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Email the LookOut Staff

LookOut Archives

In This Issue

- Early out is here
- Dr. Phil Show
- Green Team turns green
- **business briefs**
- Butts in the seats
- CED wins Lottery
- Comings & Goings & other such things
- Lansing State Journal database unveiled
- **AntiVigORous**
- Picnic cancelled
- Man on the Street
- Word scramble
- Please join us!

Calendar

August	
National Catfish Month	
Lazy Day	10
Relaxation Day	15
National Thrift Shop Day	17
Bad Poetry Day	18
National Senior Citizen Day	21
National Tooth Fairy Day	22
Just Because Day	27
Race Your Mouse	

## Early out is here

"There will, indeed, be an early out retirement incentive for state employees," announced **Ima Liar**, a spokesperson for the governor's office.

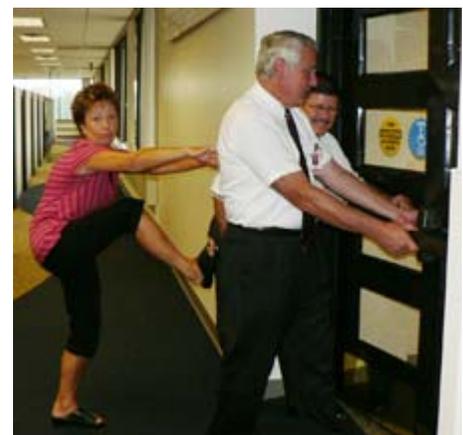
The bill, all 43,000 pages of it, passed the House and Senate in sessions extending from late last night to early this morning. It now awaits signature by Governor Jennifer Granholm. Although she is not expected to veto the legislation, she said she was "hard-pressed to find the time to read it."

**Emma Bellish**, legislative analyst, outlined the legislation. "As best I can tell, they're projecting this bill will save the state \$1.9 billion in one year and will completely balance the budget. It allows all state employees (except **Bill Motz** and **Dick Pennington**) in both defined benefit and defined contribution plans to retire with no service credit or age requirement and a 5% multiplier. I'm doing more research, but I think they're also entitled to free breakfast for a year at Denny's."

**Al Liance**, first-year Senator (Lansing) and primary author of the bill, said, "It's a win-win. We give an incentive to all state employees as a reward for their faithful service. We also we give money to schools, completely rebuild the Mackinac Bridge, and create a holiday for babies because no one can vote against babies. We do all this without asking Michigan taxpayers to pay even one dime more in taxes."

Who is going to pay the bill? The taxpayers of Ohio and Indiana will help, according to Al Liance. "Our law allows us to tap into those states' treasuries. Smart, huh?"

Although lawmakers are pleased with their work, union representative **Fare O'Deal** thinks the bill has serious flaws. "It sounds good on paper, but do you think state retirees will continue receiving pensions while Michigan is embroiled in a war with Ohio and Indiana? I'll bet they didn't think of that, did they?"



Early out responses were split; some tried running as soon as they heard the news, others will never leave no matter how hard we try.

Day	28
<b>September</b> <i>National Blueberry Popsicle Month</i>	
National Beheading Day	2
Be Late for Something Day	5
International Talk Like A Pirate Day	9
National Punch Day	20
Elephant Appreciation Day	22
Ask a Stupid Question Day	28

- On The Horizon
- Absolutely Nothing

**UNBalanced Scorecard**

[Click here to view the latest Unbalanced Scorecard.](#)



- Commonly Used Acronyms

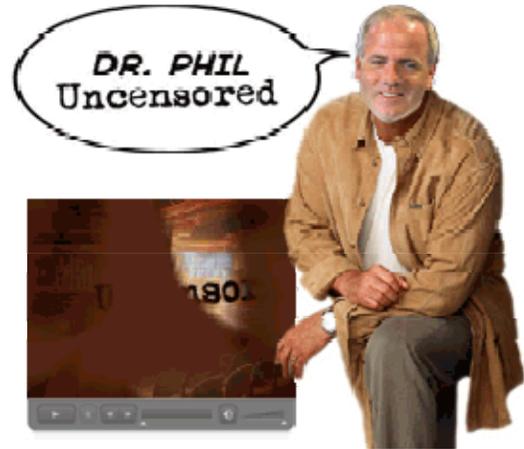
AST	Always System Tweaking
BLA	Best Left Alone
BPD	Big Paper Dumpers
BPL	Busy People Lover
BPO	Big Policy Orchestrator
CED	Constantly Eating Dessert
CSC	Constantly Saving Customers
DB	Disturbed Brats
DC	Doomed Customers
DIT	Diligently Ignoring Tickets
DMB	Doing Monkey Business

"Oh, yes we did," said Al Liance. "We've entered into a verbal military alliance with Canada."

**Stephen Harper**, Prime Minister of Canada, was unavailable for comment.

## Dr. Phil Show

WDRA Director **Phil Stoddard** recently announced that beginning next month he will be hosting a weekly television talk show. "Dr. Phil Uncensored" will air on local Access stations during prime time—every Monday morning at 3:00 a.m. The show will feature public pension celebrities and a phone-in segment for our retirement customers.



Phil said, "I expect that callers will consist only of happy customers who want to praise our services. So to add a little drama and spice, **Kathy Tober** and **Anthony Estell** have graciously offered to appear as regular guests. For the first show, they'll be singing and dancing 'The TDP Tango.'"

WDRA staff are encouraged to sell their Oprah stock, which has seen a dramatic drop since the Dr. Phil announcement was made.



## Green Team mysteriously turns green

WDRA's dedicated and hard-working Green Team shocked staff when they arrived at work recently with lime-colored complexions. **Mike Goodman**, **Elaine Lewter**, **Lisa Schmidt**, and **Erica Waltmire** were seemingly unfazed by their transformation, and even seemed to flaunt it.



Rumors began early on. Were they sick? Were they victims of a prank gone terribly wrong? Were they beings from a galaxy far, far away, strangely concerned with Planet Earth?

"I thought they were just die-hard Shrek fans," **Tim McCormick** speculated. "I wasn't really concerned."

EPC	Exhort Productivity Club
EPO	Eternally Perky Optimist
ER	Earnest Rascals
ORS	Office Ran by Stoddard
PRIM	Pointless Retirement Instruction Meeting
PRO	Prison Row Operation
PS	Protocol Snitches
SME	Statute-Minded Egghead
STG	Silly Toy Gurus
T&T	Tormented & Tortured
WDRA	We Do Rock - Always

Dr. Treehugger, radiologist from Michigan State University (Go Green!), says this is actually a common occurrence. "We have found an abundance of chlorophyll, the green pigments found in plants, in individuals who work hard to save the environment," he said. "It appears that the more they collect glass, Styrofoam, and other materials for recycling, the more their appearances mimic the plants and trees they are saving."

This strange, yet perfectly healthy phenomenon affects more than 435,987 ¼ people every year, but nobody flaunts it like the Green Team.

"I look good no matter what, but this shade of green really enhances the color of my lipstick," Lisa said.

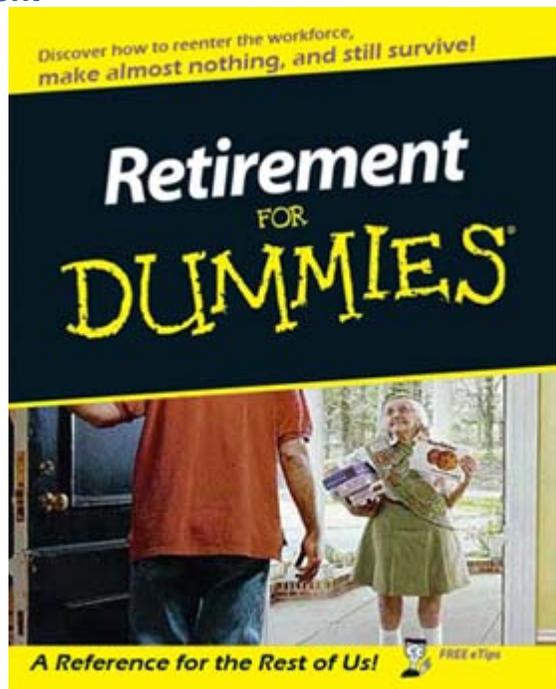
"I Love Shrek!" Tim McCormick said.

Do your part to help this dedicated team, but try not to gawk.



**New book illustrates retirement**

You asked for it—you got it! CED has created a new book to replace all Life Stage publications, regardless of retirement system. Whether a customer is green around the ears or has one foot in the grave, and whether they spend their working hours in a classroom, courtroom, cruiser, or cubicle, this easy-to-read, 7,000 page book will answer all their most burning retirement questions.



**Psychology key to customer service**

CSC has initiated a new psychological approach for handling customer inquiries in hopes of reducing its workload. For example, when an upset and confused customer calls about dropped insurance, the call center representative will respond by asking, "And how does that make you feel?" Customer satisfaction rates are expected to plummet.

**Trunk Monkey assists plan design**



After a careful round of eenie-meenie-minie-moe, BPD BPO **Brian McLane** finally decided it is no longer "cool" to manage retirement plans and has decided to turn over his position to **Trunk Monkey**.

"He seems really on top of things in all those commercials," commented Brian. "So why not?"

### Software addiction becomes problematic

A study of office staff and computer usage has led PS to launch a new support group—Microsoft Anonymous. The group's 12-step approach is aimed at leading compulsive users on the road to recovery.

1. We admitted we were powerless over Microsoft—that our privacy had become negligible.
2. We came to believe that a different operating system could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a list of all the software we used and became willing to use alternatives.

If you can relate to these statements, the complete article and 12-steps will save you!

### Budget woes hinder project

After receiving word that all state technology projects were being canceled due to lack of funds, the T&T folks have decided to go back to bare-essential technology that was proven effective by our earliest ancestors. Please bring in your own rocks, sticks, fur pellets, and other such items to assist with your daily work. Note: We recommend saving all paper items to use for fuel in the winter months.

### Stay tuned for your news brief

ER staff have decided to put a new spin on Employer "Reporting." Beginning October 1, ER will close shop to boring wage and service credit reporting to embark on their new roles as ace reporters for a local news station.



Technology enthusiast **Laurie Mitchell**



ER newscast pictured left to right: **John Wolf Donovan, Cindy Baba Wawa Adams, Beth Nina Nurentotenberg, Chantele Cokie Geisenhaver, Suzanne Roseannadanna Wright, and Kay-tee Couric Johnston.**

### Butts in the seats

For years, CED staff advertised PRIMs with a goal of getting "butts in the seats." The goal—"butts in the seats"—became a mantra of sorts. For CED presenters in the field, however, this mantra caused concern over what to count.

"All this talk about 'butts' is fine," said **Chuck Simpson.** "But I still count heads. These people, after all, are nearing retirement."

"I too count heads," said **Pam Kenney.** "By the time I get into the room, they're all sitting down. What am I going to do, ask them to stand up so I can count their butts?"

**Joy Bartell** also avoids counting

people's body parts. "I count packets," she said.

**Ray Fleming's** approach is even more indirect. "I just guess how many," he said. He quickly added, "But then I verify my guess with the number of names on the sign-in sheet. Yeah, that's it. That's how I do it."

Even with concern about what to count, CED presenters determined that 1,853,983,659 people attended meetings during the 2006/2007 PRIM season. (And all of them walked into the Lansing office during the month of June.)



Ray Fleming after asking for a show of butts at a recent video conference.

## CED wins Lottery's ginormous drawing

CED staff held the only winning ticket from Michigan Lottery's Ginormous Cash 5 drawing. The jackpot, worth \$12,446,373.50 less 25 percent federal withholding, will be split equally among the winners.

**Fred Covert** says he and the CED staff play all of the Lottery's jackpot games, and he vividly remembers the day of the drawing. "We had won \$6 on the previous night's Powerball® drawing, so we took our winnings, plus additional change we could scrounge up in the parking lot, and purchased tickets for that night's Ginormous Cash 5 drawing," Fred explains.

"The next morning we checked the numbers and when we realized we had won the jackpot we started screaming," Fred continued. "**Erica Waltmire** came running, anticipating the usual feeding frenzy at CED potlucks, and was sadly disappointed when she realized she'd run for nothing."



Luckily the disappointment was short-lived when she learned of their windfall.

"I can't wait to update my CitiStreet financial planner; I've been tormented by the 'cloudy' forecast when I use the advisor tool. Those nay-sayers can kiss my cloudy forecast goodbye," said **Connie Morse**, former state employee.

While WDRA is left with no communication or education staff (all 18 employees exited the building immediately after the check was cut), we presume we'll manage just fine. Who ever said communicating and educating members and staff was important?

## Comings & Goings & other such thingies

Please join us in welcoming **Olderthan Dirt** to WDRA. Olderthan retired from state service in 1949 and, after all of his shuffle-board buddies expired, decided to return to public service. As you can imagine Olderthan, or "Father Time" as



some call him, is old enough to have retired a few times over and can be considered a retirement guru. As such, we ask that you take any question about any policy or procedure on any topic to our new SME.

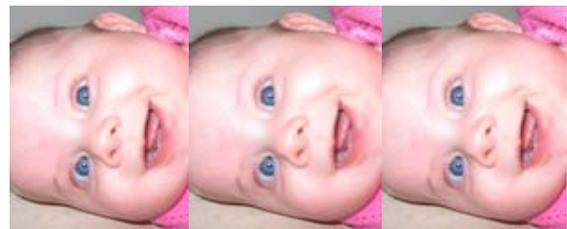


CED welcomes back **Foro Juan Kay**. Foro will be working directly on the CitiStreet DC plan and is only with our office for a few months before he flies south for the winter.

Best wishes to **Laurie Hill** and **Phil Stoddard** as they leave WDRA for their acting debut as Mouseketeers in an upcoming movie, "Mickey Calls It Quits," about Mickey Mouse's difficult decision to finally retire from Disney. Laurie commented, "Working at WDRA has given us more than enough experience to deliver a believable performance teaching that old mouse a thing or two."



Congratulations to **Kim LaClear** who recently gave birth to triplets. Kim is now the proud mother of five children and looks forward to be returning to work as soon as possible. She is currently looking for coworkers interested in volunteering to babysit. Please call her at 1-800-HELP-ME if you are available.



## Lansing State Journal database unveiled

The Consumer Coalition Alliance (CCA), a consumer advocacy group, has posted a database containing information on the 465 men and women employed by the *Lansing State Journal* (LSJ). The database provides relevant information like head circumference, shoe size, I.Q. score, and eye color—important



for all Michigan citizens to know.

CCA said it was responding to numerous calls received from Michigan citizens questioning the quality and credibility of articles published in the newspaper.

Unfortunately, lengthy research into the lives of LSJ staff found no interesting or worthwhile facts about these people. The database was only posted for 2 seconds before CCA realized it was too boring to share with the good people of this state.



## Avoid eating disorders with comfort foods

Recent studies by the Culinary Institute for Harmonious Health (CIHH) have found that weight watchers under stress are more prone to eating disorders. To counteract that stress and thereby reduce the risk of eating disorders, CIHH recommends increasing the amount of comfort foods you eat every day.

Trying to lose weight in and of itself creates stress on the mind and body. When you're watching your weight, food is almost always top-most on your mind. According to CIHH's research, the average female weight watcher spends 87 percent of her day thinking about food—what she can eat next, how to convert her stash of diet foods into something palatable (maybe cover it with chocolate?), and when the next food day is at work. The average male weight watcher spends 82 percent of his day observing females with food, especially food that smells good.

The rationale is that comfort foods remind stressed dieters of Mom's home cooking. Comfort foods include macaroni and cheese, fried chicken, cheesy au gratin potatoes, pizza, ice cream and fresh-baked cookies, and of course, anything chocolate. (Weight watchers will also find that alcohol, in moderation, will help counteract a build-up of dieting stress, especially when combined with comfort foods.)

*Diet* is defined as (1) food and drink considered in terms of its qualities, composition, and its effects on health; and (2) a particular selection of food, esp. as prescribed to improve a person's physical condition. Note these definitions do not require low calories or restricted fat grams, so comfort foods certainly fit the diet definition!

So, if you're concerned about your health and want to avoid contracting an eating disorder, consider CIHH's advice and evaluate what comfort foods you can add to your diet each day. Better safe than sorry!

## Picnic cancelled

EPC has decided to cancel this year's WDRA picnic due to the high rate of absenteeism following last year's event. According to personnel records, nearly all who attended suffered from torn ligaments after attempting to make **Fred Covert** disappear in the dunk-tank, and/or from post-traumatic stress disorder after witnessing the debacle. Mental Health Services counselors are continuing aggressive intervention for WDRA staff who still experience nightmares. "It's tragic, and we truly regret having to cancel our annual picnic," said **Laurie Hill**. "But the well-being of WDRA employees always comes first."



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## Man on the Street

Ace reporters took to the beat to answer, once and for all, the question that's been burning in everyone's mind: "Which retirement mascot do you like best, Mr. Mac or Foro Juan Kay?"



**Chuck Simpson:** "I gotta go with Foro Juan Kay; I was there when he married Lou Segoosey, his childhood sweetheart. If I remember correctly they had a fall wedding and flew south shortly afterwards. It's sad to say that the marriage failed; they were both foul to each other."



**Charles Leik:** "Definitely the duck. Ducks are vicious creatures and epitomize the values of a 401k. Plus who doesn't like an anthropomorphic duck?"



**Bill Motz:** "4-0 Juan Que vs. Meester Mac... Hmm. I think I like the 4-0 Juan Que because I like the Spanish theme. Yes, 4-0 Juan Que is my choice over Mr. Mac because I would rather quack than fall off the Mighty Mac Bridge."



**Patty Wethy:** "I've gotta go with the Mighty Mr. Mac because I'm not a (*Mighty*) duck fan."



**Andy Kolp:** "I gotta take Mr. Mac. Sure he seems a little unbalanced, but at least he doesn't fly over and soil my car right after I wash it. I've got Foro Juan Kay's number come duck season ...."



**Joyce Weber:** "I thought Mr. Mac retired with the last early out and is now working at McDonald's as the Big Mac?"



**Josey McCloud:** "Hmmm ... the mac has two beef patties; the duck is good with orange sauce. I say the duck!"

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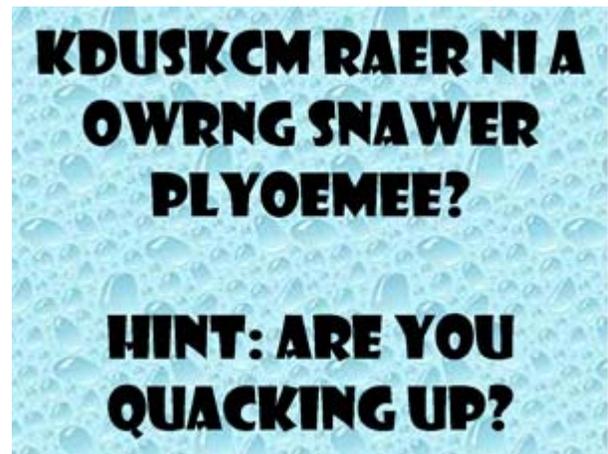
## Word scramble

Back by popular demand - the retirement word scramble.

**ORS Mission:**  
We are a customer-focused organization that serves members and employees today and prepares them for the next day, and the next day, and the next day.

**ORS Vision:**  
Empowering people for a crummy today and an uncertain tomorrow.

The *OutLook* is published by Silly Sally



Having trouble solving this puzzle? If you study this long and hard and you have given up, then you may [click here](#) to reveal the answer.

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## Please join us!



The Great *OutLook* Gang (pictured above) invites you to join them for cake in honor of the LookOut's 10 year Anniversary.

**When: Today from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

**Where: Crossroads**

**Be There!**

Director:  
Phil Stoddard  
Edited by Customer  
Education and Development

Thanks for reading!!

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**Disclaimer:** *The information, photos, and even some of the people in this issue are in no way, shape, or form real. The contents have been completely made up by the wild and wacky CED staff for the simple means of your amusement ... or, at the very least, our own amusement. We hope you enjoyed this spoof issue!*

**Note:** Because some of the links in this newsletter point to resources within ORS, some of the links may not work if you are outside of ORS.