WayneDupree.com is owned by Dupree, according to his author biography on the website. Dupree also founded the conservative internet radio network We Are America Radio, or WAAR.

The site is funded primarily through advertising. Dupree also solicits donations on the site and his radio show.

The site’s Donate page says, “WayneDupree.com brings you the news you trust on the most important policy debates of the day. We cut through the liberal media spin and provide honest, thorough, and responsible reporting on today’s critical issues.” The About page provides Dupree’s biography, describing him as “a strong conservative voice” and stating that the website is “where he battles the Trump opposition media every day.”

WayneDupree.com primarily publishes articles about national U.S. news and politics, based on stories from other news sources. Dupree adds commentary to the reporting from a range of media outlets, including Fox News, The Washington Times, and the New York Post.

“Sometimes I hit the jackpot where a story is not getting play on those websites but it was produced on those websites, and I put my spin on it and it catches on,” Dupree told NewsGuard in a 2019 phone interview.

The site also republishes stories in full from conservative news sites Lifezette, Objectivist, and UpliftingToday.com.

The site organizes content into sections that include Politics, Culture, Entertainment, Crime, and Odd News. Recent episodes of Dupree’s radio show are available.
WayneDupree.com’s stories have repeatedly promoted false or misleading claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in an April 2020 article, Dupree asserted the death toll from the COVID-19 virus was being exaggerated.

“If a person who has tested positive for the virus but has no symptoms happens to be walking down the street and is hit by a bus and is killed, the virus gets top billing as the cause of death, simply because he tested positive,” the article said. “The numbers are higher because they are lumping all deaths they possibly can to the virus.”

There is no evidence that someone who died of causes unrelated to COVID-19 would be counted as a COVID-19 death, as Dupree claimed. Dr. Sally Aiken, president of the National Association of Medical Examiners, said in an April 2020 USA Today article that the death of a person who had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus will not necessarily be classified as a COVID-19 death.

There is also no evidence that the count of coronavirus deaths in the U.S. is overstated. In an April 2020 PolitiFact article, Jennifer Kates, the Kaiser Family Foundation’s director of global health & HIV policy, said that because testing was not available for everyone who reported symptoms in the early stages of the pandemic, “the data has suggested that, in fact, there’s a significant undercount of deaths to COVID.”

A March 2020 article falsely claimed that the COVID-19 virus originated in a Chinese lab, and also claimed that the virus was identified by University of North Carolina researchers in 2016.

“If you believe that this virus came from bats, you are batty,” the article said. “It came from a lab in China. The doctor working on the virus was working on the same virus at a University in North Carolina in 2016. He went back to China to continue working on it.”
The WayneDupree.com article said that the North Carolina researcher, who was not named, “was the one who sounded the alarm on the virus, and he is dead from the virus. Keep thinking it came from bats, and I have a bridge to sell you.”

In February 2020, the World Health Organization said in a situation report on the COVID-19 virus, that there was increasing evidence supporting “the link between the 2019-nCoV and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats.” A March 2020 study published in the journal Nature Medicine concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal Nature, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

It is not clear to whom the article refers when it mentions a doctor from the University of North Carolina who died. While a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill study published in 2015 did conclude that viruses similar to another strain of coronavirus, the SARS coronavirus, were capable of directly infecting humans, the study did not involve the COVID-19 virus that caused the 2020 pandemic.

WayneDupree.com also promoted false and unsubstantiated claims related to the 2020 global protests against police brutality. A May 2020 article titled “Savvy Internet Sleuths Discover ‘Coordinated Networks’ of ‘Protesters’ Some Wearing Earpieces, Being ’Bussed’ Into Cities,” said, “We know it’s coordinated, thanks to savvy internet sleuths who found photos of ‘protesters’ with earpieces in.”

The story included a photograph of a man wearing an earpiece. However, according to a May 2020 article by The Associated Press, the photograph depicted a protest against restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany, and was taken more than a week before the death in police custody of George Floyd in Minneapolis sparked widespread demonstrations against police brutality.
Another May 2020 article, headlined “[VIDEO] Reported “Anarchist Organizer” Caught on Camera Directing Riot Activity and Paying Rioters,” purported to show “a man widely thought to be a leader of Democrat terror group ANTIFA and a George Soros organizer” at a protest in Columbus, Ohio. “The video below shows the unidentified man speaking to African American rioters and directing them on what terror attacks to do and where, and then paying them for their services,” the article stated.

The man in the video, Nathan Caraway, told NBC News in June 2020 that he never ordered anyone to commit “terror attacks,” as the article claimed. Caraway said he gave money to other protesters so they could get medical supplies and water to help those who had been exposed to tear gas.

There is no evidence that Carraway or any protester in the May and June 2020 demonstrations is a “George Soros organizer,” a reference to the liberal billionaire philanthropist. A June 2020 article from fact-checking website PolitiFact said neither Soros nor his Open Society Foundations had funded the protests.

Dupree did not respond to two June 2020 emails from NewsGuard seeking comment on his site’s false claims about the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 police brutality protests.

The site had previously advanced conspiracy theories about Soros in articles in 2018, including an October 2018 article that Soros “is not even a citizen … This evil man must be stopped.”

George Soros is a naturalized American citizen, according to multiple news and biographical sources.

In another October 2018 article on the migrant caravan, Dupree suggested that Soros is funding the caravan. “Trump supporters have blamed the 7,000 numbered migrant march from Honduras through Mexico on George Soros and his money machine. How could these people make it so far without some funding?”
Dupree concluded, “I will admit that there is no proof that Soros is behind the funding of the migrant march, but there is also no proof that he is not.”

Soros’ Open Society Foundations has denied that Soros helped fund the migrant caravan. No evidence supporting the notion has been produced, according to an October 2018 New York Times article. Fact-checking site FactCheck.org, which also said there is no evidence to support the claim, said that it may have originated in a Tweet by U.S. Representative Matt Gaetz, a Florida Republican, in which he questioned, without evidence, whether Soros could be paying for the caravan.

Asked about the Soros articles in 2019, Dupree stressed that he “sourced” information from “websites [NewsGuard has] given approval to.”

In 2012 and 2013, WayneDupree.com published articles airing false claims that the 2012 Newtown, Connecticut, elementary school massacre was a hoax. For example, a January 2013 article was headlined, “Still Investigating: Actors in Sandy Hook hoax are identified.” Another was titled “Sandy Hook Shooting: Grieving Parents Hoax..Worked for Home Security as Crisis Actors ..... Developing.....”

Asked about these articles, Dupree told NewsGuard that he did not assert that the shooting was a hoax. “I didn’t say it didn’t happen, I was questioning based on articles I saw on other websites,” he said. Subsequent to NewsGuard’s inquiries about the Sandy Hook articles in October 2018, Dupree deleted the stories, although no corrections or editor’s notes were issued.

In January 2017, Dupree published a story titled, “Ben Swann’s PizzaGate Investigation Delivers Powerful Results! [VIDEO],” which falsely asserted that former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her campaign manager in the 2016 U.S. presidential election were linked to a child sex ring operating out of
a Washington-based pizza restaurant. The so-called Pizzagate conspiracy has been debunked by multiple fact-checking organizations and local authorities.

Dupree later deleted the article without an explanation to readers. “I deleted those earlier stories because ‘I asked questions’ and people like you swore up and down I was pushing a hoax and the originating links were deleted,” Dupree told NewsGuard in an April 2019 email.

In July 2018, Dupree published an article titled, “Journalist Who Filed Sexual Assault Victim Claim For Client Against Bill Clinton Dies Of Seizure,” which was based on a story by True Pundit. The WayneDupree.com story said, “So many bodies have fallen at the feet of the Clintons but they never get the blame.” The article does not provide evidence to support claims that Bill and Hillary Clinton are connected to multiple deaths, including that of Jen Moore, who was identified as an “investigative journalist” in the WayneDupree.com article. It is unclear whether Moore — a former California police officer who addressed topics including Pizzagate on YouTube under the anonymous screen name “Task Force” — had knowledge of any sexual assault claim against Bill Clinton prior to her death.

After NewsGuard asked Dupree about the story in August 2018, he struck through most of the article’s text and added a note stating: “IMPORTANT NOTE: This story sourced by True Pundit was deemed not credible by NewsGuard. They cited me for producing fake news. Let me be clear, we gave an opinion on this because True Pundit claimed they had personally spoke to the journalist and had been in touch with her before she died. Nobody contacted us and said this was not true.”

Because WayneDupree.com has published false and misleading information, including articles that remained on the site for years and were only removed after NewsGuard contacted Dupree about them, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly
publishes false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid the use of deceptive headlines.

The site does not post a policy explaining its approach to correcting errors. The only two corrections NewsGuard found on the site were in the July 2018 article cited above, as well as another August 2018 article originally published by TruePundit.com.

Because WayneDupree.com has failed to correct recent articles that contain false claims, deleted older articles without publicly correcting them and only corrected some stories after NewsGuard contacted Dupree, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not currently have effective corrections practices.

The site’s About page makes Dupree’s political perspective clear, referring to him as a “strong conservative voice” and saying the website is where “he battles the Trump opposition media every day.” Dupree also labels some of his articles as “opinion” in the headline.

However, articles labeled as “news” on the website also contain opinion, which is why NewsGuard has determined that the website fails to handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

For example, a June 2020 article republished from Lifezette.com, titled “Report: Las Vegas Police Officer On Life Support After Rioter Shoots Him in The Head,” said, “The mainstream media has glorified the riots against them to the point where crazed protesters actually think shooting cops is acceptable and even heroic.”

A May 2020 news article criticized restrictions on church gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The article said, “We’ve given people with bad intentions far too much power and if anyone knows anything about the left, once they get power, they don’t let go. Ever. We must guard our freedoms with every ounce of fight and energy we have, or they’ll be turned into ashes.”
A January 2020 news article about Fox News anchor Shepard Smith called him “a deranged liberal loon” and celebrated his 2019 departure from the network. “Meanwhile, the globalist fake news peddlers over at MSNBC are reportedly ready to offer Shep a prime-time spot over there where he can rant and rave like a lunatic and feel right at home,” the article stated.

Dupree did not respond to two emails sent by NewsGuard in June 2020 seeking comment on its approach to corrections and its lack of separation between news and opinion.

Transparency

Dupree’s ownership of the site is disclosed in his author biography at the bottom of his articles. However, the site does not make it clear that he is in charge of editorial content.

No biographical information is provided for the site’s other content creators. The site’s Contact Us page does include a general contact form, but no individual contact information is provided. Because Dupree is the only author on the site for whom biographical information is provided, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for providing information about its content creators.

The site carries stories from content-sharing platform Zergnet, which allows participating sites to derive revenue from the traffic generated by those stories. Articles in these sections, which are labeled as “From The Web,” carry headlines that resemble news content, such as “Jimmy Carter’s Surprising Comment About Trump Is Turning Heads” and “Sean Hannity and Wife Divorce After More Than 20 Years.” These sections are labeled as “Powered by Zergnet,” which NewsGuard has determined is an insufficient disclosure of the commercial nature of the content.

Dupree did not respond to two emails sent by NewsGuard in June 2020 seeking comment on the site’s information about editors and content creators, as well as its policy on labeling commercial content.
The site was created in 2012 under the domain name NewsNinja2012, and Dupree changed the name to WayneDupree.com in 2015, he told NewsGuard.

Dupree describes his political views as having shifted dramatically over the last several years. Dupree says he was a Democratic voter and supporter of Hillary Clinton in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary campaign. “I got fed up because the media was taking a lot of things Hillary Clinton was saying and claiming something racist about it when describing Barack Obama,” Dupree, who is African-American, told NewsGuard. “I said, ‘I’m not going to be a part of this.’”

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on June 5, 2020, with a review of new content on the site. Its rating was changed to reflect NewsGuard’s determination that the website does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly, revealing who is in charge of the site’s content, providing information about content creators, and clearly labeling advertising. The criteria checklist was adjusted accordingly.

The label was also updated in June 2019 to add comments from Wayne Dupree. Its rating was changed at that time to reflect NewsGuard’s determination that the website does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for avoiding deceptive headlines.

Written by: Macaela Bennett, John Gregory
Contributing: Douglas Rowe
Edited by: Eric Effron, Jim Warren

See feedback from this website: Click Here

Send feedback to NewsGuard: Click Here

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