

District sells Grace portable

BY SUB BUCK
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The Farmington School Board approved the sale of the used construction portable at William Grace Elementary, 29040 Shiawassee, to McCarthy and Smith Inc., construction engineers, Jan. 15. The sale price was \$7,000.

The purchasing department publicly advertised and mailed bids to numerous construction management firms.

In addition to advertising in the Observer Newspapers, notices were sent to the Construction Association of Michigan, Daily and Dodge Construction Reports and the Michigan School Business Officials website. The district received no sealed bids by the due date of Jan. 4, according to Paul K. Hain, whose department handles district purchasing.

"On Monday, Jan. 7, Bill McCarthy contacted purchasing to indicate that he planned to drop his bid proposal off on Jan. 4 but a meeting prevented it," Hain said in a memo. "He asked if the unit a William Grace was still available and that he was still interested in the purchase. I asked that he deliver his sealed proposal and that I would discuss the situation with Cheryl Cannon (assistant superintendent for business, finance and operations)."

After a brief discussion, it was decided that we sell the unit for McCarthy and Smith for the \$7,000 offering."



Lost, not found: Pat O'Brien's poodle has been missing since early December.

Woman looking for help in finding her lost poodle

BY KEVIN BROWN
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Come home, Missy.

The 2-year-old white poodle with a faint brown tint on her back has been missing since Dec. 3. She belongs to Pat O'Brien, 77, of the Grand Courts senior apartments complex on Grand River west of Drake.

Although O'Brien has passed out or posted stacks of pink and blue fliers with Missy's likeness, and knocked on doors at other area apartment and condo complexes, the dog is nowhere to be found.

"I've had other dogs. But she's the best dog I've ever had. She has a personality and she loves people," O'Brien said.

"She loved everybody. She was too friendly. Everyone here is still hoping and praying that Missy will just be found. She was the pet of the place."

Even though the poodle has been missing more than a month, "I still look every time I go out, talking to everyone, making a post of myself," O'Brien said.

O'Brien recruited a newspaper carrier who'd grown fond of Missy to help pass out fliers, and has also placed newspaper ads in hopes of retrieving the dog.

"I've been to Westland and out to Auburn Hills, to animal control places," O'Brien said. But Missy wasn't there. "I just miss her so much."

"It was her personality. She knew what I would say to her. I knew what she wanted just by looking at her," O'Brien said. "She was just a person-type dog."

On the last day Missy was seen, O'Brien had left the poodle at her apartment as she took her car in for service. "It was no

place for a dog so I left her at home."

"I left the doorwall open just an inch or so, probably more than that. She was able to squeeze through - probably after a stray cat or dog. She would go after it barking away."

Missy was wearing a dark blue, red and yellow collar with two silver tags. One had O'Brien's phone number, (248) 476-7775. The other was a Farmington Hills dog tag.

"She likes to jump on you. I was trying to break her. She always wanted to be petted, to be noticed. It's the best way I can describe her," O'Brien said. Missy stands around 18 inches to the top of her head and weighs roughly 5 pounds.

"The family keeps asking me when I'll get another dog. I don't have the heart to do it," O'Brien said.

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Engler to speak about broadband

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Gov. John Engler will be visiting the area to speak at a breakfast forum regarding Michigan's need for broadband - high-speed connections to the Internet.

The issue has been on the minds of city officials in Farmington Hills.

Held at the Walsh College Novi Campus on Tuesday, Jan. 29, the forum will be moderated by Matt Roush from WWJ Radio and the Great Lakes IT Report.

"Michigan needs more access to broadband," said Engler in a

statement. "Affordable, dependable, high-speed connections to the Internet are the key to new investment, jobs, education, job training, information and more. Broadband is the key to Michigan's future."

Recently, Farmington Hills Councilwoman Vicki Barnett suggested the city should investigate a way to bring high-speed Internet service to areas where it is lacking. She said the northwest section of the city doesn't have service, because Time-Warner Cable only installs where it proves profitable.

She said a Georgia city created

CLARIFICATION

How to help Jennifer Pettibone

A story in last Sunday's Observer should have included the following information on how to help Jennifer Pettibone, who suffers from the life-threatening disease arteriovenous malformation.

■ Attend the fund-raising dinner from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at Richardson Center, 1485 Oakley Park Road, between Haggerty and South Commerce in Walled Lake.

■ Donate money to the Jennifer Pettibone Fund, P.O. Box 930307, Wixom, Mich. 48393.

■ Call Ricarda Schmalzried at (248) 624-7972 to learn what else people can donate to help Pettibone.

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