

## Mental health talks free

A free public workshop on mental health will be presented in two sessions beginning at 9 a.m. Monday in F-119 of the Auburn Hills Campus of Oakland Community College.

Jeanne Knopf DeLoche, founder of Knopf Institute, will speak in the morning on "Substance Abuse Prevention." In the afternoon, Dr. Mel Chudnot, OCC professor of social work, will speak on "Why Do We Help?"

Pre-registration is unnecessary, but seating is limited. Information about the mental health-social work program at OCC is available by calling the department at 853-4241.

## Chamber holds mixer

Businessmen and women are invited to meet and mingle at the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce member mixer beginning at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, in Kings Court, 2505 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available.

For Oakland County Chamber members, there is no charge. Non-members pay \$10. For reservations, call 644-1225.

## OCC schedules commencement

Commencement day will be Friday, June 9, for the 23rd graduating class of Oakland Community College.

The ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. in the Pontiac Silverdome for candidates who have completed requirements for associate degrees or certificates during the 1988-89 fall, winter, spring and summer semesters.

# Sheriff: Canine corps is too costly

Sheriff John Nichols is moving to disband Oakland County's canine unit by laying off the German shepherds.

"The dog handlers priced themselves out of the market," said Captain James Curtis, Nichols' chief of staff, summing up what is actually a labor case.

The public services committee of the county Board of Commissioners will meet March 9 to consider a resolution authorizing Nichols to disband the unit.

Chairman Richard Kuhn, R-Drayton Plains, said Nichols plans to re-

tain a golden retriever who is accomplished at sniffing drugs.

"The phone has been ringing off the hook. People are wondering if the dogs will be put to sleep," said Kuhn after Tuesday's committee discussion. "They'll be put in the animal care shelter and probably sold to the handlers for a nominal sum."

THE CASE arose from a court suit in Texas called Garcia vs. the city of San Antonio, said Capt. Curtis.

Bus drivers won back pay and overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act, saying they had been

required to maintain buses on their own time.

In Oakland County, the deputies had volunteered to take care of the dogs, Curtis said. But when they cited the Texas case and filed for two years of back pay, Curtis said Nichols decided the four German shepherds weren't worth the money.

The arrest rates of deputies with dogs were no better than those without dogs, said Curtis.

"The sheriff did a cost-benefit analysis and decided they weren't worth keeping on," said Kuhn. Costs mentioned in the committee session

were \$50,000 for back pay and \$30,000 a year in the future.

TWO OF THE shepherds are owned by deputies and leased by the county, Kuhn said. They will remain with their owners.

Two other shepherds were purchased by the county from Germany

at about \$3,000 apiece, he said. They will be housed in the county shelter until arrangements are made to sell them to the handlers.

They won't be available for sale to the public because they are "one-owner" dogs. "They're basically responsive to the trainer and tend to be aggressive," Kuhn said.



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