

chaospost.com

A conservative website that has published unsubstantiated claims, including about COVID-19.



Proceed with caution: This website fails to adhere to several basic journalistic standards.

Score: 42/100

Ownership and Financing

ChaosPost.com states on its About page that the site is operated by a nonprofit, writing that Chaos Post “has had many homes over the years. What started out as the Narrative Times turned into DC Chronicle and now subsequently the Chaos Post. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.”

NewsGuard determined that a nonprofit called Narrative Times Inc. is registered with the IRS, and it lists Michael Moates, the author of all articles on ChaosPost.com, as its principal officer. However, NewsGuard found no documentation that showed Narrative Times Inc. owns Chaos Post, and could not find a record of another nonprofit named Chaos Post.

Chaos Post shares advertising identification codes with other websites including DC-Chronicle.com, TheNarrativeTimes.org, and AmericaFirstProjects.com. The latter two websites stopped publishing new content in August 2020, the month that ChaosPost.com launched. Chaos Post has published some stories from the older domains.

The site generates revenue from advertising. The website does not appear to solicit donations.

- ✓ 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.](#)

Content

ChaosPost.com’s slogan is “navigating the chaos of politics,” according to a banner at the top of the site. The site primarily covers U.S. politics from a conservative perspective. Stories promote the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, and his critics in the Democratic Party, and social issues such as gun rights, LGBTQ issues, and race.

Typical headlines have included “Yes Your Majesty: Mr. Obama Orders The Senate Not To Vote On A New Supreme Court Justice,” “Kenosha Hero To Sue Joe

Biden For Libel,” and “Grocery Store Forces Veteran To Take Off American Flag Mask.”

The site also republishes articles, with attribution, from The Daily Caller News Foundation.

Credibility

ChaosPost.com often summarizes or republishes excerpts of articles from conservative websites such as the Gateway Pundit, which NewsGuard has determined to repeatedly publish false content. Other stories rely entirely on social media posts as sources.

The website regularly publishes unproven claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a July 2020 article titled “Johns Hopkins and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation were planning for the coronavirus in October 2019” suggested that the Gates Foundation and Johns Hopkins University had advance knowledge of the pandemic. “Now according to the information the first known case was in December of 2019. It also says that the first case they can find was in November of 2019. There is just one problem,” the article said. “Why was Johns Hopkins University partnering with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to study a pandemic like this in October?”

The Gates Foundation and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security did co-host a pandemic preparedness exercise called Event 201 in October 2019. However, the scenario used in the exercise involved a fictional coronavirus with different characteristics than the COVID-19 virus. For example, in the center’s simulation, the virus originated on pig farms in Brazil, not in China.

“To be clear, the Center for Health Security and partners did not make a prediction during our tabletop exercise,” the center said in a January 2020 statement. “For the scenario, we modeled a fictional coronavirus pandemic, but we explicitly stated that it was not a prediction. Instead, the exercise served to highlight preparedness and response challenges that would likely arise in a very severe pandemic. We are not now predicting that the nCoV-2019 outbreak will kill 65

million people. Although our tabletop exercise included a mock novel coronavirus, the inputs we used for modeling the potential impact of that fictional virus are not similar to nCoV-2019.”

An August 2020 article titled “Judge Forces Puberty Blockers On 7 Year Old Boy So A Woman Can Castrate Him” said that a Texas man named Jeffrey Younger “is the father of a young boy whose mom is trying to cut off his body parts. She’s trying to force her seven-year-old child to have gender reassignment surgery.”

Jeffrey Younger -- who was identified in the America First Projects article as Jeffrey Young -- has been in a custody dispute with his ex-wife over their now 8-year-old child, who was identified male at birth but now identifies as a girl. The judge’s August 2020 ruling gave the child’s mother sole power to make medical decisions for the child. However, contrary to the claims made by America First Projects, the child’s mother has not claimed to want to “cut off [the child’s] body parts” or “force her seven-year-old child to have gender reassignment surgery.” The child’s mother has not expressed any plans to pursue surgery for her daughter. In addition, the Texas judge’s decision did not require the child to take puberty-blocking drugs.

An October 2020 article titled “Video: Third Debate Moderator Kristen Welker Caught Leaking Questions To Hillary Clinton In 2016,” falsely claimed that MSNBC journalist Kristen Welker, who moderated the October 2020 debate between President Trump and former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, was “caught on national television sharing the question she was going to ask of Hillary Clinton to Hillary Clinton’s Communications Director.”

The article featured a March 2016 video in which Welker interviewed Jennifer Palmieri, then the communications director for former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign. The video, however, does not show Welker “leaking questions” to Clinton or her campaign, and it is apparent that Welker interviewed Palmieri after the debate between Clinton

and Democratic challenger U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders took place. “So Jen, your initial reaction to tonight’s debate?” Welker asked Palmieri on the video.

The debate in Flint, Michigan, was hosted by CNN. Welker, who worked for NBC, would not have had access to that network’s debate questions in advance. In October 2016, Donna Brazile, then-interim chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, resigned as a CNN contributor after emails released by WikiLeaks showed that she had provided questions ahead of the debate to the Clinton campaign.

In addition to headlines in the articles cited above, ChaosPost.com has published headlines that do not accurately reflect articles’ content.

For example, a June 2020 article headlined, “Major Democratic big business donor murders puppies,” reported that a number of dog owners had claimed that Blue Buffalo, a General Mills-owned dog food brand, had sickened their pets. While the story did accurately report that General Mills Inc. had contributed more to Democratic candidates than Republicans, but contrary to the headline, the article did not claim that Blue Buffalo dog food had actually led to the death of any dogs.

Because ChaosPost.com has published misleading and unsubstantiated claims in articles and headlines, including about the COVID-19 pandemic, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not gather and present information responsibly and does not avoid the use of deceptive headlines.

ChaosPost.com does not articulate a corrections policy. However, NewsGuard identified two corrections the site published since its August 2020 launch, which meets NewsGuard’s standard for regularly correcting errors.

ChaosPost.com labels its content as either news or opinion. However, the site’s news articles frequently include opinion that advance conservative views. The website’s About Us page does not disclose a political point of view.

For example, a July 2020 News article titled “BREAKING NEWS: Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman To Leave The Service While Crying Like A Child” argued that Alexander Vindman, a former U.S. National Security Council official who testified during President Trump’s impeachment hearings, “tried to tank his Commander-in-Chief by going behind the presidents back and testifying in congress that he was concerned by Trump’s actions.” The article continued, “his last days in the military will be remembered as a political scandal and betrayal to his Commander-in-Chief.”

A September 2020 News article titled “Fauci: If We Can Safely Shop At The Grocery Store, We Can Safely Vote In Person” argued that Democrats support mail-in voting because they want to advance voter fraud, writing, “There’s no reason for Democrats to be against voting in person. The only reason they could be against this is if they want to support fraud. They wanna waste money on the United States Postal Service which can’t be trusted as far as it can be thrown.”

An August 2020 News article titled “LET MY LIBERAL BIAS ROAR: CNN’s April Ryan Makes The Most Petty Comments About Trump” accused liberal journalists of “trying to create panic,” writing, “This is obviously an attempt to create drama during the 2020 election cycle by the mainstream media Giants who want to attack Trump for being at the top of his game.”

Because Chaos Post publishes unlabeled opinion in news stories that advance an undisclosed conservative perspective, NewsGuard has determined that it does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

NewsGuard was not able to contact ChaosPost.com for comment about the website’s editorial practices and approach to news and opinion. The site does not include any contact information. As of October 2020, the site’s social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter had been deactivated.

disclose the nonprofit's donors, which does not meet NewsGuard's standard for disclosing ownership and relevant financing.

The site does not identify editorial leaders.

All articles are attributed to Michael Moates, but the website does not provide biographical or contact information for him, which does not meet NewsGuard's standards for identifying content creators.

Advertisements are distinguishable from editorial content.

NewsGuard was not able to contact ChaosPost.com for comment about the website's failure to clearly identify its owners and editorial leaders or provide information about content creators. The site does not include any contact information. As of October 2020, the site's social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter had been deactivated.

History

The domain ChaosPost.com was registered in August 2020. However, the site publishes some content that is dated prior to August 2020, including content that was republished from AmericaFirstProjects.com and TheNarrativeTimes.org.

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Content

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