

# thinkamericana.com

An anonymously operated conservative news site that has published false information and conspiracy theories, including about COVID-19.



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

## Ownership and Financing

ThinkAmericana.com does not disclose information about its ownership to users. A Facebook page for Mike Vance, who is credited as an author on Think Americana, states that he is the site's "owner and lead writer."

However, the Facebook pages for both Vance and ThinkAmericana.com list someone named Sean W. Taylor as their owner, according to the Facebook pages' Transparency sections. Taylor is also listed as the owner of Facebook pages for the websites DailyPoliticalNewsWire.com and DailyPatriotReport.com. Those two sites, along with ThinkAmericana.com and the website TediumMedia.com, share Google advertising ID codes and often publish identical stories. None of the sites disclose their ownership.

While no other information about Taylor is provided, NewsGuard found several records that point to the possibility that Taylor and Vance are the same person.

While Vance identified himself as Think Americana's owner on his Facebook page, an archived version of ThinkAmericana.com includes an email address in Sean Taylor's name. A NewsGuard inquiry to a general email address for DailyPoliticalNewsWire.com, during NewsGuard's review of that website, was answered by someone who identified himself as Vance. The author profile for Vance on DailyPoliticalNewsWire.com includes a different name in the profile page's url: SeanAdmin.

A NewsGuard email to an address on Think Americana.com was answered by Vance, but he did not answer NewsGuard's questions on whether he and Sean Taylor share the same identity, and whether he owns Think Americana.

**Score: 0/100**

- ✗ 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.](#)

The site appears to earn revenue through advertising.

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Content

Articles on Think Americana cover U.S. politics from a conservative perspective. The site includes sections titled Hillary (referring to former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton), Trump, News, and GOP. Stories cover U.S. politics, often by summarizing other news organizations' accounts and adding commentary.

Typical headlines include "WATCH: Idiot Leftist Teacher Lectures Middle School Student Why Trump is Racist," "WATCH: Demon-Possessed Antifa Member Performs Satanic Ritual in Street," and "Governor Gretchen Whitmer Gets WRECKED After Recent Decision on Lockdowns."

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Credibility

Think Americana often adds commentary to stories that were reported by other news organizations, ranging from Fox News and Breitbart to local news sites. Stories also can rely on tweets.

The site has published false, misleading, and unsubstantiated claims, including about COVID-19.

For example, a September 2020 story titled "Neurosurgeon Warns There Could Be Serious Risks for Healthy People Wearing Face Masks" made false claims about the purported dangers of face masks. "Masks could actually be harmful to healthy people," the story claimed. The article quoted Dr. Russell Blaylock, a retired neurosurgeon who has repeatedly made false claims about the safety of masks, as saying, "Several studies have indeed found significant problems with wearing such a mask. This can vary from headaches, to increased airway resistance, carbon dioxide accumulation, to hypoxia, all the way to serious life-threatening complications."

While there is some evidence that wearing an N95 respirator for prolonged periods can cause discomfort, it is not true that wearing masks pose a risk to healthy people of accumulating too much carbon dioxide or experiencing hypoxia. In a June 2020 blog post on the American Lung Association's website, pulmonologist David G. Hill wrote, "we wear masks all day long in the

hospital. The masks are designed to be breathed through and there is no evidence that low oxygen levels occur.”

In May 2020, a representative from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) told Reuters that “it is unlikely that wearing a mask will cause hypercapnia,” a condition in which too much carbon dioxide is present in the bloodstream. The representative noted that although carbon dioxide will build up in the mask over time, particularly if it is a medical-grade respirator, “the level of CO<sub>2</sub> likely to build up in the mask is mostly tolerable to people exposed to it.”

The site misrepresented the efficacy of the drug hydroxychloroquine against COVID-19 in an August 2020 story headlined, “Yale Physician Who Supports HCQ Treatment for COVID-19 DESTROYS CNN Hack Host (VIDEO).” The site reported, “There have been more than a dozen studies that show that the drug accompanied with azithromycin and zinc have been very effective in treating the most high-risk patients.”

While it is true that a March 2020 non-randomized clinical trial initially showed promise for the drug’s treatment capabilities, a July 2020 review of that study found that its “results do not justify the far-reaching conclusions about the efficacy of hydroxychloroquine in Covid-19.”

Many other larger and randomized clinical trials found that the drug did not provide beneficial effects to COVID-19 patients. For example, in June 2020, United Kingdom researchers ended the use of hydroxychloroquine in a large trial, called the RECOVERY trial, that had involved 4,600 patients. “We have concluded that there is no beneficial effect of hydroxychloroquine in patients hospitalised with COVID-19,” according to a statement by researchers Martin Landray and Peter Horby of the RECOVERY trial.

Subsequent clinical trials, including two studies published in the Annals of Internal Medicine and the New England Journal of Medicine in July 2020, have

also failed to find a benefit for hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment. In addition, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration stated in a June 2020 press release, “The totality of scientific evidence currently available indicate a lack of benefit.”

In October 2020, Think Americana published a story headlined “Crazy Rumor About Hunter Biden Going Around, But It Might Be True,” that stated, “Hunter Biden died of a crack overdose.” Think Americana embedded a YouTube video that featured an unidentified man reporting on the purported death of former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden’s son. The man said in the video, “I’m seeing it on message boards, on Twitter, and even a couple of Instagram posts.”

While the article also said, “What I’m about to tell you may or may not be true, so take it with a grain of salt because it may be completely false,” Think Americana did not make any effort to verify or debunk the information.

The false claim originated on the online platform 4chan, known for promoting conspiracies and other harmful content, according to the fact-checking site Snopes. On October 19, 2020, a poster claiming to be a “medical professional” said on 4chan that Hunter Biden was “being treated for a heroin overdose in my hospital and is in critical condition.” The unnamed poster offered no evidence for the claim. Hunter Biden’s attorney, George Mesires, confirmed to Snopes that Biden was alive, saying, “The rumor is false.”

The Think Americana article also said that Hunter Biden’s purported death “could be the reason that the former Vice President suspended his campaign and has said that he’s not making any more appearances anywhere until Election Day.” Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential nominee, had not suspended his campaign as of Oct. 28, 2020, the day that the article was published.

In an October 2020 story, headlined “Wow! Democratic Governor Encouraging Assassination of President Trump,” Think Americana claimed that Michigan Gov.

Gretchen Whitmer had called for President Trump's assassination with a numerical signal during a television interview about an alleged plot to abduct her.

"In an interview about her abduction attempt by Antifa militants and Trump-haters (not supporters), if you look to the right of the screen at her office or home or wherever she is, you can see the numbers "8645" or a call to "eighty-six"(kill) forty-five (President Trump, the 45th president)," the article said.

In an Oct. 18, 2020, interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" about the alleged kidnapping plot, Whitmer was videotaped with a pin that showed the numbers "8645" on a table behind her. While "8645" has been used as slang as an anti-Trump message -- the Urban Dictionary says that "8645" is "a sneaky way to illustrate one's support of getting rid of Trump" -- there is no evidence that Whitmer was calling for the president's assassination. Whitmer's office told the Detroit Free Press that the term "86" referred to a term used in the food industry when a customer needs to be removed from a bar or a restaurant. "The silly season is officially here. It's pretty clear nobody in the Trump campaign has ever worked a food service job," Whitmer spokesman Bobby Leddy said in an email to the Detroit Free Press.

Because the site has published multiple stories that advanced false and misleading claims, including about COVID-19, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

Think Americana does not publish a corrections policy and NewsGuard could find no examples of corrections or clarifications.

The website does not disclose an overall political perspective and does not publish an About Us page. The website, however, frequently includes conservative opinion in stories that are labeled as news, which does not meet NewsGuard's standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

For example, in the October 2020 story, “President's Approval Rating Through the Roof with Key Demographic Following Debate,” the author wrote, “I am very confident in the American people's ability to pick the right candidate next week, and by the right candidate, I mean President Trump.”

In another October 2020 story, “LGBTQ Community Hypocritically Explodes After Amy Coney Barrett Comment, Wait Until You Hear This,” the author wrote, “To a liberal, logic doesn't exist. There's really no purpose for it in their lives.”

Vance, who identified himself as the site's owner on his Facebook page, responded to a NewsGuard email on October 2020 without answering NewsGuard's questions on Think Americana's false stories, handling of news and opinion, and approach to corrections. Vance first responded to a NewsGuard inquiry about a related website, DailyPoliticalNewsWire.com, writing, “Please take me off your list.” In response to inquiries about ThinkAmericana.com, Vance wrote, “I asked you once to leave me alone. Why did you not cooperate?”

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#### Transparency

Think Americana does not disclose information about its ownership and editorial leaders or provide information about content creators. While Vance identifies himself as the owner of ThinkAmericana.com on his own Facebook page, the website does not provide this information.

The site attributes all of its articles to two authors -- Vance and Troy Mullens. No contact information is provided for them. No biography is provided for Mullens. A biography for Vance says only, “Mike is a long time political journalist that writes for a number of different publication [sic]. We are thrilled to have him writing for us.”

Because Think Americana does not provide biographical or contact information for both of its content creators, and because NewsGuard has found records that point to the possibility that Vance may not

be using his real name, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not meet NewsGuard's standard for providing information about content creators.

Advertisements are not always clearly distinguished from editorial content. Some sponsored articles appear under headings such as "From the Web," "Trending," or "Promoted Content," which does not meet NewsGuard's standard for clearly labeling paid content.

Vance, who identified himself as the site's owner on his Facebook page, responded to a NewsGuard email on October 2020 without answering NewsGuard's questions on Think Americana's failure to disclose owners or editorial leaders, provide information about content creators, or clearly label sponsored content.

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## History

Think Americana was created in February 2017, according to domain registration records. However, articles published in the site's news section date to November 2015.

**Written by:** [Kendrick McDonald](#)

**Contributing:** [Jon Allsop](#)

**Edited by:** [Amy Westfeldt](#)

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

## Sources

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### Ownership and Financing

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/mikevanceamericana/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/mikevanceamericana/about/?ref=page_internal)  
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### Content

<https://thinkamericana.com/category/hillary/>  
<https://thinkamericana.com/category/gop/>  
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## Credibility

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<https://archive.vn/pdc3n>  
<https://archive.vn/DWW0l>

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## Transparency

<https://thinkamericana.com/contact/>  
<https://thinkamericana.com/author/admin/>  
<https://thinkamericana.com/author/troy/>

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History

<https://thinkamericana.com/category/news/page/120/>

<https://thinkamericana.com/2015/11/08/socialism-in-america-no-chance-it-works/>

<https://www.whois.net/>

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/thinkamericana/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/thinkamericana/about/?ref=page_internal)