

A conservative website that often misstates facts in articles that advance conservative opinion, including in stories about COVID-19.



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

Score: 57/100

Ownership and Financing

DailyWire.com is owned by Bentkey Ventures LLC, a company registered in Texas. The company, which was originally named Forward Publishing, changed to its current name in 2019.

Bentkey Ventures corporate records list the company's manager as Farris C. Wilks, a pastor and billionaire who, along with his brother Dan, made a fortune in the fracking industry in the 2000s. The company is based in Cisco, Texas, the Wilks' hometown.

The site's About Us page lists Farris Wilks as one of four co-owners of Bentkey Ventures LLC. The other owners are co-CEOs Jeremy Boreing and Caleb Robinson, and Ben Shapiro, who was the website's editor-in-chief until July 2020, when he was named editor emeritus. Shapiro is a conservative commentator and podcaster, with more than 6 million followers on Facebook, more than twice the Facebook followers for the Daily Wire's official Facebook page. Shapiro's podcast, The Ben Shapiro Show, is one of the most popular in the U.S.

Farris Wilks and his brother, Dan, donated \$15 million to a super PAC backing Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz during his 2016 campaign for the presidency. Farris Wilks also donated \$100,000 to the Texans Are PAC that supported Ted Cruz's 2018 U.S. Senate campaign against then-U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke. In the 2020 election cycle, Farris Wilks donated \$100,000 to the Republican National Committee.

DailyWire.com generates revenue from advertisements and subscriptions. A premium subscription offers an ad-free version of the site, as well as access to the site's podcasts, including the Ben Shapiro Show. The site also invites users to book Shapiro and other Daily Wire writers for public speaking engagements, and sells tickets to live recordings of the Ben Shapiro Show.

- ✓ 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

The Daily Wire publishes news and opinion on American politics and culture, including the Trump administration, immigration, the environment, abortion, and LGBTQ issues.

Content is divided into two sections: News, and Shows, which feature video podcasts for paying subscribers. The site also hosts forums in its Discussions section.

The Daily Wire typically injects a conservative spin on the news of the day. Opinion articles often appear as lead stories on the homepage. Frequent coverage topics include abortion, immigration, feuds between Democrats and the Trump administration, and the media.

Stories sometimes embed videos from Daily Wire commentators or include trending social media posts. Podcasts from commentators such as Shapiro, Andrew Klavan, and Michael Knowles appear in the Shows section.

Typical headlines have included “Trump Shotgun Blasts Attacks: ‘Violent, Criminal Mobs’; “Far-Left Activists Burn American Flag Near White House: ‘America Was Never Great!,”” and “Ben Carson On Painting ‘Black Lives Matter’ On Street: What If ‘Somebody Painted A Confederate Flag On A Public Street?’”

The site also occasionally publishes satirical articles, which are labeled in the headline, such as “After Reading Their Own Manifesto, Radical Anti-Americans Realize They’re Insane [Satire]” and “Biden Campaign Proposes One Debate Moderated By The Day Nurse Biden Calls ‘Nana’ [Satire].”

Credibility

The Daily Wire’s news stories regularly rely on accounts by other news organizations, which range from major news outlets such as ABC News and The Washington Post, to websites that NewsGuard has found to have published false and misleading content, such as conservative website PJ Media and the anti-abortion site LifeNews.com. The website also relies on widely shared videos, social media posts, and government documents. It occasionally conducts original interviews.

In a July 2020 telephone interview with NewsGuard, Daily Wire co-CEO Jeremy Boreing said that the site’s new editor-in-chief, John Bickley, had made changes in response to NewsGuard’s earlier reviews of the site. In July 2020, the website published an About page that listed its owners and top editors, and added a detailed Standards & Policies page on the site’s editorial policies and approach to corrections. The Standards & Policies page says, “The Daily Wire is committed to providing our readers truthful, accurate and ethical reporting. We take multiple steps to verify claims in our reports and differentiate between confirmed facts, credible claims, and speculation. The claims in our articles are fact-checked by authors and reviewed by at least one editor.”

Despite these changes, NewsGuard found that the website has continued to publish false or misleading information in its articles, including several claims that were only corrected after NewsGuard noted them to the Daily Wire.

In 2020, for example, the website published unsubstantiated and inaccurate claims about COVID-19.

In an August 2020 opinion article, titled “PRAGER: Everything The Left Touches It Ruins. Now Add Science,” author Dennis Prager stated, “Yet another example of leftism overwhelming medical science is the medical profession’s denial of the benefits of hydroxychloroquine and zinc in the early days of a COVID-19 infection.”

Prager continued, “The number of Americans killed by the medical boards, the pharmaceutical boards, the FDA and the CDC for not allowing doctors to prescribe hydroxychloroquine in the early days following a patient’s diagnosis with COVID-19 and outside of a hospital setting, and the number killed by the doctors who could but would not prescribe hydroxychloroquine, is likely in the tens of thousands,” he stated.

Prager did not cite any evidence that hydroxychloroquine and zinc have been proven to be an effective treatment for COVID-19, and infectious disease experts and published research have shown that the drugs are not an effective remedy for the virus.

“There is no evidence done in a rigorous study that shows hydroxychloroquine in combination with azithromycin or zinc or whatever combination you use that has any benefit in the treatment of coronavirus to date,” Dr. Amesh Adalja, a senior scholar who specializes in infectious diseases at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, told The Associated Press in July 2020.

Prager accurately pointed out that a May 2020 observational study published by The Lancet, which reported that hydroxychloroquine increased COVID-19 patients’ risk of death, was later retracted at the request of its authors when they could not verify the study’s data. However, multiple randomized clinical trials that were not mentioned in Prager’s article have found that hydroxychloroquine failed to provide benefits to COVID-19 patients. For example, in June 2020, U. K. researchers ended the use of hydroxychloroquine in a large 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 (Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy) trial.

Another trial, involving 400 patients, conducted at the University of Minnesota, and published in July 2020 in the Annals of Internal Medicine, found that hydroxychloroquine did not decrease the severity of COVID-19 symptoms over 14 days any better than a placebo in patients who were not hospitalized.

Asked about this article, Bickley, Daily Wire's editor-in-chief, told NewsGuard in a November 2020 email, "This is a syndicated opinion piece by Dennis Prager (syndicated through Creators.com). We do not edit syndicated pieces, but we have at times added editorial notes. After review, I've deemed it helpful to add an editorial note on the continued debate over hydroxychloroquine." The website's three-paragraph note mentions that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration pulled its emergency use authorization for hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment in June 2020 "because clinical studies showed that hydroxychloroquine is unlikely to be effective for treatment of COVID-19 in these patients and some serious side effects, such as irregular heartbeat, were reported."

In a September 2020 article titled "Nashville Democrat Mayor's Office Accused Of 'Fabricating' Coronavirus Numbers To Hide LOW Numbers Tied To Bars, Restaurants," The Daily Wire reported on accusations that Nashville, Tennessee, Mayor John Cooper had concealed the number of COVID-19 cases linked to bars and restaurants in the city, because the numbers did not support the mayor's decision to temporarily close bars and limit restaurants' capacity.

The article accurately quoted a report from Fox 17 Nashville as stating, "The coronavirus cases on lower Broadway may have been so low that the mayor's office and the metro health department decided to keep it secret." It cited emails that the TV station obtained from the mayor's office, including a June 2020 email in which Nashville Metro Public Health Department epidemiologist Leslie Waller asked if the data about COVID-19 cases at bars was going to be publicly released.

Contrary to the Fox 17 Nashville report that was repeated by Daily Wire, Nashville city officials had disclosed the numbers of COVID-19 cases tied to bars and restaurants -- which were 30 infections at 10 locations at the time -- at a press conference on July 2, 2020.

Two days after its story was published, Fox 17 deleted the article from its website. In a statement to CNN, Fox 17 said, "In a segment that aired earlier this week, we incorrectly asserted that Mayor Cooper's office withheld COVID-19 data from the public, which implied that there had been a cover up. We want to clarify that we do not believe there was any cover-up, and we apologize for the error and oversight in our reporting." None of these developments are mentioned in the DailyWire.com article.

After NewsGuard asked about this article in a November 2020 email, Daily Wire published a correction at the top of the article to reflect that the original report was inaccurate and had been retracted. "Fox 17's retraction of the story escaped the attention

of the author of this piece,” Bickley said. The headline was also changed to “Nashville Democrat Mayor’s Office Refutes Covid ‘Cover-Up’ Claim; Original Report Retracted.”

In an April 2020 Daily Wire article titled “WATCH: Project Veritas Finds NY Funeral Directors Skeptical About Coronavirus Numbers,” promoted the unsubstantiated claim that New York doctors were deliberately inflating New York City’s COVID-19 death toll by attributing deaths to the COVID-19 virus without being sure of the cause. The article repeated claims made in articles and videos published by Project Veritas, a conservative nonprofit that interviewed New York funeral home employees.

Joseph Antioco, funeral director at Schafer Funeral Home in New York, was quoted in the Daily Wire article as saying, “if you don’t have a private doctor, and you are under any medical care, they’re automatically putting down on the death certificate COVID-19 because they don’t want to go — they’re so overwhelmed, A, and B, they’re not going out to houses anymore. They would go out to the house; they would investigate the scene; they would do testing at the scene, and then come up with the conclusion as to ‘He had heart disease.’ But now they’re putting everything as COVID-19.”

There is no evidence that doctors in New York were “automatically putting down on the death certificate COVID-19,” as the Daily Wire article quoted Antioco as claiming. Sally Aiken, president of the National Association of Medical Examiners, told FactCheck.org in an April 2020 article, “Medical examiners and coroners certify hundreds to thousands of deaths each year, using investigation, autopsies, and medical tests as required, and do not choose a ‘default diagnosis’ such as COVID-19.”

After being contacted by NewsGuard in July 2020, the Daily Wire updated the article with quotes from the April 2020 FactCheck.org story, as well as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s April 2020 guidance on issuing death certificates, which stated that doctors should list COVID-19 on a death certificate “if COVID-19 played a role in the death.” NewsGuard had cited both the CDC guidelines and the FactCheck.org article in a note to Bickley. A note was added to the article stating, “This article has been updated to include information countering claims of a ‘default diagnosis’ for COVID-19-connected deaths.”

A July 2020 article headlined “Amid Percentage Of Deaths Having Declined, CDC Admits Coronavirus On Verge Of Non-Epidemic Status,” made a misleading claim about the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. The article cited a report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

which did say that the “percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia, influenza or COVID-19” was “currently at the epidemic threshold but will likely change as more death certificates are processed, particularly for recent weeks.” The article later noted that the CDC report also stated that COVID-19’s fatality rate “is currently at the epidemic threshold but will likely increase as additional death certificates are processed.”

CDC spokesperson Kristin Nordlund explained in a July 2020 email to NewsGuard that the “epidemic threshold” refers to “the point at which the observed proportion of deaths is significantly higher than would be expected at that time of the year in the absence of substantial influenza, and now COVID-related mortality.” That threshold, however, would not determine the epidemic status of COVID-19.

“This one piece of data doesn’t have bearing on whether COVID-19 is still an epidemic,” Nordlund said.

After NewsGuard contacted the Daily Wire in July 2020, the article’s headline was changed to say, “Following Death Percentage Decline, CDC Says We’re On ‘Epidemic Threshold.’” The article was also updated to emphasize that the CDC expected COVID-19’s mortality rate to change.

However, Daily Wire did not correct another false claim in the article -- that the CDC “would no longer call the coronavirus an epidemic” if it fell below the “epidemic threshold” -- until NewsGuard contacted the Daily Wire again in November 2020. The site then added a new correction note at the top of the article, stating, “This article has been corrected to clarify that while the CDC announced that the death rate is ‘currently at the epidemic threshold,’ the agency uses more than just the death rate to designate disease outbreaks as epidemics.”

The Daily Wire has also published false and misleading information in stories about abortion. For example, a September 2019 article made false claims about the medical necessity for abortions. The article said, “As former abortionist Dr. Anthony Levatino said during an interview with Lila Rose, the founder of anti-abortion organization Live Action, late-term abortions are never medically necessary to save the life of the mother.”

According to a February 2019 document published by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), titled “Facts are Important: Abortion Care Later in Pregnancy is Important to Women’s Health,” there are a number of situations when an abortion could be necessary to save the mother’s life during the later stages of pregnancy. The document says, “Abortion later in pregnancy may also be necessary when complications severely compromise a woman’s health or life, conditions which may also reduce the possibility of fetal

survival. These might include premature rupture of membranes and infection, preeclampsia, placental abruption, and placenta accreta. Women in these circumstances may risk extensive blood loss, stroke, and septic shock that could lead to maternal death."

After NewsGuard asked about this article in a July 2020 email, Daily Wire updated it to include ACOG's statement on the medical necessity of late-term abortion. However, Levatino's false claim that abortions are never medically necessary to save the life of the mother remained in the article.

In a January 2019 opinion article titled "WALSH: Abortion Advocates Keep Telling This Huge Lie About Late-Term Abortion. Don't Fall For It," columnist Matt Walsh wrote, "this is the crucial fact, abortion is never necessary to protect the life of the mother. In the whole history of human civilization there has never been one case where a baby had to be directly killed in order to save a woman's life."

After NewsGuard asked about the story in a July 2020 email, Bickley added a note to the bottom of the article that linked to a February 2019 statement from ACOG about abortions later in pregnancy. The note stated, "The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) disagrees with this claim, maintaining that late-term abortion may be necessary when 'complications severely compromise a woman's health or life,' including 'premature rupture of membranes and infection, preeclampsia, placental abruption, and placenta accreta.'"

In a July 2018 article, Daily Wire misrepresented U.S. Food and Drug Administration data to advance false claims about deaths associated with the use of Mifeprex, the brand name of mifepristone, which can be taken in conjunction with another drug to terminate pregnancies. The story, headlined "REPORT: Abortion Pill Kills 22 Women, Injures Thousands," stated, "According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), at least 22 women have been killed by abortion pills, and thousands more have been injured."

The agency did not make such a statement. Instead, the FDA attributed eight of the 22 deaths to infection, or sepsis, and said that six of the deaths occurred as the result of drug overdoses, two cases were caused by suicide and a suspected homicide, and others were attributed to ailments including emphysema and toxic shock syndrome. In addition, the FDA's guidance on all adverse events associated with the drug through 2017, including 2,740 "cases with any adverse event," included a disclaimer note saying, "These events cannot with certainty be causally attributed to mifepristone because of information gaps

about patient health status, clinical management of the patient, concurrent drug use, and other possible medical or surgical treatments and conditions.”

This article was updated in July 2020 after NewsGuard asked about it in an email. The headline was changed to “FDA: Several Deaths Linked To Abortion Pill [UPDATED].” A note on the story said, “The following article has been revised to include the updated guidance from the FDA and its disclaimer about the links between deaths and Mifeprex.”

An October 2019 article headlined “KNOWLES: AOC Travels To Europe To Cry,” made false claims about climate change. The article stated, “The worst global warming predictions are that the Earth will warm about two degrees over a century. There is no evidence that this will pose any problems for humans, certainly will not pose any problems for Americans.”

A report released in October 2018 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations listed many ramifications of a global temperature increase of 2 degrees Celsius. The report stated, “Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C.” The panel’s report listed risks including the exposure of 37 percent of Earth’s population to “severe heatwaves” at least once every five years; “thousands of billions of USD annually” in damages from coastal flooding, which could affect at least 136 port cities with populations greater than 1 million; and “reductions in projected food availability.”

When NewsGuard asked why the article had not been corrected, Bickley said in a July 2020 email that the article came from a transcript of a podcast, not an op-ed column. “Language used in live shows is frequently more loose than written opinion pieces and the arguments contained in podcasts, particularly lengthy ones like the ones we generally produce (40+ minutes), offer more context than is provided in the excerpted transcript,” he said. “For this reason, we do not apply the same standards to raw podcast transcripts as we do reports or op-eds.”

Because the Daily Wire has misstated and distorted facts in stories that often advance conservative views, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not gather and present information responsibly.

The Daily Wire added a corrections policy to its website in 2020, which states, “For objectively false information, we provide corrections in clear notations in the text of the article,

and in headlines when appropriate, and amend the article to provide readers accurate information.”

Boreing told NewsGuard in July 2020 that the website was instituting new policies to note errors in real time more transparently. In the past, he said the site tended not to update or correct older stories, but would instead include updated information in a new article. “I think we viewed it too much as like a rolling conversation with our audience and we understand why that’s not sufficient,” he said.

While NewsGuard has found that DailyWire.com regularly publishes corrections, typically noted at the top or bottom of articles in italicized notes, NewsGuard has found on several occasions that the website has continued to publish content with significant inaccuracies, such as the previously-mentioned articles on hydroxychloroquine and COVID-19, which had not been corrected at the time that NewsGuard reviewed the website.

Since the Daily Wire’s Nutrition Label was first published in 2018, NewsGuard has re-reviewed the website three times. On every occasion, NewsGuard has found content that was significantly false and that had not been corrected at the time of its review. While Daily Wire ultimately corrected those stories in 2020 in response to NewsGuard’s inquiries, because the website continued to publish significant inaccuracies that remained uncorrected at the beginning of NewsGuard’s review, NewsGuard has determined that DailyWire.com does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for having effective corrections practices.

In a November 2020 email, Bickley defended the site’s corrections policies. “We focus heavily on ensuring that the key claims in our reports, op-eds and analyses are factually correct, corrected when mistakes are made, updated with important developments, and clarified when necessary,” he said.

The Daily Wire discloses its political perspective in a note at the bottom of every article, which describes the site as “a leading provider of conservative news.” The site’s About Us page states, “The Daily Wire does not claim to be without bias. We’re opinionated, we’re noisy, and we’re having a good time.”

The site does label some articles as “analysis” or “opinion.” However, the website also regularly inserts opinionated language and headlines into stories labeled as news.

For example, a November 2020 article, which had been labeled as news, stated, “On Thursday, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), who apparently thinks there is a money tree that will

offer an inexhaustible supply of funding for any leftist Bright Idea™ in her head that she would like to implement, decided that the way to solve the coronavirus pandemic is to pay Americans to stay home.”

After NewsGuard asked about this article, it was relabeled as opinion. Bickley said, “While our editorial style emphasizes frank, direct, ‘plain language’ reporting and allows for personal style for our individual writers, the degree of editorializing in that piece should have been curbed before publication or the piece published under our opinion category. I have done the latter.”

Another November 2020 news article criticized Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown for arguing with Republican Senators over wearing face coverings on the Senate floor during the COVID-19 pandemic. “This isn’t the first time Brown has engaged in a performative display on the Senate floor, nor the first time a GOP senator has rebuked him as a result,” the article stated. “When Brown resorted to the Democratic cliché about the GOP being the party of the rich in 2017, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) took him to task.”

After NewsGuard quoted this section of the article in an email to Bickley, Daily Wire edited the article to state, “This isn’t the first time Brown has engaged in such displays on the Senate floor, nor the first time a GOP senator has rebuked him as a result. When Brown accused the GOP of being the party of the rich in 2017, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) took him to task.” A note was also added to the bottom of the article stating that, “This article has been revised for clarity and tone.”

A Daily Wire news article published in April 2020 said that former U.S. President Barack Obama “likely more than any other president benefited from a supine media willing to wallow in adulation before him,” and criticized Obama for “the audacity to attack Republicans by saying, ‘The other side has a massive war chest. The other side has a propaganda network with little regard for the truth.’”

Boreing, Daily Wire’s co-CEO, said in July 2020 that the Daily Wire has been trying to improve its separation of news and opinion. “I think, over time, we’ve tried to play our news pieces a lot straighter than we did in the early days,” he said. “Sometimes a little ranting actually still makes through into them and maybe that’s something [editor-in-chief] John [Bickley] can clean up.”

DailyWire.com has also regularly published favorable coverage of Texas U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, a senator who received \$15 million in financing from website co-owner Farris Wilks and

Wilks' brother, Dan, when he ran for president in 2016. In response to questions about the website's coverage, Boreing, the co-CEO, told NewsGuard that he and co-owner Ben Shapiro support Cruz' politics.

A NewsGuard review of 30 DailyWire.com stories featuring Cruz in 2020 found that all of them portrayed the senator in a highly positive light, with coverage that was disproportionately favorable to more neutral coverage of other Republicans. Typical stories included "Ted Cruz Reams Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey: 'Who The Hell Elected You?'" (October 2020), "WATCH: Cruz Blasts Dem Senator's Conspiracy Theory About Barrett's Nomination" (October 2020), and "Ted Cruz Slaps James Comey Over Russian Collusion Conspiracy: 'Deliberately Corrupt'" (September 2020). A February 2020 news article about Cruz called him "one of the great constitutional scholars of the Senate."

Said Boreing: "Why do we write friendly coverage of Ted Cruz? Probably for two reasons. One, because over the years, I've cultivated something of a friendship with the senator," Boreing said. "More importantly, because very, very rarely do even I interfere with the editorial side of the website, I think probably more to the point is Ted Cruz is a conservative in the fashion of Ben [Shapiro] and I, more than most any other conservative in elected government. So I think it's probably some of our bias that shows through, far more than it's anything to do with Farris."

Boreing also told NewsGuard that he introduced Farris Wilks to Cruz before Farris and Dan Wilks supported Cruz's presidential campaign.

Because DailyWire.com regularly includes unlabeled opinion in news stories, and because the website's co-owner acknowledges publishing favorable coverage of U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz that promotes a politician who is supported by the website's owners, NewsGuard has determined that DailyWire.com does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

In earlier reviews of the site, NewsGuard found that Daily Wire had published misleading headlines. For example, the claims in a December 2019 headline, "STUDY: Oral Contraceptives Linked To Shrinking Brain Sizes," were refuted by the study's author. Dr. Michael Lipton, director of radiology research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, told Vice News that his study had not made the conclusion that the Daily Wire claimed. The study actually found an association between

using birth control pills and a smaller hypothalamus, a small part of the brain that helps regulate hormones, among other functions.

After it was contacted by NewsGuard in 2020, The Daily Wire revised its headline to say, “Study Finds Using Oral Contraceptives ‘Is Associated With Smaller Hypothalamic Volume.’”

A November 2018 headline, “REPORT: One-Third Of Migrant Caravan Sick: HIV, Tuberculosis, Chickenpox,” exaggerated how many people in a group of Central American migrants in Tijuana, Mexico had been diagnosed with those three diseases. According to a Tijuana Health Department official cited by Fox News, there were “three confirmed cases of tuberculosis, four cases of HIV/AIDS and four separate cases of chickenpox” among the 6,000 migrants in Tijuana. The “one-third” figure cited in the headline was based on 2,267 migrants that Fox reported were being treated for any health-related issue.

The Daily Wire also revised the headline in July 2020 in response to NewsGuard’s inquiry, and added a note to the top of the article that said, “Roughly a third of the caravan is reportedly being treated for health-related issues, not for necessarily being ‘sick.’”

In its November 2020 review, NewsGuard found that the majority of headlines published on the website were not misleading or deceptive, including headlines on articles that otherwise contained false or misleading claims. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that DailyWire.com now generally avoids deceptive headlines.

Transparency

The Daily Wire discloses its ownership by Bentkey Ventures LLC and its four co-owners on the site’s About page.

Boreing, the Daily Wire’s co-CEO, told NewsGuard that Farris Wilks does not have any influence in the site’s editorial decisions. “I’ve never had a single conversation with him about editorial,” Boreing said.

The site does not disclose Farris Wilks’ financial support of a PAC that supported U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz. However, because the site’s About page clearly identifies the site’s co-owners and Wilks’ support of the Daily Wire, NewsGuard has determined that it does not fail to meet NewsGuard’s standard for disclosing ownership.

The About page identifies the Daily Wire’s CEOs and editor-in-chief. The Contact Us page provides a general web form for questions.

Articles are generally credited to their authors, with biographies provided on their author pages. Individual contact information is generally not provided. Summaries of the Daily Wire's podcasts are often credited to "Daily Wire Staff."

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

History

Shapiro founded the Daily Wire in 2015 with an initial investment from Farris Wilks. The site was originally owned by Forward Publishing LLC. The company changed its name to Bentkey Ventures LLC in 2019 because, according to Boreing, "we got a letter from the people behind Forward magazine, the Jewish publication, challenging our right to use Forward Publishing as a name being in violation of their trademark."

Shapiro resigned from Breitbart in 2016 along with reporter Michelle Fields, who said that she had been roughed up by Trump's then-campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, at a campaign event. Breitbart initially reported the incident in a way that cast doubt on Fields' account.

Shapiro stepped down as the site's editor-in-chief in 2020, becoming editor emeritus. Boreing said Shapiro's responsibilities as podcaster, radio host, and author made it difficult for him to be an active editor-in-chief. "In the first days of the site, Ben would assign 95 percent of every story to the writers," Boreing said. "Over the last two years, that's really not been the case."

Correction: An earlier version of this Nutrition Label said that both Farris and Dan Wilks owned the Daily Wire's parent company. While Farris Wilks is a co-owner of that company, Dan Wilks does not have an ownership stake. NewsGuard apologizes for the error.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Dec. 10, 2020, with new examples of the site's content and to reflect NewsGuard's determination that the site now meets NewsGuard's standard for avoiding deceptive headlines. It was previously updated in July 2020, and its rating was changed to reflect NewsGuard's determination that DailyWire.com now meets NewsGuard's standard for revealing who is in charge and disclosing ownership. The criteria checklist was adjusted accordingly.

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Example of author bio: <https://www.dailywire.com/author/ryan-saavedra>

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