to more than 1,000 subscribers using Mailchimp. Its slogan is “Connecting North Carolina’s news & information community.”

The NC Local newsletter’s format is a mix of digestible roundups and some original reporting.





A recurring item titled “Well Done” offers “noteworthy work from the NC news & information ecosystem.” News and information about what’s going on at the NC Local Workshop is often prominently featured. The most-clicked links each week tend to come from a bulletin board section where Komp rounds up job postings and opportunities.

Longtime journalist Melanie Sill founded the newsletter in 2018 to provide more connective tissue among the state’s local media scene. The newsletter helped pave the way for the mission of a project called the [NC Local News Workshop](#), which Sill also founded.

Based at Elon University and supported by the [NC Local News Lab Fund](#), the Workshop continued to produce the NC Local newsletter but also played a larger role in helping the state’s information networks become more resilient, Komp said.

This February, the organization's current executive director, Shannan Bowen, announced the launch of an independent nonprofit called [NC Local](#). The initiative, also birthed by the original newsletter, is focused on strengthening access to news about statewide issues through new content, services, and products in partnership with newsrooms.

Like “Inside the News in Colorado,” the NC Local newsletter’s audience is a mix of reporters, editors, news directors, publishers, journalism professors and students, funders, those involved in state politics, and people who care about civic information.

“The similarity is that everybody cares about local news,” Komp said.

[NC Local](#) | Catherine Komp, newsletter author: catherine@nclocal.org

California

In California, Thomas Corrigan, a media studies professor at California State University in San Bernardino, writes [Inland Empire MediaWatch](#) on Substack.

The Inland Empire area stretches from the L.A. county line to the Arizona and Nevada borders. Corrigan focuses on media in the largest population centers there, essentially the Riverside-San-Bernardino-Ontario metro area that encompasses about three million people.

Published occasionally and without a paywall since 2023, the newsletter goes out to 137 subscribers. An associated [account](#) on Instagram, where he is more active, has more than 600 followers.

The newsletter format typically consists of a single news item. Recent editions have tackled [layoffs](#) at a weekly newspaper chain under new out-of-state ownership, a [union pay study](#) revealing low newsroom salaries, and how the Inland Empire is a “[news mirage](#).” Last





summer, Corrigan did a deep dive into the journalistic standards — or lack thereof — among the region's popular [community-focused Instagram pages](#).

But with teaching classes, responding to budget cuts, administering a program and everything else, “it’s been hard to keep up with,” Corrigan said about the challenge of doing original reporting about local media while holding a full-time job in higher education. As a nonpractitioner, he said he also struggles to keep up a regular journalistic publication schedule as he’s used to doing more academic writing.

Corrigan said he plans to use the Inland Empire MediaWatch newsletter as a way to complement his academic work. When he publishes his next article in a journal, for instance, he can advance it journalistically through the newsletter by perhaps interviewing journalists at the news outlets he analyzed in his scholarly publication.

[Inland Empire MediaWatch](#) | Thomas Corrigan, newsletter author: Corrigan@csusb.edu

Massachusetts

In Massachusetts, Northeastern University journalism professor Dan Kennedy has run his [Media Nation](#) blog for more than 20 years, though he doesn’t consider the Bay State his beat.

With a mix of news and commentary, Kennedy, who was a media columnist for the Boston Phoenix and The Guardian, among other publications, writes more about national media issues. But he takes plenty of stabs at the media goings-on in the New England area when he can.

If someone leaks an internal email from, say, the Boston Globe, they are likely to do so with Media Nation.

“When I was at the Phoenix, I think all of us at the alternative press thought big local media were a powerful local institution that ought to be held to account just like big business and everything else,” he said. “I think it’s really important to report on what’s going on at these institutions because they affect people’s lives just like any other large institutions.”

Kennedy has a free subscription for his site that sends each post, which he publishes multiple times a week, to a subscriber’s inbox. Those who read it via email, he said, are his most devoted readers.

Both Kennedy and Corrigan mentioned the sometimes tricky nature of doing independent journalism while affiliated with a college or university. They must maintain relationships with news organizations that they might have to cover critically.





In my own experience, that hasn't been much of an issue. If the reporting is fair and done in a way that's educational and shows the writer is reporting in a way that seeks solutions, everyone in the ecosystem ought to benefit from it.

[Media Nation](#) | Dan Kennedy, author: dan.kennedy@northeastern.edu

New Jersey

In New Jersey, the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University tracks the "latest developments in New Jersey local news" through a weekly newsletter called [The Newsroom Digest](#).

The chunky and digestible newsletter keeps its roughly 800 subscribers abreast of what's happening at the Center, highlights notable local journalism in New Jersey, and has a "Media Moves" section that introduces its audience to new local journalists and traces newsroom personnel changes. Recent editions included [updates](#) on the Center's news mapping project, local awards, and a call out for journalists to [answer a survey](#) from the Center about pay equity.

The newsletter doesn't do original reporting and is "mostly an aggregate of news about our ecosystem," said the Center for Cooperative Media's director, Stefanie Murray.

The CCM, however, has multiple products, and The Newsroom Digest is just one of them. The Center does original reporting on local news ecosystems in New Jersey and elsewhere as well as the broader collaborative journalism space in the United States. Those are published on Medium, Substack pages, and via multiple other newsletters and on listservs.

Murray said the Center would like to beef up its original reporting on the ecosystem in New Jersey, but resource allocation is an issue.

"We are funded to mostly run programs and interventions to improve the news ecosystem," she said. "I don't have the funding to support regular deep original reporting. So we do what we can."

[The Newsroom Digest](#) | Cassandra Etienne, newsletter manager: etienne@montclair.edu

The Midwest

In the Midwest, the nonprofit [Gateway Journalism Review](#), founded in 1970 as the St. Louis Journalism Review, operates out of Southern Illinois University Carbondale's School of Journalism, College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. Funding for it is split between a foundation and the school.



The publication, which is online and prints quarterly as a magazine, states that it “critically analyzes the mass media in the Midwest stretching from Ohio to Oklahoma and from North Dakota to Arkansas — and beyond.”

Recent GJR reporting included the Marshall Project [opening a newsroom](#) in St. Louis, the last AP reporter in St. Louis [taking a buyout](#), and a judge in Missouri declaring unconstitutional a [redaction law](#) in that state.

The Review has a weekly newsletter with roughly 1,500 subscribers and an open rate of about 35%, said Jackie Spinner, who edits GJR and is a journalism professor at Columbia College Chicago. Spinner started the digital weekly newsletter as a way to build the publication’s audience outside of Southern Illinois and St. Louis.

“Our focus is on news outside of the major news centers like NYC and Los Angeles,” said Spinner, who was also a contributor to CJR’s local-news focused United States Project.

When that project ended a few years ago, “GJR really felt it was important to continue that work,” she said. “It’s something I believe strongly in as well. I remember a story I wrote for CJR after Trump won the election in 2016. Few of the editors in the Midwest were surprised by Trump’s win. It really told me that we needed to pay much closer attention to news in the middle of the country — and newsmakers. After all, local journalists and editors know the pulse of their communities.”

[Gateway Journalism Review](#) | Jackie Spinner, editor: jackiespinner@mac.com

Colleges and universities make good places to house media newsletters

For state-based media newsletters to prove effective, they likely need a few key components in order to build a loyal and influential audience.

Elements include exclusive content, excellent curation, original reporting, sharp analysis, consistency, and independence.

Those who work in journalism higher education are in good positions to provide that, particularly if they are or were practitioners; they are outside of a state’s established media outlets but also adjacent to them.

A good media ecosystem newsletter should address tricky topics and do so in ways that are educational.

“I think a really good person to do something like this is, first, someone who is doing more than just reporting on the industry or ecosystem,” said Komp of NC Local. “It does need to be somebody who is engaging with journalists, with publishers, with journalism educators,





with students, with funders, in ways that are not just reporting on what's happening but in ways that are looking to always find solutions and address challenges."

Some college and university professors who said they might like to start such a newsletter worried about a common issue: capacity.

"If we had bandwidth, that would be a great project for us to take on," said a research director at a large journalism school in the Pacific Northwest.

"I think our own ecosystem would benefit tremendously from something like this existing and I'd like for our [program] to do it, but we don't yet have capacity," said a journalism school program director in the Midwest.

Ideas for next steps

The Center for Community News, in collaboration with the Colorado College Journalism Institute would like to help establish more state-based media newsletters produced by those with an affiliation at a higher-ed institution.

To that end, we will hold a virtual workshop to learn about what it would take to start one in your state, including what it entails, workflow, format, medium, and more. The workshop is May 8 at 1:00 EST and can be found under events on the CCN website, [here](#). A recording of the event is also on the website.

We hope to also provide one-on-one mentoring to those who decide to launch one.



APPENDIX

DATA, RESPONSES, AND METHODOLOGY FOR THIS REPORT

Corey Hutchins, Colorado College, 2025

Over recent months, I sent emails to the staff of press associations in all 50 states asking if they are aware of anyone in their state who writes a semi-regular newsletter specifically about the state's local media scene similar to "Inside the News in Colorado."

I also sent emails to faculty and staff at higher-ed journalism programs in many states, as well as journalists. I posted in the News Impact Consortium Slack channel of roughly 150 academics, journalists, and researchers, as well as the Center for Community News Slack.

I told those contacted that I planned to conduct a landscape study to gauge which states might have something similar to "Inside the News in Colorado" — especially if it's produced by someone with an affiliation at a college or university, probably in a journalism school.

I noted that I was asking about a newsletter that specifically focuses on local *media*, like the news behind the news in their state similar to coverage that Columbia Journalism Review, Poynter or Nieman Lab might do, but just for their state.

I said I figured they'd likely have their fingers on the pulse for who typically does any kind of regular media reporting at the state level in their states — if anyone is doing it at all and invited them to forward the email to anyone else who might know.

In states where I identified a newsletter that fit, I read multiple editions, wrote up what made it unique, and sought to interview the author over the phone, via email, or both.

Alabama: "In our monthly newsletter, AlaPressa, we cover hirings, promotions, deaths, accolades, and stories about our member newspaper journalists and former newspaper people," said Jaclyn M. Langan, Member Services & Events Coordinator for the Alabama Press Association. "We do have independent groups such as the Alabama Sports Writers Association and the Birmingham Association of Black Journalists. They may put out newsletters for their members but I'm not certain." "There are 5 of us on staff at the APA and 3 of us contribute to the newsletter," she added. "While we support and interact with our college/university journalism schools- they don't write for our association newsletter." "I am not aware of any such newsletter in Alabama," said Felicia Mason, the APA director.

Alaska: The Alaska Press Club publishes a newsletter called The Bulletin, according to Lori Townsend, chief editor and senior vice president of journalism at the APM. A recent issue promoted events, training opportunities, open jobs, calls for freelance pitches, grants, and internships.



Arizona: “Not that I am aware of,” said Lisa Simpson, the [Arizona Media Association](#)’s vice president of member services. “Honestly, I’m not sure we have anything that compares to what you’re doing in Colorado — nor do we have as robust a local media scene as you seem to, frankly,” said Jim Small of the [Arizona Mirror](#). “I’d love if there were something similar, however, and I’d be an avid reader of it.”

Arkansas: “There’s nothing really like this in Arkansas,” said Ashley Kemp Wimberley, executive director of the Arkansas Press Association. “The only thing similar at all is Arkansas Business does a spotlight on media and marketing news each week.” Also in Gateway Journalism Review’s coverage zone.

California: “I have to say, I can’t think of anything in the vein of what you’re asking, though there should be!” said CJR contributor [Lauen Markham](#). “Your work sounds super important. Thanks for doing it!”

Colorado: “[Inside the News in Colorado](#)” authored by Corey Hutchins, manager of the Colorado College Journalism Institute, advisor to the Colorado Media Project, and a board member of the state Society of Professional Journalists chapter.

Connecticut: “There isn’t anything like this here,” said [Vivian Martin](#), Ph.D. Professor and Chair, Department of Journalism Coordinator, American Studies Program Central Connecticut State University. “I have thought it would be a good project but felt we are too small a state on which to focus, although we are a Top 32 TV market.”

Delaware: “Unfortunately Delaware does not have something like that,” said Jacob Owens, editor in chief Spotlight Delaware. “I did a fair amount of coverage of the news industry when I was editor at our state business journal a few years ago, but since leaving no one has really picked up the mantle.”

Florida: “I don’t know of anyone who is doing anything like what you’re describing,” said Susannah Nesmith, former CJR correspondent for Florida. Tom Jones, a media writer for the Florida-based Poynter Institute, said he did not know of any. “I’m hesitant to say definitively that one doesn’t exist since the media keeps balkanizing, but if I knew of one, I’d be a reader and a supporter,” said journalist Trevor Aaronson. “So I am fairly certain there is no such effort here similar to what you do in Colorado. I hope your actions might encourage someone here to start one.”

Georgia: “I’m not aware of anyone who does that here,” said Sean Ireland, office manager of the [Georgia Press Association](#). “Sean is right to our knowledge,” said the GPA’s Jaillene Hunter.

Hawaii: “CivilBeat.org covers the local news scene (when there is news about the news) besides its own beats,” said Jay Harwell of the [Hawaii Publishers Association](#). “Ian Lind



www.ilind.net once wrote about the news scene and occasionally does now in his blog. Others also may address periodically, but do so from a point of view.” “Sadly, we don’t have anything like it in Hawaii, although it is sorely needed,” said retired University of Hawai’i at Mānoa journalism professor Gerald Kato. “I’ve been talking to friends about starting a podcast or newsletter as an extension of our interest in keeping Media Council Hawaii as a going concern. Hopefully, we can garner enough interest to get something off the ground this year. There’s certainly no lack of stories to be told.”

Idaho: “Probably the closest thing we have to that is the Communicator newsletter that the Idaho Press Club puts out (I think it’s quarterly or so),” said Christina Lords, editor of [Idaho Capital Sun](#). “You can look at the [most recent one here](#), or if you go to the main press club site and hover over the ‘communicator’ tab you can see past newsletters from previous years. It’s written by the club’s president, Melissa Davlin.”

Illinois: “Unfortunately, Illinois does not have a local media newsletter,” said Tim Franklin, senior associate dean and John M. Mutz Chair in Local News who directs the Medill Local News Initiative at Northwestern University. “We’ve had some early discussions internally about starting one at Medill, but no decision has been made. For decades, Rob Feder covered the Chicago area local media, first as a columnist for the Sun-Times and later as a blogger. If there was a major story in state media, he’d pick it up. But Rob retired a little more than a year ago. When I was an editor at the Chicago Tribune, we had a full-time media reporter, a FT local media columnist and a FT sports media columnist. But, alas, none of the positions still exist.”

Indiana: Email sent Jan. 14 to Amelia, Pam, and Shawn at [Hoosier State Press Association](#). Email sent. Feb. 8 to Pamel and Eddie at [Indiana University Indianapolis](#).

Iowa: “Not that I know of,” [University of Iowa](#) professor Venise Berry said. “I’m not aware of one, but the INA would be a good place to start: <https://inanews.com/>,” said UofI’s Melissa Tully. “I’m also looping in a few colleagues who might know or be interested in the idea.” “I’m not aware of a newsletter that focuses just on Iowa media - but I’d like to read it!” said Erin Jordan of University of Iowa. “There are several people, including [Lyle Muller](#), [Bob Leonard](#) or UI colleague [Ty Rushing](#), who write Substack newsletters that occasionally touch on media. Julie Gammack with the [Iowa Writers Collaborative](#) might be a good person to connect with in this area.” “The closest thing I can think of is Dave Busiek’s [newsletter](#), but he also touches on a lot of national issues,” said Tyren Rushing.

Kansas: The Kansas Press Association “provides industry updates in a regular newsletter,” said the [Kansas Press Association’s](#) Adam Strunk. “It’s transitioning to a more newsletter format versus a premade PDF.” “I am not aware of a website like this here in Kansas but I am very intrigued by the idea,” said Emily Bradbury, director of the Kansas Newspaper Association. Deron Lee, who covered Iowa for CJR’s United States project, said the Gateway Journalism Review is the closest thing.



Kentucky: “I’m not aware of anything similar to what you do — which is terrific, by the way. I read your newsletter every week,” said Benjy Hamm at the [Institute for Rural Journalism](#) at the University of Kentucky. “David Thompson, the longtime director of the Kentucky Press Association, sends a weekly email to members. It’s typically a collection of links to articles from Kentucky newspapers and national news. ... A lot of press associations have something similar to David’s report.”

Louisiana: “I don’t know of anyone who regularly writes about the Louisiana media landscape,” said Judi Terzotis at the [University of Louisiana at Lafayette](#). “Keep us in the loop as you do your research.”

Maine: “As far as we are aware, there is not a regular newsletter covering the local news scene in Maine,” said Jody Jalbert, publisher of the Sun Journal’s Community News Division. “I have pushed this out to a few colleagues, if anything comes back, I’ll send them your way.”

Maryland: “Not that I know of,” said Josh Land, communications manager for the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism. “Our Local News Network has a newsletter that is focused on their own work. Our LNN also produced the inaugural Maryland Local News Ecosystem Study last year and plans to repeat the study every two years or so.” “Your topic is very interesting, but I don’t think that I know of anyone in the area who is providing that kind of coverage,” said Rebecca Snyder of [MDDC Press Association](#).

Massachusetts: Dan Kennedy at Northeastern University runs [Media Nation](#) where he writes about “developments in community journalism.” He also hosts the podcast [What Works in Community News](#) with his research partner Ellen Clegg.

Michigan: “First off, I’m a subscriber to your newsletter, and I admire what you’ve built,” said former CJR United States Project correspondent Anna Clark. “I don’t know of anything similar in Michigan or the Great Lakes states — but we could use it.”

Minnesota: “I am not aware of anyone covering Minnesota media for public consumption. We have a weekly bulletin for members only and the MBA, MNSPJ and the Minnesota Journalism Center have communications to their constituencies,” said Lisa Schwartz, director of development and communications at the MNA. “We’ve started doing a bit of this in our own newsletter for the Minnesota Journalism Center, which we relaunched in September, although the newsletter isn’t strictly speaking focused solely around covering what’s happening within the local news ecosystem in Minnesota,” said [Benjamin Toff](#) the University of Minnesota. “It’s mainly focused on what we’re doing as a Center and getting the word out about opportunities we know about that may be of interest to journalists statewide. But from the beginning we’ve sought to do a bit of this. And in part that was as a baby step toward down the line hopefully starting our own publication like a Nieman Lab for local news in Minnesota because one of the things that’s surfaced a lot in our



conversations with journalists statewide is how much individual newsrooms could benefit from knowing more about what each other are doing.”

Mississippi: “I’m not aware of one, other than anything the Mississippi Press Association may put out,” said Donna Ladd of Mississippi Free Press. She added that there has been “a lot of talk over the years about forming a Mississippi chapter of SPJ, which we could really use.”

Missouri: “No – not really,” said Mark Maassen, then-director of the Missouri Press Association. “I don’t know of any off the top of my head – but I’ll ask around with some of the newsrooms we work with!” said Kat Duncan, Director of Innovation Reynolds Journalism Institute.

Montana: “Montana does not have a regular media newsletter, as you describe,” said Jim Strauss of the Montana Newspaper Association. “The Montana Newspaper Association does put out Press Pass, an electronic newsletter that updates our members on developments at other Montana news outlets and on industry news of note.” John Adams, founder of Montana Free Press, said: “I’m not aware of a local newsletter like yours in Montana. I am a subscriber and fan of your newsletter and would love it if someone did what you do here.”

Nebraska: “I wish we had something like this,” said [Jessica Walsh at University of Nebraska](#). “No one is really covering Nebraska media except when there is news such as layoffs or station closings (most of the local news organizations in the state have already been gutted over the years). It would be great for states, or even regions, like the Great Plains to have a dedicated source covering local news.”

Nevada: “I am not aware of anyone who covers state or local media regularly,” said [Caesar Andrews, Professor and Leonard Distinguished Chair in Media Ethics and Writing at the University of Nevada](#). “Political columnist Jon Ralston might address the topic from time to time. Others might produce occasional editorials that include media issues. Similarly, letter writers sometimes critique coverage. But nothing comes to mind that seeks to hold news providers accountable on a regular basis.”

New Hampshire: [Granite State News Collaborative](#) has a newsletter written by Caitlin Agnew, a freelance Assistant Editor at GSNC, who says its mission is “to foster enhanced communication between us.”

New Jersey: [The Newsroom Digest](#), published by the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University, “tracks the latest developments in New Jersey local news.” Cassandra Etienne manages it. “I am not aware of such a newsletter,” said Brett Ainsworth, publisher The Retrospect.



New Mexico: “I’m not aware of that kind of newsletter,” said Lilly Irvin-Vitela, president of Community Connects Consulting. “However, there is a research project Michael Marcotte and Gwyneth Doland are working on in NM that is looking at the local news ecosystem.”

New York: Todd Franko, the editor of the SUNY-led Institute for Local News is working with the Center for Community News to start a New York newsletter, though it would lean into and focus primarily on media news in and around the 25 campuses in the ILN network.

North Carolina: Catherine Komp writes the weekly “[NC Local](#)” newsletter with the tagline “Connecting North Carolina’s news and information community.”

North Dakota: “I am not aware of one,” Cecile Wehrman, the executive director of the [NDNA](#), said. “There are a few organizations that [put] out newsletters to find roundups of reporting from various sources but nothing that delves into status of businesses, staffing, etc.”

Ohio: “I am not aware of anything like that,” Monica Nieporte, head of the [Ohio News Media Association](#), said.

Oklahoma: “There is not one in Oklahoma,” said Lisa Sutliff of the Oklahoma Press Association. “I do not, personally, know of one,” said Keith Burgin Director of News Tracking and Archives Oklahoma Press Service, Inc. “I’m sorry. There are a number of blogs I’ve seen that comment on news coverage and personalities, but they’re not dedicated to it, not terribly serious in their criticism, and there are none I’d recommend. That doesn’t mean there isn’t one out there. Honestly, your newsletter was a great resource when I was helping produce the API daily newsletter several years back and a rarity in terms of state-focused media news,” said Mollie Bryant, editor of Editor of Streetlight.

Oregon: “If we had bandwidth, that would be a great project for us to take on,” said Regina Lawrence, Associate Dean, SOJC Portland Research Director, Agora Journalism Center at the University of Oregon. “I’m unaware of anyone in Oregon doing what you’re doing in Colorado,” said Andrew DeVigal at the University of Oregon. “I agree with Regina that we would love to take this on if only for the bandwidth issues. But your work and this note is inspiring, as usual.”

Pennsylvania: “There is no such media outlet in Pennsylvania to the best of my knowledge,” said John Affleck, department head for journalism and the Knight Chair in Sports Journalism and Society at the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications at Penn State. “Not that I’m aware of,” said Jess King, executive director of the Steinmann Institute. “I did ask Tristan Loper at Lenfest in Philadelphia and he also is not aware of any efforts.”



Rhode Island: “There's no that I know of within the state who does this, but Dan Kennedy does write quite a bit on Massachusetts and Rhode Island media,” said Ethan of the [RIPA](#). “I am not aware of any outlet with that specific focus,” said Daniel Hunt at [URI](#). Kendal said someone at <https://www.golocalprov.com/> might have written one. Email sent Feb. 7 to Philip Eil who wrote about a local news “[revolution](#)” in RI. “Unfortunately, I don't know of anyone who publishes a dedicated newsletter about Rhode Island's media scene,” Eil said. Ian Donnis (at The Public's Radio) and Ted Nesi (at WPRI) both have weekly bullet-point columns where they occasionally discuss media news. But neither column is dedicated solely to media. You're welcome to reach out to either of them to see if they give you a different answer.”

South Carolina: “I don't really know of anything like that in SC,” said South Carolina Press Association Co-Executive Director & Chief Program Officer Jen Madden. “USC has an occasional newsletter related to J-School alums.”

South Dakota: “This sounds like an interesting and very useful project. Unfortunately, other than something that may be put out by a trade group (SD Broadcasters Association, for example), I can't think of anyone doing any type of semi-regular publication about the local media,” Chuck Lubbers at [USD](#) said.

Tennessee: “I do not know of a newsletter like this in Tennessee,” said Mark Millsap of the [TPA](#). “We have our monthly Tennessee Press newsletter that goes out to our members each month. But I do not know of a publication that covers all local media. ... If you think about doing one, we could talk about a partnership. We also have some higher education partners.”

Texas: “I'm not aware of one in Texas,” said Michael Hodges at [TPA](#). “I know of nobody who does that in Texas,” said Richard Parker who was the Texas correspondent for Columbia Journalism Review's United States Project. “Not at all. ... I would read anything about the news business but I don't see anything ever.”

Utah: “I am not aware of anything,” said Denice Page at the [UPA](#). “No, I do not,” said Bian Allfry, director of the UPA.

Vermont: The University of Vermont has been exploring starting something in collaboration with the Vermont Community Foundation-led Press Forward chapter. Veteran political reporter Paul Heintz who used to pen a weekly media column for Seven Days has recently joined UVM's Community News Service and might take the lead. The newsletter would be modeled on “Inside the News in Colorado” with a goal of underscoring the importance of local news through spotlights on news providers, updates, and original reporting.

Virginia: “We have a weekly newsletter we send to our members covering what is going on in local news and journalism in Virginia. However, this newsletter is for our members – not



the public,” [Virginia Press Association](#) Executive Director Betsy Edwards said. Robin R. Means Coleman, PhD University of Virginia Professor of Media Studies, wants to be kept in the loop.

Washington: “I keep tabs on and write about most of the significant local-news/media issues in Washington state (and the NW) but also mix in national and international topics,” said Brier Dudley of the Seattle Times. “I’ve been told that I’m the only person at a newspaper in the U.S. covering the local journalism situation full-time, though I’m doing so as an opinion columnist/editor and advocate for various solutions. I’m not aware of anyone else doing regular media reporting at the state level in Washington. I’m pretty much it, other than occasional stories and columns written here and there by others, which I’ll flag in the newsletter if I see them.”

West Virginia: “I don’t think there is anything like this here,” said West Virginia University journalism professor Dana Coester who wants to be kept in the loop.

Wisconsin: “I checked around with a few people and cannot locate a current media writer in Wisconsin,” said Cory Jennerjohn of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. “I knew there used to be one that worked for the Journal Sentinel many years back.”

Wyoming: “I can’t point my finger directly at anyone dedicated to reporting on media in Wyoming,” said Darcie Hoffland, executive director of the Wyoming Press Association. “As far as I know, no, we don’t have a newsletter like the one that you produce on Colorado media,” said Melissa Cassutt, director of the Wyoming Local News Fund. “I wish we did! Maybe it’s something the Wyoming Local News Fund will take on once we get more established.”

