

| MAYVILLE AREA |

Ride the Christmas Bus on December 4

The Christmas Bus will be traveling through the Mayville community on December 4, after the Christmas parade viewing the beautiful lights on houses. It will take off from the northeast corner of the Limestone Museum, located at the intersection of North Main Street and Buchanan Street. This is a totally free ride and will start at 6:30 p.m.

Interested individuals must sign up by calling 920-387-3568 and asking for Barb or emailing the request to Barb.Haessly@stjohnsmayville.com. Please reserve your space by Thursday, Dec. 2, at 4 p.m. Only if there is space, drop-ins will be allowed to ride. The ride will be no longer than 30-minutes. If there is a great demand, a later ride(s) will be offered.

The Christmas Bus is sponsored by the Mayville School District, Thrivent Financial and St. John's Lutheran Church (SJLS). Christmas music and light refreshments may be served. Pastor Mark Cutler of SJLS will be driving. Merry Christmas!

Mayville Public Library Happenings

EMILY DEAN
LIBRARY ASSISTANT

"Yum, Yum Cookies" Storytime

Storytime is back in December with "Yum, Yum, Cookies". Join us on Wednesday, December 1, at 1 p.m. or 6 p.m., for stories, crafts and snacks. Ages 3-6 are welcome to participate.

"It's a Wonderful Life" Library Events

The library will be celebrating Mayville's "It's a Wonderful Life" with extended hours and events for all ages. The library will be open on Saturday, December 4, until 4 p.m. We will kick off the celebration with Book Bingo at 12 p.m., followed by "Holiday Drinks," at 1:30 p.m. Participants will learn how to make non-alcoholic holiday drinks and discuss holiday books. For the little ones, we will have crafts available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 2 p.m., Ms. Claus will be visiting the library! To register for "Holiday Drinks" call 920-387-7910.

Tech Talk Tuesday – E-reader edition

Bring in your devices and learn about the electronic resources the library has to offer. Did you know you can download thousands of titles right to your phone with the library's electronic resources? Learn how to download and use these services on Tuesday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Cookie Decorating!

Drop-in cookie decorating! Just bring your creativity, Wednesday, December 8, at 3:30 p.m. Adult Savings Challenge

Budgeting doesn't have to be boring! Come find a perfect savings challenge to start your year off right on Tuesday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Storytime

Join us on Wednesday, December 15, at 1 p.m. or 6 p.m., for Christmas Storytime. Participants aged 3 to 6 are welcome to enjoy stories, crafts and snacks.

Lego Club

Kiddos aged 4-plus are welcome to join us on Wednesday, December 14, at 3:30 p.m., for Lego Club! Put your creativity to the test and try one of the challenges or make your own creation.

Heart of a Cardinal, Mayville's Zitlow Overcomes Heart Surgery to Suit-up at State

The MHS senior was nominated for a WIAA, NFHS Spirit of Sport award

CLARICE CASE
JOURNALIST

Mayville High School senior Nicholas Zitlow's greatest accomplishment this year is not being crowned prom king or even going to state for football with his teammates, but it is his recovery from open heart surgery that he underwent last March.

Zitlow, #42 as a defensive back with the state runner-up Mayville Cardinals football team, was born with a ventricular septal defect – a hole in the septum wall that separates the heart's lower chambers – as well as a bicuspid aortic valve, aortic stenosis and a leaking aortic valve; all serious conditions that severely inhibit the heart from efficiently pumping blood throughout the body.

His parents found out about his heart defects about a week after he was born. They learned early on that their son would likely need open heart surgery before he was 24 years old.

It was when Zitlow met with a new pediatric cardiologist that he found out he would now need the surgery by his high school graduation.

"I grew up and acted like everyone else," Zitlow said. "Even when I had my stuff, I felt fine, but they said something was wrong."

In December 2020, Zitlow went in for his first stress test. In February 2021, he had a cardiac catheterization. During catheterization, a balloon angioplasty was performed in an attempt to stretch Zitlow's narrow aortic valve. When he came back for another stress test a few weeks later, he learned the valve had returned to its previously narrowed state.

After the second failed stress test, Zitlow's surgery was set for March 18, 2021.

Around 5:30 in the morning on the day of the surgery, a small group of friends came down and surprised Zitlow his hotel in Madison. They spent 10 minutes wishing him luck before he left for the hospital.

"Totally unexpected," commented Nicholas' mother, Jodie Zitlow. "It was really nice to see them all."

Jodie and the family's wishes came true that day, as the surgery was a success. Zitlow spent 12 days recovering in the hospital post-op before returning home; just three weeks later he returned to school.

While Zitlow missed out on Mayville's football and baseball seasons of this past spring, he did not miss out on junior prom. He was nominated to be on prom court and was eventually crowned prom king.

"They said my name and all my friends cheered, and after that they lifted me on their shoulders," Zitlow said. "I didn't really expect it to happen."

As his junior year came to an end and summer began, Zitlow was cleared to play baseball for the Mayville American Legion Post 69 baseball team.

Though Zitlow enjoys baseball and football equally, he was chiefly excited to finally return to football. He started practicing with everyone once again when the season started in August, but he could not play in a game until he had surpassed the six-month mark post-surgery. As his teammates battled on the field, Zitlow waited patiently for mid-September.

Back in Action

Zitlow participated in his first football game of his senior year on September 17. The Mayville Cardinals played the Omro Foxes and won the game 42-11.

He has always enjoyed winning, but especially with his friends by his side.

Since that game, the Cardinals fought their way to the 2021 Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) State Football Championships.

"That's really amazing," Zitlow said. "Not many teams get to do that in their lifetime, and we get the chance to do it."

The Cardinals faced off against the Aquinas Blugolds on Thursday, Nov. 18, in the division five championship. After a hard-fought game, the Cardinals only fell two-points short of the Blugolds, 28-26, leaving Mayville the runner-up.

Heart is Set on the Future

Moving forward, Zitlow has been thinking about what he would like to do after graduation. He is



Nick Zitlow, center, celebrates with teammates Damien Hauglie, left, and Braedon Vollmer following the Mayville Cardinals' WIAA Level 4 victory over Belleville. Zitlow, an MHS senior, had open-heart surgery in March of this year. **Mitchell B. Keller photo**



MHS senior Nick Zitlow after open-heart surgery in March 2021. Zitlow recovered from the operation in time to join the Mayville High School Football Team for its state championship game run this season. **submitted**

planning to attend Fox Valley Technical College to study construction. He will start learning about residential construction and move on to construction management.

"He enjoys working with his hands," his mother Jodie shared.

Congratulations will be in order come June once Zitlow has graduated, but he has the chance to receive recognition for another honor before then.

Zitlow has been nominated for the WIAA and National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) Spirit of Sport Award sponsored by Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. The award is given to an individual or group who demonstrates "exemplary sportsmanship," "exemplary citizenship", and has overcome a "significant adversity or challenging circumstance."

The winner will be announced in April 2022.

"I was surprised to hear about it," Zitlow said regarding the nomination. "I was kind of nervous when I was told I was going to get interviewed, but I was thankful that they thought of me."

Zitlow also acknowledged he would not be who he is or where he is today without his parents and their constant support.

"Friends, family, coaches, teachers - all of them have come with me along my journey," Zitlow said.

"He had some bumps in the road, but has come out of this with such strength and determination," added his mother. "I am proud of him. He is a strong kid!"

For those that may relate to Zitlow's journey, he had some advice he wanted to share:

"Pursue your dreams," says Zitlow. "Fight through it, recover, and get back to doing what you love."

More information on the Spirit of Sport award is available at wiaawi.org/Schools/Spirit-of-Sport#64591627-2021-spirit-of-sport-award.