## Hearings set on medical insurance, smoking

Two legislative committees will travel to the suburbs for public hearing travel to the suburbs for public hearings on health questions.

The state Senate Judiciary Committee will hear testimony 8-11 ann. Tuesday on rising medical malpractice costs. The hearing will be in the Oakland County Commissioners auditoritem, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

And on. Monday, Sept. 9, the House subcommittee on public health will hear testimony on anti-smoking bills, are testimony on anti-smoking bills, and the control of the subcommittee on public health will hear testimony on anti-smoking bills, and the possible proposing legislative action because the possible proposing legislative action because of 1-275).

The Michigan Legislature is in recess until Sept. 18.

SEN. ALAN Cropsey, R-Dewitt, will

"Some doctors have seen their insur-ance rates Increase seven-fold since 1981," said Nichols, "and it looks like the trend is going to continue unless we can come up with a solution." Meanwhile, he said, some lawyers are opposing legislative action because they believe malpractice lawsuits al-low lajured persons to be compensated fairly, not excessively.
"As insurance costs go up and up, those increases are passed onto pa-tients in the form of higher fees. And as doctors become more cautious, they or-

'Some doctors have seen their insurance rates increase seven-fold since 1981 and it looks like the trend is going to continue unless we can come up with a solution."

- Sen. Rudy Nichols Waterford Republican

der more tests, which also raise the cost of health care.

"Another disturbing trend is the claity areas, such as obstetrics, which have particularly high insurance

costs."

Nichols said the committee had heard some "helpful, constructive" testimony in earlier hearings in Detroit, Marquette and Traverse City.

THE SMOKING hearing will be chaired by Rep. David Gubow, D-Oak Park, Topics are companion bills restricting smoking in public buildings. SB 186 was offered by Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Illis, and HB 4500 by Rep. Justine Barns, D-Westland, They are supported by the American Lung Association of Michigan. A Senate committee will hold a hearing 1:30-4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, in the 15th floor auditorium of the City-County Building. 2 Woodward, Detroit. It

will be chaired by Sen. Vernon Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids.

Besides the Barns-Faxon bills, the Senate panel will look at three other

Senate panel will look at time duter bills: B 215, to prohibit free distribution of eigaretic samples.

• SB 231, to prohibit free distribution of eigaretic samples.

• SB 231, to senate the creature of the samples of the samples of the sample of the sam

### Ladbroke gets 200 race dates; 88 for Northville

Up to 200 dates of thoroughbred racing will be conducted at Ladbroke F. the former Detroit Race Course in Livolia, du...g 1986.
"Ladbroke DRC is now, for the first time in 36 years, the only extended thoroughbred meet we have in the state." said State Racing Commissioner William S. Ballenger in announcing the schedule. The running track at 1-96 and Mödiebeit will have racing from March 21 to Nov. 16.
In addition, Northville Downs was awarded 83 dates of harness racing between Jan. 1 and April 12.

"THE 1986 allocation to Ladbroke provides them with the maximum number of thoroughbred dates for which they applied," Ballenger said in his Plymouth office. "If fully utilized, there could be more days of racing there in 1986 than this year." A British corporation, Ladbroke bought DRC from two Michigan owners who were forced by the state to divest because of multiple ownerships. "Results of contract talks iooming with the trace

Northville Downs' 88 dates represents 'a long-overdue increase of dates for their race meeting, the first such since 1976 . . .,' said Racing Commissioner William S. Ballenger.

service employees union and other factors may also affect the actual configuration of racing at DRC next year," Ballenger said.

DRC next year," Ballenger said.

NORTHVILLE Downs' 88 dates represents "a long-overdue increase of dates for their race meeting, the first such since 1976, when they had 67 dates," Ballenger continued.

He granted the Northville track the maximum dates in its request.

"The award for 1986 reverses a decade-long trend of steadily eroding the number of dates granted Northville Downs through manipulation of the calendar by the owners of Hazel Park and DRC," the racing commissioner said.

Average daily betting at Northville has increased almost 60 percent since 1976, even while their date allocation sharak 13 percent, Ballenger said. This was accomplished by adding matinees in 1984 and '85.

## Molting birds vulnerable

My wife and I are enjoying the new gen-eration of birds coming to our feeder

and a re enjoying the new generation of birds coming to our feeder again this summer.

The young birds perch in a nearby tree, fluttering their wings and anxiously awaiting their parents to bring them a seed. They remind both of us of our new daughter, sitting in her highenair and waiting for her next spoonful.

When the parents come to the feeder we can see that they look scruffy, with uneven feather arrangement and even gaps in the wings and tail where feathers have been lost.

As I walk through the yard, I can see some of those molted feathers on the ground. Most are wing and tail feathers.

EVERY YEAR birds molt their body feathers because they become worn and

feathers because they become worn audamaged.
Wing and tall feathers are lost in complementary pairs — the same position feather on the right aide and left aide. This arrangement allows the bird to continue its daily activities without an imbalance due to uneven feather loss.

Birds like ducks and geese are without flight feathers for several days. They are particularly vulnerable to predators at this time and, as a result, find some very

good hiding places.

A Cree Indian at Fort Severn on Hudson
Bay told me that he found molting black
ducks Inside muskrat dens. That sounds
like a safe place to hide to me

MOST BIRDS have 10-12 tail feathers and 9-11 outside flight feathers per wing. The total number of body feathers in birds varies depending on the size of the bird and the season.

Timothy Nowicki has a master's de-gree in biology and is actve in area en-vironmental groups.

### Guidebook gives senior services

"Caring and Sharing," a new guidebook to help Oakland County sentors and retirees find their way as available services. Is distributed free at the five offices of Catholic Social Services.
The offices are located at: 1858 E. Lincoln, Birmingham; 29625 Inkster Road, Farmington Hills; 1858 N. Milford Road, Hilpsland; 25 Franklin Blvd., Pontiac; and 1414 E. 11 Mile in Royal Oak.
The addresses were inadvertently omitted in a story in our Aug. 15 editions.



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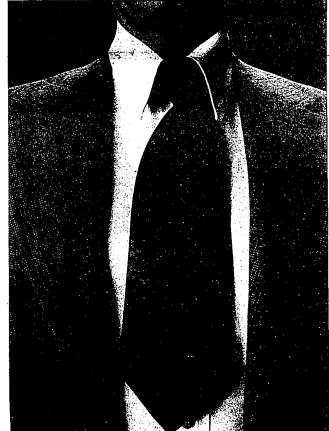
FRI., August 30th — 12:30 pm-5 pm; 6 pm-10:30 pm SAT., August 31st — 8:30 am-1 pm; 2 pm-6:30 pm SOUTHFIELD HILTON 17017 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Located between Greanfield & Southfield Rd.)

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Monday, August 26, 1985 . O&F.

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