
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

As I am sure you all are aware, Tropical Storm Bonnie is on the way to visit. I think we are in pretty good shape, and it appears now that the storm will remain just that, a tropical storm. It's not predicted to be a big rain producer, so I hope we won't see any flooding. Our plans are to shelter in place. You have to admit, this is better than a tabletop exercise. I suggest we all batten down the hatches and find our raingear. Bonnie will probably move pretty quickly once it makes landfall so with any luck it will be over soon. We will continue to monitor the storm and we remain on alert. I hope everybody has gotten their homes ready because you never know when the big one is coming.

I've had a pretty good week. It started on Monday with a tour of Bridge City by a newly elected judge. I am so appreciative of Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier of New Orleans, who took time out of her schedule for a tour. There's nothing like getting a feel for the therapeutic process yourself. I commend Judge Davillier for taking the initiative to visit Bridge City and learn more about OJJ, and she even plans to visit Jetson and Swanson as well.

Most of the week involved catching up on some stuff that has been sitting for a while and preparing to go to the ACA meeting in Chicago next week. So I spent a good part of the week doing the people work of OJJ. Just like an old car, a tune-up and oil change are needed once in a while. We've been doing some of that this week.

We had an interesting program at Jetson today. Former NFL player Tyrone Keys spoke to our youth, along with Mrs. Mary Hagan, his sixth grade teacher. Tyrone played for the New York Jets, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, but is most famous for being a member of the Chicago Bears when they won Superbowl XX. Tyrone has established a non-profit, the All Sports Community Service organization, that provides assistance for students in obtaining college scholarships. Mrs. Hagan, who lives near Jetson in Baker, was Tyrone's teacher in Jackson, Miss., in 1970, the first year of desegregation. She was a white teacher in a predominantly black school, and she provided a great deal of love and support for her students, while enduring personal insults and even death threats. The children thrived under her, and were sad to see her leave to return to Louisiana. Some 40 years later, Tyrone searched for and found Mrs. Hagan. They present a story of mutual caring and respect, and Mrs. Hagan drives home the point that teachers can have a remarkable effect on their students. They are featured speakers tonight at the Dept. of Education's annual gala Teacher of the Year event.

We hosted a meeting of the Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges today at central office. This was one of a series of regularly scheduled meetings where the judges hear from us about what we are working on, any relevant updates and news items, and we hear their concerns. It's a good opportunity for all of us to share ideas and news and to engage in a dialogue. We appreciate the judges paying us a visit.

Well, until next week, I hope you all stay safe and dry this weekend and that bad girl in the Gulf stays small. I know those of you at the three facilities will do what it takes to reassure our youth and keep them safe. And as ever, my thanks to all of you in every office and facility, for all you do, in sunshine and in stormy weather, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc"

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