

newsblaze.com

A conservative news site that has published false information about the COVID-19 pandemic and U.S politics.



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

Score: 25/100

Ownership and Financing

NewsBlaze.com is owned and operated by NewsBlaze Pty. Ltd., a privately owned company based in Murray Bridge, South Australia. NewsBlaze Pty. Ltd. was founded by Alan Gray, a news publisher who is also identified on the website as NewsBlaze's editor-in-chief and publisher.

According to its About page, NewsBlaze also operates an Australian version and an Indian version of the website.

NewsBlaze.com runs advertisements.

Content

NewsBlaze describes itself at the bottom of the homepage as “the alternative business and world news newspaper, with entertainment, music, politics, and the latest breaking news and videos.” The site’s Pressroom page states that “we try to show the news as-is, without spin.”

Content on NewsBlaze.com is divided into sections including Business, USA, Issues, Social, Thoughts, and World. Political stories are written from a conservative perspective, and are often critical of U.S. Democrats such as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, former U.S. Vice President and 2020 Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The site regularly lauds conservative figures such as commentator Candace Owens, U.S. President Donald Trump, and Trump adviser and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

The website also frequently covers news from countries in the Middle East, particularly Iran.

For example, the website’s coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic often focused on the cases in Iran, with stories such as “COVID-19: Average Death Toll in Iran

-  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.](#)

Is Double That of the World” and “Iran Expects 90,000 Total Deaths From Covid-19 in October.”

Typical headlines include “Renewable Energy Risks Destroying The Environment and Economy,” “Fake News from Pelosi v Reality from Reporter Andy Ngo,” and “When Freedom & Liberty Pulled Overnight From Under Your Feet.”

Credibility

NewsBlaze has published false and misleading claims, including about the COVID-19 virus. For example, a July 2020 article headlined “COVID-19 No Vaccine Needed, There Is Already A Cure,” promoted a widely shared theory by Texas doctor Richard Bartlett that inhaled budesonide — a steroid often used to treat asthma — could cure the virus and had been used successfully to minimize deaths in other countries.

Bartlett, a general practice physician, said in a July 2020 interview on conservative online talk show “America, Can We Talk?” that budesonide administered through a nebulizer was a “silver bullet” cure for the COVID-19 virus. He also suggested that the medication had been used successfully in Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, and Iceland. “This is the same path taken by Taiwan (24 million people, 7 deaths), Japan (126 million, 977 deaths), Singapore (5.6 million, 26 deaths), Iceland (341,000 population, 10 deaths),” the NewsBlaze article said. “This protocol may not work in every case, but the halting of new deaths in Taiwan, Japan, and Singapore shows that it is thousands of times better than what is happening in the U.S. and most other countries today.”

The World Health Organization told FactCheck.org in August 2020, “there is no evidence suggesting that inhaled corticosteroid[s] have reduced case fatality rate in Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, and Iceland.” Tsung-Mei Cheng, a health policy research analyst at Princeton University, told Fact Check that she had “never” heard of such a treatment being used to control fatalities in Taiwan, noting that the country had prepared itself well for future crises after the SARS outbreak in the early 2000s.

WHO also said that “[t]here is limited information on possible effect of inhaled steroids and there is no evidence there is any advantage to use this route of administration to improve patient outcomes.”

The agency did say that, based on available evidence, steroids delivered orally or via a shot might reduce mortality in “severe and critically ill patients requiring respiratory support.” Another steroid, dexamethasone, was recommended by the National Institutes of Health’s COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel in July 2020 for treating patients who required supplemental oxygen. But the panel recommended only oral or intravenous delivery of the drug, not the inhalation method that the NewsBlaze.com article promoted.

“[T]here is no definitive evidence to support the use of inhaled corticosteroids like budesonide for the treatment of COVID-19,” Dr. Amesh Adalja, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security, told FactCheck.org. “While there is biological plausibility that such a treatment could have a beneficial role it can only be determined in a proper clinical trial.”

The same July 2020 NewsBlaze.com article compared the COVID-19 virus to the seasonal flu, saying, “COVID-19 is just like the flu that kills more than a million people every year.” The article added, “It is an inflammatory respiratory disease and there are already proven safe protocols to keep that kind of medical problem under control.”

The claim that the virus caused by COVID-19 is no deadlier than the seasonal flu is not supported by studies published in peer-reviewed medical journals. A May 2020 study published in JAMA Internal Medicine found that weekly death tolls from COVID-19 in April 2020 were 20 times higher than the deadliest week of an average flu season. A March 2020 study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases estimated that 0.6 percent of patients infected with the COVID-19 virus will die, compared with the flu’s mortality rate of 0.1 percent.

“People always say, ‘Well, the flu does this, the flu does that,’” Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said during a March 2020 Congressional hearing. “The flu has a mortality rate of 0.1 percent. This has a mortality rate of 10 times that.”

NewsBlaze has also published false information about Democrats, including about former U.S. President Barack Obama’s citizenship.

For example, a May 2019 story titled “No One Really Knew Barack Obama,” advanced the false claim that the former president was not born in the U.S. “There is the lack of any total and verifiable proof of his citizenship through brilliant ‘document managing’ of his very questionable birth certificate,” the article stated. “Experts who have spent years investigating this document are convinced it is falsified beyond a doubt.” The article did not quote or reference any of these “experts.”

In April 2011, in response to claims about his nationality, Obama released his long-form birth certificate that was issued by the State of Hawaii. The Hawaiian government issued a press release the same month stating that Hawaii Health Director Loretta Fudda had “personally witnessed the copying of the original Certificate of Live Birth and attested to the authenticity of the two copies,” and “Dr. Alvin Onaka, the State Registrar, certified the copies.”

An April 2019 article headlined “The Unabashed Truth About Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders” stated that the U.S. senator from Vermont “never held a real job until he was elected a Vermont mayor at age 53.” Sanders was elected mayor of Burlington, Vermont, in 1981, making him 39 years old at the time of his election — not 53. PolitiFact reported in March 2019 that “Sanders did work a series of odd jobs before his political career began,” including as a freelance writer, a preschool teacher, a carpenter, and an aide at a psychiatric hospital.

NewsBlaze has also published articles promoting false claims about the effects of climate change. For example, in a February 2019 story titled “Forget Global Warming, The Sun Says An Ice Age Is Coming,” NewsBlaze founder Alan Gray wrote that climate change has more to do with solar cycles than human activity. He referenced the work of Valentina Zharkova, a professor at Northumbria University, stating that “in 2015, she predicted a new ‘minimum’ or mini ice age would start around five years from that time, based on the known 400 year solar cycle.”

The article continued, “Actual observations of the sun show she appears to be right. If the earth goes into another ice age, and the cycles and measurements say it is close, people and their governments are not prepared.”

Regardless of the solar cycle, research suggests that the Earth will continue to warm in the coming years, offsetting any effects of a weaker sun. NASA Global Climate Change wrote in a February 2020 post on its website that “there is no impending ‘ice age’ or ‘mini ice age’ if there’s a reduction in the Sun’s energy output in the next several decades.”

NASA added, “Even if a Grand Solar Minimum were to last a century, global temperatures would continue to warm. The reason for this is because more factors than just variations in the Sun’s output change global temperatures on Earth; the most dominant of those today is the warming coming from human-induced greenhouse gas emissions.”

The Guardian also debunked the ice age theory in a January 2018 article, noting that “other scientists have identified serious flaws” in Zharkova’s model and that “in any case, research has shown that another solar minimum would only have a small and temporary impact on Earth’s climate.”

Because stories on NewsBlaze.com have advanced false and misleading claims, including about COVID-19, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly

publishes false content, does not gather or present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

NewsBlaze writes on its Contact page that “if you see a problem, we’d love to hear about it, so we can make corrections.” However, NewsGuard was unable to locate any examples of corrections.

NewsBlaze’s About page calls it “the alternative business and world news newspaper,” but does not articulate an overall political orientation. Articles labeled as opinion appear in The Thoughts section of NewsBlaze.com. However, NewsGuard found that articles that advance conservative opinions also appear in news sections on the site, which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

For example, the March 2020 story, “President Trump Love for America Trumps His Haters,” which appeared in the site’s Politics section, said, “The Left is cynical, fickle, hypocritical and insolent.” The article said that President Trump “is defending and protecting every single life in America and that includes the health of all the Trump haters, those who have nothing good to say about him and are criticizing him beyond all logical criticism.”

A July 2020 Politics article, headlined “The ‘Cancel Culture’: Cancel the Democrat Party — Part One” also criticized Democrats, saying, “the Democrats have a secret racist past that must be shielded as they work to fulfill their anti-American agenda.”

Another July 2020 article, “Americans, Your President Donald J Trump,” which also appeared in the Politics Section, praised President Trump’s leadership of the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic. “Americans should be elated and thankful to have such a leader in such difficult times,” the article added. “For the good of America and the entire world, you better hope Donald J. Trump is re-elected this November 3.”

Alan Gray, the site's founder, exchanged emails with NewsGuard but did not respond to questions about the website's false and misleading claims, opinionated content in articles that report news, and lack of corrections. Gray did not respond to two follow-up emails seeking comment.

Transparency

NewsBlaze discloses its ownership by NewsBlaze Pty. Ltd. on its About page, which also identifies Alan Gray as its publisher and editor-in-chief. The website's Contact page lists contact information for Gray as well as for three top editors and the site's business team.

Stories on NewsBlaze.com are attributed to authors. Short author biographies are typically included at the end of articles.

Advertisements are distinguishable from editorial content.

History

According to the site's Pressroom page, NewsBlaze was founded in February 2005 "with the goal of providing attention to the news that the mainstream media gives little or no time."

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Content

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Credibility

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Transparency

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