

Safe Rides' mission: protecting lives



NICK SMITH/staff photographer

Farmington High student Sarah Lewis worked the Safe Rides telephone Friday night.

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person. Many student volunteers are members of their high school's SADD chapter.

Each participating school's SADD chapter pitched in to help cover the Safe Rides program's local budget of \$600, which covers training, first-aid kits and logbooks. Student workers are versed in program rules and responsibilities, CPB, alcohol awareness and defensive driving.

Farmington High students ran the base station last weekend. Billie Thompson, a Farmington High parent, oversaw base station operations

Saturday night. Calls are kept confidential, she stressed.

"We'll get young people home safely with no questions asked, with no reprisals. You don't even have to give us your name," she said.

"For all the obvious reasons, we'd just like to see all students who are intoxicated off the road."

Whether the Safe Rides service continues next school year depends on its success. "We're trying to see if there's a need," LeKovish said.

A local SADD survey shows a real

need. More than 70 percent of area students drink on weekends, the survey showed.

Thompson described the service as a "very caring program." "It's administered for students by students. It deserves support and help from the community. Hopefully, students will use it. But it won't do much good without their complete confidence."

This weekend, Harrison students will run the base station under SADD chapter advisor Maria Schneider's direction.

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