

Chris Taggart

From: Robert Ratcheson <rar@case.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Michael Reid
Cc: Rich Morrissey; Judith Watkins; Jean Steele; Judy Morrissey; Louise Massie; Amy Arnold; Andy Massie; Donna Haglund; Tonia Bloom; Miki Kapor; Frederick Tossberg; Milly Tosberg; Roger Ahrens; Ravalli County Commissioners Office; Peggy Ratcheson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: A bothersome Missourian article

Before sending this off to the Missoulian I think this ex Missourian needs a copywriter.
Darn spell check.

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 16, 2020, at 5:29 PM, Michael Reid <mcr84days@gmail.com> wrote:

In the words of Issac Asimov; “There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.’”

You will never convince these feeble minded people that their ignorance is the source of their confidence, and unfortunately criminally pathetic disregard for science. Stay safe everyone!

On Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 3:23 PM Robert Ratcheson <rar@case.edu> wrote:

Friends, This morning an article was published in the Missourian. It was written by Perry Backus and among other things it pointed out the growing local incidence of Covid and the failure of Ravalli county to have a meaningful plan to deal with the pandemic. While those responsible for the public health of the county claim a lack of resources is the reason for this it is apparent that lack of knowledge, empathy, will and misguided philosophy is more likely why CDC guidelines are not being followed or enforced. While it is easy to ignore the irrational ranting of some it is much more alarming to hear that Jeff Burrows, the health boards chairman is the only board member to not wear a mask. Burrows, a brave man, states that he is not afraid of the virus and knows 8-10 people who had COVID-19 and all had symptoms similar to a cold or flu. Fortunately it seems that he did not know any of the 250,000 Americans that have died from the virus. It is obvious that the claims of individual liberty that are so important to Mr. Burrows do not extend to those most susceptible to death or serious comorbidity. The prevailing attitude of the anti mask group may be that they are being duped or that it is mostly old people who become seriously affected and are going to die anyway so why give up the liberty to be mask free and not social distance for the doomed.

I am not aware of Burrows background in public health, medicine or infectious disease but it is clear that the health board should be led by a person who believes in protecting the freedom from unnecessary suffering by vulnerable citizens and who possess the necessary scientific knowledge to effectively carry this responsibility out. It is clear that there are dedicated members of the board who also believe this.

The most recent data indicates that Montana has a case rate of 93 cases per 100,000. Ravalli

county 37 per 100,00. The state of Washington which believes it has reason to institute severe restrictions and has is at 23 /100,000.

We have a long way to go before this is over and deserve to be led through these increasingly dangerous times by public officials who, despite their personal philosophy, realize that their primary obligation is to the health and well being of those they were elected or appointed to serve.

Robert A Ratcheson MD

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