

# Masks looked upon differently among all

My 95-year-old aunt is not happy about the mask mandate, in fact she will do just about anything to avoid wearing a mask.

I debated whether to visit her during my recent trip to Milwaukee to see my oldest daughter Laura because I was not sure it would be a good idea, given Covid 19. My aunt lives in a town house in Mequon.

So, I gave her a call a couple weeks before we were planning to go to Milwaukee just to gauge her comfort level. I quickly learned she was not concerned about Covid or contracting it and thought I was afraid I might contract it from her.

Well, why wouldn't you come to visit she asked me? Because of Covid and possibly exposing you, I said.



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



How silly was I, she replied, letting me know she would love to see me if I was not afraid to come see her?

So, this past Sunday, Laura, Andrea, Marissa and

myself, did just that, making plans to go to church with my Aunt Elaine.

The day before, on Saturday, Aug. 1, the governor put in place a mask mandate that all in the state must wear a mask, no matter where they were including church.

That did not sit well with my aunt, who made it clear when we arrived at her house that Sunday morning that she was not at all happy about the new mask mandate.

"This is going to start a civil war," she exclaimed, to which my oldest daughter asked her if she did not want this pandemic to end. "Well, of course, I do," Aunt Elaine replied. "I just don't want to wear a mask."

Laura on the other hand will do anything she has to

do to get Covid 19 to go away, wanting nothing more right now than to get back to in person classes and be able to walk across the stage at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee's graduation on May 16 where she will receive her master's degree in architecture.

To Laura wearing a mask is an easy task, and something she has no problem making sure her sisters comply with, constantly asking them if they had their mask during our weekend visit.

After ensuring that we all had our masks, we piled into our Ford Flex and headed about 10 minutes away to church. Once there, my Aunt of course, had her designated parking spot. As we pulled in, we realized we were early, so we just sat and waited for others to arrive. I think my Aunt was hoping she might not have to wear her mask.

To Aunt Elaine's chagrin, however all, others were wearing a mask.

So, she pulled her disposable mask out of her purse, a little dirty, caked with make-up and well worn, she tried her best to put it on.

"My ears are pierced, I wear hearing aids and now this dang thing, my ears are tired," She stated as she got it caught on her earring and then covered her eyes.

I thought about offering to assist, however, I knew better than to lend her a hand, as my Aunt is very independent. Instead I lowered the visor and opened the mirror so she could see better what she was doing.

As we went into church, there was a box of handmade masks on a desk in the entryway. I showed Aunt Elaine the various options and encouraged her to take one to replace her tattered disposable mask that she had commented she could probably iron.

Aunt Elaine continued to



use her tired mask, wearing it throughout the service. As we exited the church, she did stop at the box of handmade masks and take one made of Wisconsin Badgers material.

Like everyone, this Covid 19 has taken a toll on my Aunt as we all struggle to find the balance and work through the additional restrictions it is placing on all of us. She talked about a friend of hers who is in a nursing home and has been unable to leave her room since March.

"She is in prison," my Aunt said. "Her room is about the size of my dining room and living room and if she goes out of her room, she gets a 15-day addition added to her sentence."

She also does not understand the importance of social distancing and not being able to go where she wants, when she wants.

"Some people aren't following the guidelines," she said as she pointed to her-

self.

While life has changed for Aunt Elaine and all of us, I know she would never intentionally put anyone in harm's way, she just like us all wants it over.

And for now, instead, my Aunt Elaine is finding life is becoming even more restrictive as we drove into the campus at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon where a large sign said the campus would be closed to visitors beginning Aug. 3. Of course, my aunt had to question the security guard if that sign really applied to her, as she takes daily walks through the campus area.

Yes, the security guard told her, even you.

So, as my Aunt continues to find more restrictions in life, I pray she will keep her spirits up and realize that if we all mask up and social distance, hopefully this will be over sooner than later.

## Indianapolis man dies in Grant County crash

Monday, Aug. 3, at approximately 6:56 p.m., officers from the Indiana State Police and the Grant County Sheriff's Department responded to a four vehicle crash on I-69 near the 267 mile marker, in which an Indianapolis man died.

The preliminary crash investigation by Senior Trooper Jeremy Perez revealed that Mansharan Malhi, 23, Sydney, Nova Scotia was driving a 2020 Freightliner semi-tractor, pulling a box trailer, southbound on I-69. Timothy Mizell, 50, Wayne, MI was driving a 2001 Peterbilt semi-tractor, pulling a livestock trailer, southbound on I-69. He was driving behind the

Freightliner. Gary Byrd, 62, Indianapolis, IN was driving a 2018 Kia Sedona southbound on I-69 behind the Peterbilt. Charles Wright Jr, 62, Markleville, IN was driving a 2020 International semi-tractor, pulling a box trailer, southbound on I-69 behind the Kia.

The four vehicles encountered a traffic back up, near a work zone, at the 267 mile marker. The Freightliner, the Peterbilt, and the Kia slowed down, but the International did not. The International rear-ended the Kia, pushing the Kia into the livestock trailer of the Peterbilt. The crash impact caused the Peterbilt to rear-end the Freight-

liner.

Byrd was pronounced deceased at the crash scene. Wright Jr was transported to Marion General Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Mizell and Malhi were not injured.

This is an ongoing investigation. At this time neither the consumption of alcoholic beverages nor narcotics is suspected as having contributed to this crash.

Trooper Perez was assisted at the crash scene by the Grant County Sheriff's Department, the Vanburen Police Department, the Vanburen Fire Department, the Marion Fire Department, and the Indiana Department of Transportation.



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