

thehornnews.com

A conservative news site that has published false claims and conspiracy theories about Democratic politicians and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 25/100

Ownership and Financing

The Horn News is owned by NewMarket Health Publishing, LLC, a private company based in Baltimore, described on its website as a “publishing and supplement company.” It operates natural health news websites including Health Sciences Institute, Healthier Talk, and Natural Health Response, and owns health supplement businesses such as NorthStar Nutritionals and BestHealth Nutritionals.

TheHornNews.com runs advertisements.

Content

The website’s About Us page says, “The Horn News is direct, honest, conservative — and often outspoken. But we’re never dull, and we’re not afraid to take on the mainstream media’s ‘fake news’ spin.”

The site publishes a mix of original reporting and conservative commentary along with stories from The Associated Press, divided into sections such as Politics, National News, Money, International, Health and Lifestyle. Typical headlines of the site include “5 ways Trump could make China pay for coronavirus,” “Hillary Clinton doesn’t want this story out...,” and “Trump bashes Michigan’s Dem governor.”

The site’s homepage hosts a live stream of Red State Talk Radio, a conservative internet radio website.

Credibility

The Horn News has published false and misleading claims, including in articles about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, in an April 2020 article headlined, “Obama-funded Wuhan lab developed coronavirus?,” the site said that the coronavirus “may have been

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✓ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✓ Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

funded by U.S. taxpayers and made in China. New evidence shows that former President Barack Obama doled out millions of U.S. taxpayers' dollars to the Wuhan lab many insiders blame for sparking the global pandemic — and the funding may have produced the deadly virus.” The article backed this claim by saying the U.S. National Institutes of Health made a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology to “test the coronavirus in bats.”

The article misrepresented information about the NIH grant and made false claims about the origins of the COVID-19 virus. According to 2020 fact-checking articles from PolitiFact and USA Today, the Wuhan lab received about \$600,000 from NIH through a grant for the EcoHealth Alliance, an organization that researches emerging infectious diseases. The grant was first approved by the Obama administration in 2014 and was reapproved by the Trump administration in 2019, according to USA Today, although NIH terminated the funding in April 2020.

While the research funded by the NIH grant did involve studying coronaviruses in bats and how they can be transferred to humans, there is no evidence that the project “produced” the COVID-19 virus, as the site claimed. A March 2020 study published in the journal Nature Medicine concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said it “concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

In a March 2019 article headlined “STUNNING! Obama linked to college bribery scandal (ugly!)” the article claimed without evidence that a 2019 college admissions bribery scandal “reached all the way to former President Barack Obama’s family.”

The justification for this claim was that Obama hired Gordon Ernst, a Georgetown University tennis coach accused of taking bribes for helping students gain

admission to the school, as a tennis coach for his family.

Although Ernst did work for the Obamas as a tennis coach, the Obamas were not among the approximately 50 people named or implicated in indictments in the “Varsity Blues” scandal, according to an October 2019 article from PolitiFact.

The site has repeatedly promoted the debunked conspiracy theory that former U.S. President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have orchestrated the deaths of several people deemed to be a threat to them.

For example, in a December 2017 Horn News article that referred to a report on the political aspirations of the Clintons’ daughter, Chelsea, said, “Like the hundreds of body bags surrounding the Clinton family, the timing is too perfect to be a complete coincidence.”

This conspiracy, which dates to the early 1990s, disregards credible reports from law enforcement and medical professionals who have ruled that the cause of death for many of the individuals was suicide.

A July 2017 article titled, “AGAIN!? Clinton witness found dead in “suicide,” falsely stated that a former Haitian government official named Klaus Eberwein died before he was due to testify against the Clinton Foundation.

“His alleged suicide — just one week ahead of his expected testimony against the Foundation’s ‘corruption and malpractice’” in Haiti — has critics of the political family alarmed,” the article stated. The article also misattributed a quote critical of the Clintons to Eberwein, that was taken from a 2016 BBC article, according to a July 2017 story from fact-checking website Snopes.

Eberwein, who had served as director general of Haiti’s economic development agency, was found dead in July 2017 in a Miami-area motel of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to the Miami-Dade County medical

examiner's office. He had been scheduled to appear the day he was found dead before the Haitian Senate's Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, which was investigating money that Haiti received from a Venezuelan oil-discount program, according to the Miami Herald. The commission was not investigating former U.S. President Bill Clinton's foundation and Eberwein had no connection to the Clinton Foundation.

In a November 2017 article headlined, "'Hillary Clinton is a murderer' top Democrat confesses!?" the site ran a poll asking, "Do you believe Hillary Clinton ordered Seth Rich's murder?" The poll referred to Democratic National Committee staff member Seth Rich's 2016 shooting death, which Washington police have attributed to a botched robbery. However, conservative and conspiracy news sites have suggested that Rich was killed after leaking DNC emails to WikiLeaks, which publishes troves of confidential documents. The article stated that, "Ever since Rich was gunned down on July 10, 2016, rumors have swirled that he was a victim of the Clinton family's unscrupulous lust for power."

Rich's parents have called theories connecting their son to WikiLeaks "baseless" and said investigators looked at Rich's personal computer and personal email and did not find any communications with WikiLeaks.

The website has also published speculative stories on other topics, suggesting in October 2018 that witnesses to unexplained lights in the sky near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, "are raising questions about where they came from -- and if they could possibly be from another planet." The site shared a YouTube video that came from a UFO conspiracy site.

Because The Horn News has repeatedly promoted false and unsubstantiated claims in its articles and headlines, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

The site does not post a policy explaining how it corrects errors and NewsGuard could not find any corrections.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to three emails, including one sent in 2020, sent to the site's general editorial email address seeking comment on the site's history of publishing false claims and its approach to corrections.

The site's About Us discloses the site's conservative orientation. "The Horn News is direct, honest, conservative — and often outspoken," the page states. "But we're never dull, and we're not afraid to take on the mainstream media's 'fake news' spin." The site does not have a dedicated Opinion section. Its National News section consists largely of content from The Associated Press.

Because The Horn News discloses its conservative perspective and does not include opinion in sections labeled as "news," NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion irresponsibly.

Transparency

TheHornNews.com only discloses its ownership by NewMarket Health Publishing, LLC in its copyright notice, Terms & Conditions, and Privacy Policy pages, which does not meet NewsGuard's standard for a user-friendly disclosure of ownership.

The site's About Us page identifies the site's associate publisher and news editor and provides a general email address.

The About Us page also provides short biographies for its editorial staff. Most articles, however, credit either "The Horn editorial team" or say "The Associated Press contributed to this article" at the bottom of the story, without identifying an individual content creator.

Advertisements and sponsored links are clearly distinguished from news content.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to three emails, including one sent in 2020, sent to the site's general editorial email address seeking comment on the site's lack of information about ownership and content creators.

History

The Horn News was launched in 2015.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on May 29, 2020, with new examples of the site's content. Its rating was changed to reflect NewsGuard's determination that TheHornNews.com does not handle the difference between news and opinion irresponsibly. The criteria checklist has been updated accordingly.

Written by: [Sam Howard](#)

Contributing: [John Gregory](#)

Edited by: [Sarah Brandt](#), [Amy Westfeldt](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and Financing

<https://twitter.com/ReadTheHornNews>
<http://www.newmarkethealth.com/about-us>
<https://thehornnews.com/terms-conditions/>
<http://theagora.com/our-ideas/>
<https://thehornnews.com/advertise/>
<https://banyanhill.com/>
<https://www.portphillippublishing.com.au/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephendietrich/>
<http://www.newmarkethealth.com/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/newmarket-health-a-subsiidiary-of-agora-inc./>
https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_md/W06348148
<https://www.truthinadvertising.org/health-sciences-institute/>
<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/12/agora-huckabee-conservative-bible-cures/>

Content

<https://thehornnews.com/about-us/>

<https://thehornnews.com/5-ways-trump-could-make-china-pay-for-coronavirus/>

<https://thehornnews.com/trump-threat-frightens-top-dem-governor/>

<https://thehornnews.com/radio/>

<https://thehornnews.com/hillary-clinton-doesnt-want-this-story-out/>

<https://thehornnews.com/category/politics/>

<https://thehornnews.com/category/national-news/>

AP story: <https://thehornnews.com/man-who-hanged-threatening-effigy-fire-from-job/>

Credibility

COVID-19 lab example:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200521193826/https://thehornnews.com/obama-funded-wuhan-lab-developed-coronavirus/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/05/04/fact-check-obama-administration-did-not-send-3-7-m-wuhan-lab/3061490001/>

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/apr/30/blog-posting/obama-administration-did-not-provide-38-million-wu/>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2012-7>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0820-9>

<https://fullfact.org/health/coronavirus-government-laboratory/>

<https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/item/2112-intelligence-community-statement-on-origins-of-covid-19>

Red state vs. blue state COVID deaths:

<https://thehornnews.com/liberal-wuhan-virus-policies-killing-senior-citizens-stats-say/>

Obama college admissions:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200529160810/https://thehornnews.com/stunning-obama-linked-to-college-bribery-scandal-ugly/>

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2019/oct/11/facebook-posts/no-obamas-have-nothing-do-varsity-blues-college-ad/>

Eberwein:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200529151840/https://thehornnews.com/clinton-witness-found-dead-suicide/>

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article160983614.html>
<https://dev.thehornnews.com/author/thehornnews/page/7/>
<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/klaus-eberwein/>
<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2018/jan/26/us-political-news/fake-story-ties-dead-haitian-official-clinton-foun/>
<https://thehornnews.com/lead-clinton-investigator-shot-in-the-back-twice-run-over-march/>
<http://dailycaller.com/2018/03/20/seth-rich-investigator-attacked/>
<https://thehornnews.com/lindsey-graham-im-going-to-take-a-dna-test/>
<https://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/police-announce-arrest-in-1400-block-of-lee-highway-incident/>
<https://thehornnews.com/report-witness-prepared-to-identify-seth-rich-murderers/>
https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/lobbyist-says-he-was-nearly-killed-by-man-he-hired-to-investigate-seth-richs-death/2018/03/19/a4261e48-2baa-11e8-8688-e053ba58f1e4_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.46892a138c08
<https://wikileaks.org/podesta-emails/emailid/25325>
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181017021321/https://thehornnews.com/wikileaks-clinton-camp-linked-satanism/>
<https://wikileaks.org/podesta-emails/emailid/15893>
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2016/11/04/no-john-podesta-didnt-drink-bodily-fluids-at-a-secret-satanist-dinner/?utm_term=.f026aa93a066
<https://thehornnews.com/wikileaks-clinton-camp-linked-satanism/>
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/143945?locale=en>
<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/maihudson/marina-abramovic-institute-the-founders>
<http://www.artnews.com/2016/11/04/marina-abramovic-on-right-wing-attacks-its-absolutely-outrageous-and-ridiculous/>

<https://thehornnews.com/revealed-anthony-bourdain-complained-about-clinton-operatives/>

<https://thehornnews.com/maxine-waters-has-big-plans-to-what-shes-lost-it/>

<https://thehornnews.com/hillary-spits-in-the-face-of-veterans-disgusting/>

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/12/03/clinton-should-run-for-tom-cottons-senate-seat-216001>

<https://thehornnews.com/chelsea-clinton-run-senate-hillarys-revenge/>

<https://thehornnews.com/hillary-clinton-murderer-top-democrat-confesses/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/were-seth-richs-parents-stop-politicizing-our-sons-murder/2017/05/23/164cf4dc-3fee-11e7-9869-bac8b446820a_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.040294e6e1a4

<https://thehornnews.com/ufo-sighting-in-myrtle-beach-weird-video/>

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/anthony-bourdains-death-confirmed-as-suicide-report-2018-06-09>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/22/dining/anthony-bourdain-toxicology-report-death.html>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20181016171920/https://thehornnews.com/revealed-anthony-bourdain-complained-about-clinton-operatives/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20181016172555/https://thehornnews.com/clinton-investigator-found-dead-in-hotel-after-she-says/>

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/jen-moore-death/>

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/pizzagate-pushers-death-drives-conspiracy-theorists-to-tout-her-as-new-seth-rich>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20181016174459/https://thehornnews.com/ufo-sighting-in-myrtle-beach-weird-video/>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/politics/ct-peter-smith-death-met-0713-20170713-story.html>

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/late-gop-activist-peter-w-smith-met-with-former-trump-adviser-michael-flynn-in-2015-sources-say-1539196064>

https://www.wsj.com/articles/gop-activist-who-sought-clinton-emails-cited-trump-campaign-officials-1498872923?mod=article_inline
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/gop-operative-sought-clinton-emails-from-hackers-implied-a-connection-to-flynn-1498770851>
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181016190844/https://thehornnews.com/murder-clinton-email-investigators-suicide-gets-major-update/>
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181016190840/https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2018/08/gop-activist-investigating-hillary-clintons-lost-emails-found-dead-apparent-suicide-by-black-plastic-bag/>
<https://thehornnews.com/maxine-waters-has-unhinged-freak-out-over-the-weekend/>
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181016212754/https://thehornnews.com/ufo-sighting-in-myrtle-beach-weird-video/>
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181016213004/https://thehornnews.com/hillary-clinton-murderer-top-democrat-confesses/>
<https://thehornnews.com/hillary-clinton-humiliated-on-live-tv-she-said-what/>
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181016214211/https://thehornnews.com/hillary-clinton-humiliated-on-live-tv-she-said-what/>
<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/clinton-body-bags/>
<http://www.artnews.com/>
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/gop-activist-who-sought-clinton-emails-killed-self-1500002994>
<https://thehornnews.com/hillary-clinton-just-said-what-she-must-be-joking/>
<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/seth-conrad-rich/>
<https://thehornnews.com/first-legal-marijuana-store-opens-on-the-east-coast/>

Transparency

<https://thehornnews.com/about-us/>
<https://thehornnews.com/terms-conditions/>
<https://thehornnews.com/privacy-policy/>
Credited to The Horn editorial team:
<https://thehornnews.com/press-sec-kayleigh-mcenany-slams-cnns-chris-cuomo/>

Credited to The Horn editorial team:

<https://thehornnews.com/rush-limbaugh-shares-grim-cancer-development/>

Says the AP contributed to article:

<https://thehornnews.com/nancy-pelosi-defeated-by-trumps-clever-political-move/>

History

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephendietrich/>

[https://whois.icann.org/en/lookup?](https://whois.icann.org/en/lookup?name=thehornnews.com)

[name=thehornnews.com](https://whois.icann.org/en/lookup?name=thehornnews.com)