

We focus on multiple growing threats to journalism: the digital era turning the business model of newspapers upside down; the President attacking trusted newspapers as “Fake News” and journalists as “the enemy of the People;” the FCC starting to roll back “net neutrality” rules created under Obama; and local forms of media across the country being acquired as investments by corporations like Sinclair Broadcasting.

We invited Durango Herald Senior Editor Amy Maestas to share the “community journalism” focus of her year in Ann Arbor as a Knight-Wallace Fellow. Despite vast take over of local independent newspapers across the US, Amy is optimistic about the Herald’s future adaption to a new business model that will keep us from becoming a “news desert.” Last spring’s reduction of DH’s print edition from 7 to 4 days a week has been difficult for those who want a paper every morning but it has not in fact reduced local content, it has moved the content online. The newsroom is staffed 7 days a week from 8 am to 11pm with a growing online audience. The Herald welcomes input from local community on stories that will ensure coverage of important local issues as they strive for relevance to newly evolving audiences. Selected for a national news [Innovation program](#) by the Poynter Institute for Journalism, the Herald joins a citizen engagement effort that will include new collaborations with KSUT, KDUR, CPR with the goal of increasing outreach and engagement with readers needs. E.g., the Herald will partner with Durango Public Library to host a “Fake News: How to Spot it and What (or what not) to Do” event at the library on Oct. 23; with the Colorado Press Association, a “Fake News Trivia Contest” at SKA Brewery on Oct. 26.

Unfortunately technical difficulties prevented members from seeing the John Oliver episode on Sinclair Broadcasting

See at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvtNyOzGogc>

Though public comments deadline has passed, [here's](#) more on “Net Neutrality”

[Electronic Frontier Foundation](#)'s position on yet a new bill ([SESTA](#)) that would undermine free speech online by blaming web platforms for users' speech, forcing more restrictions on what we say online-