



# TRIBUNE-PHONOGRAPH

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## Sixth Annual Grant Smazal Memorial Blood Drive sets record

The Sixth Annual Grant Smazal Memorial Blood Drive took place on Friday and Saturday in Colby. The Friday blood drive was held at the Colby Lions shelter and the Saturday blood drive took place in the Colby Elementary School gymnasium. The blood drive set a new record, bringing in 166 units, smashing last year's mark of 148 units. Friends and family of the Smazals donated or volunteered, along with members of Versiti Blood Centers of La Crosse and Marshfield. Above left, from left to right is Erin Hennes, Jaycine Geiger, Brynia Geiger, Malorie Geiger and Gary Geiger. In the back row, left to right, is Dave Hennes, Robbie Smazal, Kylie Smazal, Melissa Smazal and Matt Geiger. Above right, Melissa and Robbie Smazal started the blood drive in honor of their son Grant. The Smazals have worked tirelessly through the last six years to raise hundreds of units of life giving blood. 50 donors were on hand for Friday's blood drive and 106 turned out for Saturday's blood drive. See more pictures of the blood drive on page 9.

STAFF PHOTOS/ROSS PATTERMANN

# Abby OKs park projects at Schilling subdivision

By Ross Pattermann

The Abbotsford city council convened for their monthly board meeting on Monday, and among the actions taken is something sure to make sports and dog enthusiasts happy.

The council gave department of public works supervisor Craig Stuttgen permission to make a pickleball and basketball courts, as well as install fencing for a dog park, on park property of the Schilling subdivision. As for the dog park, the council wanted Stuttgen to get a price for a fence for a dog park.

That will have to be brought back to council for approval before a dog park can go in.

"If you look at this basketball court and the pickleball court, if everyone is OK with containing this portion of the park, what I'd like to do for this year is get the basketball court and the pickleball court done," Stuttgen said.

Helping the council reach this decision was the fact that Stuttgen said the city's public works crew could do the job cheaper on their own than what engineering firm MSA had estimated.

"When we were doing budgeting we

talked about \$150,000 roughly for that," Stuttgen said. "The reason I picked out these two projects was you start to use federal grant money, there's so much fluff and so much waste that you don't get near as much bang for your buck."

Stuttgen suggested having Abbotsford's department of public works take care of the project. His reasoning being that it would save the city money, and it could be completed more quickly.

"I went through this estimate that we had gotten from MSA, and their cost for the two courts was \$69,000 to pour those in four inch. Kenny Bruesewitz has all

the equipment to do it and then our crew works with them on concrete projects. So what I did is made an estimate to do it at four inch at cost would be \$33,000. At five inch it would be \$39,000."

Stuttgen recommended a five inch pour to give it more resiliency and room for rebar to go in. "With that being said, we can save \$35,000 by just having our own crew to do it and doing the work that way."

Stuttgen also compiled a list of other ways the city could save money relating

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