

Sheriff lake patrol to add 3 boats in '89

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Three patrol boats will be added to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department fleet in 1989 with the help of a state grant.

"It's a good investment. With the increase in population, we have in-

creased use of the lakes," Sheriff John Nichols told the board's finance committee last week.

"The courts have been extremely cooperative with those (boats) we've taken in. They've given stiff fines."

He said marine patrols who stop "ships of fools," or party boats, are

looked on "like pirates." But Nichols said the marine patrol is tough: "I'd rather have the FBI on me than the marine division."

SGT. ROBERT SMITH, full-time head of the marine division, said the new boats will join a fleet of 20, operated by 51 officers.

The state Department of Natural Resources offered to increase Oakland's grant by more than \$36,000. The county will match it with more than \$19, to purchase three boats with inboard-outboard engines.

The total of more than \$54,000 will pay for three boats, motors, trailers, sirens and police radios.

Smith said his division this year issued more than 2,000 tickets for boating violations — 20 or 25 percent of the state's total. Only a handful were arrested for drunken operation of boats, he added.

"Those pontoon boats are floating cocktail lounges," observed Commissioner Robert Page, R-Birmingham. Nichols agreed but noted that officers must distinguish between passengers and operators in making charges.

Smith said many tickets are being

issued to operators of "jet skis." He said they are the same kind of problem dirt bikes were 10 years ago. Smith said educational videotapes are being prepared for public access TV stations, and tougher laws are being sought.

ONLY THREE marine officers work year-around, Smith said.

The marine division costs the county \$492,000 a year, but Nichols said it brings back \$150,000 in ticket revenue.

Most heavily patrolled lakes, the sheriff said, are Cass, Elizabeth and Pine lakes, clustered in West Bloomfield and Waterford townships.

Besides patrolling lakes for speeders and drinkers, the marine safety program includes livery inspections, body recovery and public education.

IN OTHER business last week, the county board's finance committee made two recommendations to the full board:

- Awarding of two contracts totaling nearly \$330,000 for asbestos removal from county buildings. One contract for \$113,000 will go to Ogden-Allied Abatement and Decommissioning Services, Inc., of Chicago, and the other, for \$218,000, will go to Dependable Insulation, Inc., of Detroit. Work will be done at the county's Public Works, central heating plant, North Office, Troy Street and Oakland Avenue buildings.

- Agreed to put up a 25 percent county share for a sixth tornado siren for the city of Wixom. The city will put up 75 percent. Costs are \$3,881 to the county and \$11,842 for Wixom.



Music festival continues

The Detroit Chamber Artists will give the third concert in the Fall Festival of Music at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 851 N. Woodward at Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills, at 4 p.m. Sunday. The musicians who formed this group less than a year ago are, from left: Ervin Monroe, flute; John Thurman, cello; Fon-

taine Laing, piano and harpsichord; and Donald Baker, oboe. Monroe, Thurman and Baker are members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Tickets, \$10 general admission and \$7 students and seniors, are available at the door. The final concert, "Songs of the Season," at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, is free.

OU nursing degree is accredited

Oakland University has received initial accreditation for its master of science in nursing program.

Dean Andrea Lindell said the board of review of the National League for Nursing has reported its support of the master's program begun in 1984.

The OU baccalaureate program earlier received continuing accreditation from the National League of Nursing (March 1987), and the master's program is the fourth nursing program in the state to be accredited by this body.

The master's program prepares

professional nurses for advanced practice in either nursing administration or adult health nursing. Students can select a part-time program of study or complete the program in two academic years by going full time.

Safety belt usage hits 46 percent

Seat-belt use by drivers in the United States hit an all time high of 46 percent, Secretary of Transportation Jim Burnley said.

"It is gratifying to see belt use reach the highest point it has ever been in this country, but better yet, increasing public acceptance of safety belts is saving lives and preventing injuries," Burnley said.

"Among front-seat passenger-vehicle occupants (passenger cars, light trucks and vans), safety belts

saved about 4,000 lives in 1987. From 1983 through 1987, safety belts have saved nearly 11,000 lives — 6,900 due to belt use laws."

Burnley said the 46 percent use figure was based on 95,000 observations in 19 cities. No Michigan city was in the survey.

In 1982, before the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration began a campaign and issued a rule that encouraged states to adopt mandatory seat-belt-use laws,

only about 11 percent of drivers used safety belts. The survey was conducted between June and August this year.

"Americans today are safer on the highway than any time in recent history. The fatality rate, the best measure of your risk on the road, is 2.4 per 100 million miles of travel — the lowest in history," Burnley said.

"Drunk-driver fatalities have decreased 14 percent since 1982, and belt use continues to increase," Burnley said.

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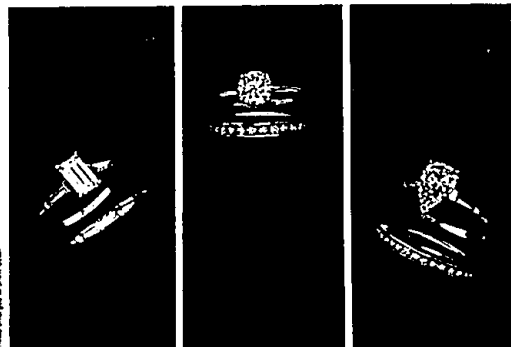
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