

IN BRIEF

Make a masterpiece

ATENTION, all artists (or those who would like to be): Create your own masterpiece in the "Fun With Plaster" program sponsored by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

The program, intended for people of all ages, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, under the green-and-white striped tent at Grand River and Grove Street in downtown Farmington.

Personnel will be on hand to help participants select from a variety of plaster items. The artists-to-be can paint and adorn their creations as they wish. Cost is \$2 per masterpiece.

The program is the eighth in the 10-week Summer Fun Series sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority, an agency of the city of Farmington committed to maintaining a vigorous downtown district while retaining a small-town atmosphere.

'Circuit Riders'

THE CIRCUIT Riders' is the theme for the Vacation Bible School of Nardin Park Methodist Church in Farmington Hills this summer.

The school will be held July 29 through Aug. 2 at the church, 29877 11 Mile Road, between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads. Horses will be used in the dramatizations of the old-time circuit-riding preachers, said the Rev. William Ritter, senior pastor of the church.

To register, call Bev Miller at 476-8860.

She's re-appointed

THE FARMINGTON City Council has re-appointed Evambia Samra to a seat on the Farmington Area Arts Commission. She had told the city council that she would be interested in serving another three-year term when her present term expires on Aug. 16.

Samra, a 24-year resident of Farmington, is a painter whose work has been displayed at several one-woman shows at the Farmington Branch Library.

"I enjoy promoting the arts — music, poetry and drama, as well as painting," she said.

Hills woman dies in Livonia crash

By Janice Brunson
staff writer

A 63-year-old Farmington Hills woman "who was minding her own business" became Livonia's sixth traffic fatality this year after her car was struck head-on by another car as she waited to make a left turn at Eight Mile and Farmington roads.

Weltha Jane Ramsey was pronounced dead at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills shortly after the 2 p.m. accident Friday.

The other driver, a 43-year-old Wixom woman, is in stable condition at St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

Her passenger, a 35-year-old Florida

woman, was also treated at St. Mary.

"It's your typical intersection accident," said Livonia police Sgt. Thomas Green. "The light is changing and instead of being cautious, drivers speed up or disregard it. The yellow light means stop or if you can't stop, proceed with caution."

GREEN, WHO heads up Livonia's traffic bureau, said Ramsey was an innocent victim "minding her own business" at the time of the accident.

Ramsey, traveling west on Eight Mile, was not moving in the center turn lane when she was struck by the other driver who had swerved left into Ramsey's lane to avoid hitting a third driver turning

south onto Farmington.

Witnesses said the traffic light was yellow turning red at the time of the accident.

"Just because there is a traffic control device, you still have to be extra cautious," said Green. "People depend on the light instead of their own vision to tell them what to do."

"Whenever you turn left, you must yield the right of way to oncoming traffic."

Charges are pending the outcome of the police investigation, Green said.

Ramsey was wearing her seatbelt at the time of the collision. Police report the two women in the other car were not.

LAST YEAR, there were seven traffic fatalities in Livonia.

"If we keep up at this pace, we'll be 'way up over last year,'" Green said.

Ramsey, assistant manager of a card and gift shop, is a Michigan native who was born in Highland Park in 1927.

Survivors include daughter, Debra Sullivan of Walled Lake; sons, William of Farmington, Robert of Novi; one sister; one brother.

Funeral services were Tuesday in Thayer-Hock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Christopher Dodge of St. Matthew Lutheran Church officiating. Ramsey was a member of St. John Lutheran Church.



GUY WARREN/staff photographer

Marchello D'Anna of Farmington Hills checks the temperature of a grape juice-yeast mixture being heated on a science lab hot plate.

Girl Scouts enter the lab, encounter life as scientists

By Sue Mason
staff writer

Red shorts, a matching red striped shirt and fluorescent pink safety glasses.

Not quite what you'd expect a chemist to wear in the lab, but that's what Dr. Marilee Benore Parsons was wearing last week as she darted around one of the laboratories at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"Just call me Dr. Nig," she tells her budding scientists, calling out to those not wearing safety glasses.

PARSONS AND fellow scientists Dr. Judy Heady and Dr. Linda Fisher are running a summer day camp for 12 Girl Scouts in the seventh through ninth grades from throughout the tri-county area.

In their early teens, they spent five days at UM-D getting hands-on experience in science.

The camp, "Labcoats and Microscopes," was the idea of Parson, herself a former Girl Scout. She wanted to break down the stereotype of the woman scientist — the "old hag in the lab" — and encourage them to explore careers in science, said Wendy Hanson, communications coordinator for the Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council.

"It's been shown that the girls need to latch on to their interest at this age," she said. "By playing on their interests now and taking them into a working laboratory, the hope is to ignite a spark that will continue and lead them to looking into careers in science and mathematics."

The science day camp is a pilot program for the

scout council. If it works, it will become part of a larger program to turn girls' heads to mathematics and science, Hanson said.

PARSONS AND her cohorts planned a week's worth of experiments that showed the scouts how science is a part of their everyday lives — from making yogurt and fermenting grape juice to using beets, walnuts and marigolds to make dyes for a tie-dyed T-shirt and building a terrarium with fish, plants and fruit flies.

"Chemistry is related to all the things they do everyday," Parsons said. "Chemistry isn't a bad word; they eat and live with chemistry everyday."

Thirteen-year-old Erin Leclerc likes science, but admits one reason she signed up for the science day camp was to get away from her 10-year-old sister. A student at Pierce Middle School in Redford, she figured "it would be fun to play around with chemistry" that was until the bottle she and lab mate Carmen Russell of Detroit were heating up cracked.


A part of their fermentation experiment, the sizzling purple ooze on the heating plate produced a cloud of steam and the stench of burning grape juice and yeast.

"Ooooh, that's all the stuff on the bottom," Erin said as Fisher moved in to scoop up the cracked bottle to save some of the juice for the experiment.

A LOVE of science was a common denominator among the scouts at the camp. In fact, most of the girls

Please turn to Page 16



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Proper attire requested

For information: Southfield Community Relations Dept

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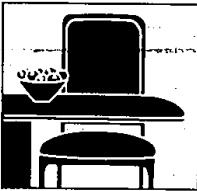
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