

## Letter to the Editor: A doctor's point of view

Written by Gallupsun Staff  
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Dear editorial staff,

I try to grab a copy of the Gallup Sun when I see it, and I follow you on Facebook. Thank you for helping me stay up to date on local news.

I am writing to you regarding two sections in your July 31st issue.

First, while I commend you for including diverse viewpoints in your Opinions section, I am disappointed you chose to print "Return America's foundational freedoms" by Melissa Martin. Not only is it poorly written and full of unsubstantiated, partisan claims, it is absolutely inappropriate for a Gallup newspaper. To make her point that "it's essential that citizens start listening less to the alarmist Anthony Fauci", she quotes the Heritage foundation, stating "the spread of COVID-19 in the U.S. has been heavily concentrated in a small number of states-- and among a small number of counties within states". McKinley County is one of those counties!

I am a physician and have cared for numerous patients who have been affected by this disease. Some families have lost multiple relatives. I have witnessed firsthand the suffering COVID-19 has caused in our community. I find it extremely insensitive and offensive that you would print an opinion by an outsider whose callous view is that COVID-19 is somehow not a big deal.

Second, I read your "Weekly Police Activity Reports" with dismay. The second report, "Family Dispute", is a sad story about a young man struggling with alcohol addiction. I hate to think how he or his family felt reading about their private problems in a public newspaper. Alcohol addiction is a disease. I have treated a lot of patients just like that young man. Publicly shaming him and embarrassing his family is unfair and may only make things worse for them.

***Thank you for your time,  
Elizabeth Mann M.D.***