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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, it's Friday again (how did THAT happen so quickly?) and we're back in business and back in print with WUD. The holidays are officially over (except for those who wait until Twelfth Night on Jan. 6 to take down the Christmas decorations), and I sincerely hope that each and every one of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season filled with joy. So, let me ask you all this one burning question: how many of you made New Year's resolutions that you are actually going to keep? Things like lose weight, exercise more, adopt a healthier diet, be a better person, save a little more, you get the idea. If you are like me, I start off just great and then fall quickly downhill...usually by about January 10. So, I did things a little differently this year. My one great resolution is that I did not make any. Easy to keep that one, right?

And another thing – how many of you can actually re-pack all the Christmas decorations the same way you found them when you unpacked? For some reason they just do not seem to fit into the boxes right the second time around. Why is it that we can find any excuse not to decorate until the last minute, and then find any excuse not to put them away? (Twelfth Night is a great excuse!) But we really do enjoy the change in home décor in between.

Everybody has surely heard by now, there was a microburst or tornado that touched down in the Alexandria city limits and our Probation and Parole Office there was heavily damaged. All the cars were damaged and almost all of them were totaled. **RD Johnny Qualls** and **RM Monique LaCour** are working very hard to restore the office. We appreciate all the support from our other offices around the state, who have helped Alexandria OJJ by sending vehicles and assisting with transports, etc. We know the officers there are struggling to meet the demands of their jobs, and working in really poor conditions. I want to encourage them to be patient and know that we are doing what we can to replace vehicles, and provide a safe and adequate work environment for them to perform their duties. Hang in there, I know it's tough.

How about that cliff hanger we were all treated to between Christmas and New Year's Day? It was high drama, carried on all the TV stations, too, not just one. I'm referring to that "fiscal cliff," of course. Congress finally got together and did something to earn their keep. So, at least for now, most of us should not see a bite out of our paychecks, and remember this: the 2 percent payroll tax rollback does not affect us public employees, because it's a Social Security deduction. We did not get the 2 percent increase in our paychecks when the payroll tax was rolled back a couple of years ago either. So, unless you are bringing down \$400,000.00 a year, you should be okay. And if you **are** making \$400K as a state employee with OJJ, you can take the entire agency to dinner and on a shopping spree!

It's been a quiet two weeks here at the office, but since the world did not end (despite the many End of the World parties I heard about from friends out west who served lots of delicious, high calorie and generally forbidden foods) (the Mayan calendar people predicted the End on December 21 and the FLDS folks in Texas expected the End on December 31 before midnight) and life must go on, we will hit the ground running again next Monday. I know I'll be ready for a fresh start, and I suspect most of you will be, too.

Of course, many of you never took it easy because you were taking care of our kids. To those of you who worked on the holidays and helped our youth enjoy theirs, and those of you who were able to take a breather, my thanks to each and every one of you, for all you do every day and every season, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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