

Dolls from page A1

other great African Americans.

There was Harriet Tubman, conductor on the Underground Railroad. Her doll featured a rifle held across her waist. "She never had to use it, but she had it," Smith said.

There was Fanny Richards, Detroit's first African American teacher, whose classroom had grades one-six — one row for each grade. "She was a very fair-faced lady, but she could only teach kids who were unmistakably black."

There was Mary McLeod Bethune, who started a school for African American girls.

Augmenting the famous were the unknown, dolls of tribe members from East and West Africa. The table had many visual examples of African art and culture for the youngsters to experience, along with Smith's stories about life there.

"On each continent, you'll find people who dress different than us," said Smith, holding up the doll of a Zulu warrior.

Smith, a teacher in Detroit Public Schools, said she did extensive research before making the dolls. That's why the Fanny Richards doll has light skin color and why George Washington Carver's doll shows the scientist in a white lab coat, wearing spectacles and clutching a fistful of peanuts in his right hand.

The details bring credibility and authenticity to her work.

"The 3-D forms are to engage the kids more in learning," Smith said between two of her Wooddale assemblies. "My



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LAMBERT
Making a point: Betty Smith did extensive research about famous African Americans before turning them into dolls.

first doll was George Washington Carver. I thought I could make him in an hour and it took me two years."

Wooddale principal Lasonia Jones invited Smith to bring her doll collection as a way to offer students a different way to learn about African American History Month. "The main reason for this is it will help children become more acquainted with African American history and to get a glimpse into other cultures, bits of African culture."

But Jones also knew the guest would be a hit with the young audience. "She's a vivacious lady who holds the attention of all the kids, right to the last minute."

POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

FIRE

In Farmington Hills: Stations 3 and 5 were called to a fire at Specialty Steel Treating on Sunnydale Street at 7:21 a.m. Feb. 28. Flames were shooting through the roof and there was heavy smoke when firefighters arrived. A crew of 30 firefighters extinguished the blaze. Fire investigators are investigating the cause. No damage estimates were available.

AUTO THEFT

In Farmington Hills: A 1964 Dodge Stratus was stolen from the lot at Bob Soka on Grand River between Jan. 8 and Feb. 3.

A \$20,000 yellow and black 1995 Ford Mustang was stolen from Strawberry Lane Apartments between Feb. 24-25.

A white 1988 Cadillac was stolen from a Middlebelt Road residence between Feb. 24-25.

SHOPLIFTING

In Farmington Hills: A store clerk saw a man shove a bottle of vodka and a frozen pizza into his jacket and noticed he had several bottles in his pants at Rite Aid on 14 Mile Feb. 25. When she told the man to come with her, he said "I don't think so" and ran off, smashing the bottle of vodka on the floor.

THEFT

In Farmington Hills: An AM/FM CD stereo was stolen from a 1997 Chrysler LHS parked at Hunter's Ridge Apartments between Feb. 23-24, causing \$750 damage.

A cellular phone and an unknown number of compact discs were stolen from a 1998 Jeep Cherokee parked on Bayberry between Jan. 25 and Feb. 20.

A .20 gauge shotgun and Browning shotgun were stolen after entry was made through an unlocked door at a Whittington Street residence Feb. 24.

A book bag containing three graphic calculators and an AM/FM radio was stolen from a student at North Farmington High Feb. 13.

About 27 truck tires worth \$5,562 were stolen from Tom Holzer Ford on 10 Mile and Haggerty between Dec. 23 and Jan. 7.

Two pagers and a cellular phone were stolen from St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher on 12 Mile Feb. 10.

Four pieces of audio equipment worth \$1,600 were stolen from a garage on Ridgedale Feb. 26.

CASH STASH STOLEN

In Farmington Hills: Between \$200-\$400 in cash was stolen from a storage area at North Farmington High Feb. 4. A teacher became aware of the theft after receiving an anonymous letter that described the incident. The teacher told her class about the theft and a student approached afterward offering to repay \$60 he'd admitted stealing. A second suspect named in the letter is believed to have taken \$200. The money was from student and school fund-raiser.

DRUNKEN DRIVING
In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Southgate man, 43, for drunken driving on a northbound Haggerty at 1:40 a.m. Feb. 25. Police stopped a 1996 Ford Windstar after it was weaving on the road. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .13 percent. It's illegal to drive with a blood alcohol level of .10 percent or more.

Police arrested a Farmington Hills man, 41, for drunken driving and refusing to take a breath test during a traffic stop on westbound Grand River and Halsted at 9:45 p.m. Feb. 26. Police stopped the 1986 Nissan after it

was weaving on the road. The man's license was suspended due to a ticket in Taylor.

In Farmington: Police arrested a 62-year-old Wixom woman for drunken driving after she was stopped about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday at Freedom and Halsted roads. The woman was driving westbound on Freedom at a high rate of speed when officers spotted her. She registered .14 on a preliminary breath test. A court date was set for 9 a.m. Monday.

A 28-year-old Detroit man was arrested for drunken driving following a traffic stop about 11:30 p.m. Monday. The man was weaving in his lane on eastbound Grand River when spotted by police. He blew .23 on a preliminary breath test. There was no court hearing date set as of Friday.

VANDALISM
In Farmington Hills: Both headlights and a windshield were broken on a 1994 Jaguar parked at U.S. Carbine and Tool on Middlebelt Feb. 24, causing \$350 damage.

MARIJUANA POSSESSION
In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Livonia man and a Walled Lake man, both age 22, after finding 4.5 grams of marijuana in the 1974 Chevy they were traveling in on eastbound Grand River near Eight Mile Feb. 24.

BURGLARY
In Farmington Hills: Four computers and two monitors were stolen after the front doors were pried open at Triad Performance on Northwestern Highway between Feb. 25-26, causing \$100 damage.

ATTENDED BURGLARY
In Farmington Hills: A rear glass door wall and screen were damaged in an attempted break-in at a Kirby Street residence between Feb. 16-22.

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section is offering information
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