

JEFF WAGNER: It's 1:08, Jeff Wagner, WTMJ.

So, Erik Bilstad, I blame you. I was looking at the WTMJ Facebook page and I saw Saturday night that you and our general manager, Steve Wexler, and our new program director, and I think it was our executive producer --

ERIK BILSTAD: Yep.

JEFF WAGNER: -- you guys all decided to take the company tickets and go to the Bucks game.

ERIK BILSTAD: Yeah, we did well, didn't we?

JEFF WAGNER: Worst Bucks game of the year.

ERIK BILSTAD: Oh, yeah.

JEFF WAGNER: Boy, I'll tell ya, talk about laying an egg. All I can say is, I'm glad that you weren't at the Marquette game earlier on that day.

ERIK BILSTAD: Right.

JEFF WAGNER: That's where I was and stuff, because -- I mean, the Bucks still have the best record in the NBA, so we can afford a loss, but we needed that big win against Villanova, so.

ERIK BILSTAD: That was -- that was a pretty fantastic finish there at the end of that game.

JEFF WAGNER: It was, you know, I mean, earlier that week, they had lost by one point to St. John's.

ERIK BILSTAD: Right, yeah.

JEFF WAGNER: And I walked out saying, well, St. John's played a better game, they really controlled the game. And Marquette had a chance to steal it, but St. John's outplayed them. I felt the opposite way Saturday. Marquette really, I think, dominated that game and they deserved to win. But I tell you, Fiserv Forum was just rocking, it was National Marquette Day, and it was great.

I told you this beforehand: sitting behind me -- I have season tickets, and one row right behind me, a couple seats over, his honor the mayor --

ERIK BILSTAD: Hey, all right.

JEFF WAGNER: -- Tom Barrett. We had -- actually, Tom Barrett and I go back a long way and we had a nice, just a brief conversation.

ERIK BILSTAD: Sure.

JEFF WAGNER: He saw me before I saw him, he kind of like pats -- I was going to say pats me on the back, he more like slaps me on the back, but it was okay. And I just kind of said, yeah, it was a tough week. And he said, yeah, it was a tough week.

But we go back to -- we go back to Federal courts, when I started working in the U.S. Attorney's Office, he was a law clerk for the late Robert Warren, former attorney general and he was a federal judge. And Bob Warren was just the greatest guy in the world. So that's how far Tom Barrett and I go back, and the one thing I will say about Tom Barrett is that we disagree about policy matters, but I think he understands it's not personal.

ERIK BILSTAD: Right.

JEFF WAGNER: And so I appreciated that.

Okay. Speaking about law and things like that, we have something exciting going on. On every day, the first couple segments of the program we live stream, [facebook.com/620wtmj](https://www.facebook.com/620wtmj). Well, this is Court Reporting and Captioning Week, and our friends at eCourt Reporters, they did a transcript for us on Insight last year, and Karen,

who is the president of eCourt Reporters, she's in the studio. And a matter of fact, if you live stream us, [facebook.com/620wtmj](https://www.facebook.com/620wtmj) -- and, you know, it really is kind of like beauty and the beast, you can check it out, I'm wearing my Marquette pullover -- but Karen Renee is here, and she is going to be doing a transcript of the part of the program that we put on Facebook Live.

So you can check that out, and that will be posted when we post the video a little bit later on, so it's very cool. So if you tune in, what you'll see is a slightly different view than we typically do, normally the camera is just focused on me, but now we've got our court reporter.

Again, it's eCourt Reporters, and Karen and Judy, who are the president and vice president respectively, are here. They've been running different spots, you can hear a little bit about their business, that's been going on during the day as well. So first couple segments, we're going to be having transcriptions. How cool is that?

In addition, if you follow me on Twitter, @jeffwagner620, a number of different

Tweets that we'll be talking about. Some of the things that we're going to be covering on today's program, one in particular that is going to come up during the one o'clock hour of the show, there was a very, very popular cartoonist, does a comic strip called Non Sequitur, it runs in over 700 newspapers. Well, yesterday the guy decided to put, what we will call, an Easter egg in the cartoon and the Easter egg contains a very, very bad word directed at President Trump. Now, if you want to see the cartoon -- I'll describe it during the one o'clock hour of the show, but if you want to see it, you can follow me @jeffwagner620wtmj, because we've got that, again, I sent that out. So far, only one newspaper has dropped the column because of this. And we're going to be discussing if somebody had done something like this when President Obama was president, my guess is every newspaper in the country would have dropped that strip, but yet you can put inappropriate words in the Sunday paper when it involves President Trump.

We're going to be talking about that in the one o'clock hour of the program, but like I say, if you want to follow me, you can follow that, it's @jeffwagner620, we sent it out.

Okay. Let's get started. I want to dovetail on something that Steve Scaffidi was talking about a little bit earlier in his program, but it's something that I feel strongly about and it's where I want to start.

Essentially, in 2000, measles had been eradicated in this country, effectively. Why? Because we had developed vaccines which ended measles. Kids did not get sick anymore because of this vaccine. What's happened over the last 20 years or so is that measles has started to make a comeback, in part, because more and more parents have decided they want to opt out of the vaccine.

Currently in nine states, there is a measles epidemic which is raging. In Wisconsin, here are the numbers: what scientists aim for is 95 percent vaccination rate. They figure if you get 95 percent of kids who are vaccinated, that's going to kick in what they call a herd mentality. So as a result of the herd mentality, most people will be immunized, it will not be a problem. In Wisconsin and in 17 or 18 other states, you, meaning a parent, can opt out of having your kid vaccinated. The law says kids have to be vaccinated, but in Wisconsin and 17 and 18 other

states, you can opt out of that, not just, number one, for a medical reason, but number two, for a reason of personal conviction, "I don't like the measles vaccine. I heard Jenny McCarthy on TV talking about it," whatever. So as a result, more and more people have been choosing to do that.

Let me give you the numbers: like I say, the goal is you want to have 92 percent -- 95 percent of kids vaccinated. Right now, today in Wisconsin that number is down to 92 percent. Some of that is because of medical waivers, but 5.2 percent of the people who have chosen not to be vaccinated are because of this just personal conviction thing. Mom and dad decide I have a personal conviction -- there's no medical reason, but I have personal conviction about vaccines. And that's up from about 3 percent about seven or eight years ago.

So the trend is, number one, measles is making a comeback, and number two, more and more parents are deciding in Wisconsin and in some of these other states that they want to opt out.

Our number, 414-799-1620, that is the Accunet Mortgage Talk and Text Line.

I think it is absolutely ridiculous --

and I understand I'm going where angels fear to tread -- that this disease is making a comeback, because without any sort of medical reason, parents are making the decision not to have their children vaccinated. And I think the law needs to change, and I think it needs to change yesterday.

414-799-1620, that is the Accunet Mortgage Talk and Text Line.

Do we make it too easy for parents not to have their kids vacationed?

And, again, we are live streaming [facebook.com/620wtmj](https://www.facebook.com/620wtmj). We've got our friends in here from eCourt Reporters, they're going to be doing a transcript. Check it out.

We're back with your calls in just a moment. 12:16, Jeff Wagner, WTMJ.

(Commercial break.)

JEFF WAGNER: 12:18, Jeff Wagner, WTMJ. Our number, 414-799-1620. We're live streaming [facebook.com/620wtmj](https://www.facebook.com/620wtmj).

As I mentioned, our friends from eCourt Reporters are in and doing a transcript of the first couple segments of the program, Karen and Judy are with us as well.

All right. We're talking about

vaccinations. Measles, there is an outbreak of measles going on right now in nine states. In Wisconsin, because we allow parents to opt out of vaccines for no medical reason, no religious reason, just personal conviction, what's happened is the number of kids who have been vaccinated has now dropped below where they think you need to be for that herd mentality. And I think, to me, it is absolutely ridiculous that we are now at this point where a childhood disease, which was essentially eradicated, is now making a comeback. And I'm particularly scared about the kids, for example, who are going to be exposed to measles who do have the health issues and they can't get the vaccines or they're too young to get the vaccines, and so they're exposed, whether it's a daycare or a kindergarten or whatever, to kids who have the measles.

414-799-1620. Let's start with Mike, downtown.

Mike, you're on WTMJ, good afternoon.

CALLER MIKE: Hey, good afternoon.

Yeah, of course the kids need to be vaccinated because what happens if they don't get vaccinated is the virus turns into some type of mutant

strain. And now all of a sudden they have to create a whole new vaccine all together.

JEFF WAGNER: Right.

CALLER MIKE: And we don't want another -- not to mention, we don't want another epidemic.

JEFF WAGNER: Well, and that's -- I mean, and that is precisely what is happening in a number of states. Washington State right now, Oregon right now, they are going through measles epidemics.

And, again, I understand for a lot of people, you say, okay, measles is a common childhood disease, you get measles, you're uncomfortable for a week or whatever and then you get better and then you've got that immunization. The problem is, let's say your kid comes down with measles, your kid is at daycare or whatever, or kindergarten, and runs into a child who can't get vaccinated because, well, they're too young or they've got the health issues, in that case, you know, when that child comes down with measles, it could be a life-threatening situation.

Let's talk to Kelly in West Bend.

Kelly, you're on WTMJ, good afternoon.

CALLER KELLY: Hi, Jeff, thanks for

taking my call.

JEFF WAGNER: Yes, ma'am.

CALLER KELLY: It seems like not vaccinating your kids has almost become kind of a trendy thing, for lack of a better word. And I would say the drive of social media has a lot to do with it. It's just celebrities that come out and say that they don't think it's safe to vaccinate their kids because it leads to autism and all sorts of different things, but there's no real medical research to back that up. So you've got people that want to believe the celebrity over their doctor --

JEFF WAGNER: Right.

CALLER KELLY: -- and they're down a very dangerous road.

JEFF WAGNER: Well, and of course what happened a number of years ago is there was a now completely and totally discredited study that came out that suggested there might be some link between the vaccinations and autism. And so now everybody kind of jumped on that bandwagon not realizing that -- everybody now realizes that was a completely and totally discredited study.

And then to your point, you have like

the Jenny McCarthys of the world that go on Ellen or whatever show and they say, "Well, I'm convinced that the reason my child has this sickness is because they were vaccinated," and then it just kind of spreads like wildfire.

CALLER KELLY: Right. And I'm afraid we're listening to the wrong people.

JEFF WAGNER: Well, right. I mean, thanks for the call.

Again, I want people to understand, I understand that there are some people who cannot -- some children who cannot be vaccinated because of the health reasons, and for those, it is complete and totally appropriate to opt out. But if it were only the kids that had the health issues, which is a very, very small number, you would be well over that 95 percent of vaccination level that they want for the herd immunity they're talking about. The problem of course is, once you start in Wisconsin and in 17 or 18 other states, allowing people to just opt out essentially because they feel like it, what happens is when 5 percent of the people -- and that's what the numbers are, the most recent numbers I have -- 5 percent of people in Wisconsin with kindergartners

who opt out just because they feel like it; not because of medical reasons, well, you're already below that threshold for that herd mentality that you're trying for.

414-799-1620. Let's talk to Adam in Brookfield.

Adam, good afternoon.

CALLER ADAM: Yeah, good afternoon. So two solutions that will nip this in the bud, one, don't let the kids in school. If they're in preschool, let the parents sit home, they can babysit their sick kid instead of going to work. If they're in a real school, then bust them for truancy violations when the kid doesn't show up.

Secondly, if there's ancillary care required, the health insurance doesn't pay a dime. And that will get these kids in school with a vaccine -- with a vaccination, pronto.

JEFF WAGNER: Well, I guess, I mean, what do you say though to the parents who say, "Well, it should be my choice. I mean, I shouldn't be required to put something -- a foreign substance into my child's arm."

CALLER ADAM: You are correct except it has a detrimental effect on the vast majority of

the population that does get vaccinated.

JEFF WAGNER: Right.

CALLER ADAM: So that choice goes out the window.

JEFF WAGNER: Right. Thanks for the call.

If you want your child to be able to interact -- see, I agree with you. It's kind of like the old Star Trek II-thing where, you know, "The good of the many outweigh the needs of the one."

Again, I understand if there is a medical reason why a child shouldn't be vaccinated, well, I get that. But just this, "I want to opt out," the effect is that you are putting other people's children at risk when you do that.

Now, if you decide that you don't want to send your kids to daycare or you don't want to send your kids to preschool or you want to home school your children so you don't want to have them vaccinated, that's perhaps a whole different story. But if you are going to put them into the school-type of settings, I don't think it is unreasonable to expect people to have a

vaccination.

And I've been arguing this for years, but now the chickens -- if I can use this cliché -- the chickens are starting to come home to roost because now what you're starting to see is a large number of people who are getting this disease. The same thing has been going on in Europe, and it's back in a big time in several European countries as well. And this was a childhood disease which we essentially had eradicated.

414-799-1620. Dave in Waukesha.

Dave, you're on WTMJ, hello.

CALLER DAVE: Hey, Jeff, how are you doing?

JEFF WAGNER: Real well, thank you.

What do you think?

CALLER DAVE: Well, I think it should be mandated. I mean, look, whooping cough is coming back, measles is coming back, you know, whatever. And, you know, to use the argument, "Well, it's my choice," you know, blah, blah, blah, stuff like that, fine, then where's the choice of putting your kid in a seatbelt or -- you know what I mean?

JEFF WAGNER: Right. Well, sure. Yeah, we have all sorts of rules. Right.

CALLER DAVE: Yeah, and so, I mean, it really kind of comes down to, no, I think they shouldn't be allowed to be in school, in public. If they want to home school them, like you said earlier, home school them, fine, knock yourself out, you know, whatever. But if they're going to be in public, there's not some medical reason, proven medical reason that they can't get --

JEFF WAGNER: Right.

CALLER DAVE: -- immunized, then they have to be. I mean, that's just the reality of it.

JEFF WAGNER: Yeah -- no, I'm with you, Dave. I mean, I agree.

Let's take a couple of our texts.

"It doesn't only affect children, Jeff, this exposure also affects elderly people."

Yeah, I mean, you have -- okay, you have a child that is not vaccinated who has the measles virus who, you know, you take them over to visit Grandma or Grandpa in the assisted living facility or the retirement community, and, you know, you're exposing elderly people to this as well.

Let's see, "Is it my right as a parent to ask the school if there are children not

vaccinated attending?"

I would argue, yeah.

Here's Mitch in Sturgeon Bay, says:

"It's quite irresponsible to opt out of vaccinations and possibly initiate a pandemic because you're misinformed or following a trend. I consider it to be very dangerous."

That's my point.

Okay. Here's another text: "Jeff, I'm allergic to the pertussis whooping cough vaccine. I will be risking my health soon to see if I can protect myself by getting it. Yes, it is way too easy to opt out."

Here is another one of our texters:

"Make it a state law for vaccinations in 49 states, all of the anti-vaccinating people can go live in California."

Well, okay, I want everybody to stay in Wisconsin, but I think it's too easy to opt out of this, and we are starting to see the effect of it. And when you see that the herd immunity, which the level is 95 percent, we are below it, is increasing on a dramatic basis -- we had this disease eradicated, and now it is making a comeback. And, to me, this is just silly that

this is occurring, and I think the state legislature needs to take a long hard look at it.

Okay. Thanks for participating in our Facebook Live. Thanks to our friends with eCourt Reporters. Once we post the Facebook Live, we'll also have a transcript of this segment as well. It's been fun.

12:27, Jeff Wagner, WTMJ.