
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 4, No.2. September 2, 2011

Hello, Everyone:

I hope you all have had a good week, at least as good as it can get in OJJ's world right now. I'm on my way back to Baton Rouge from Shreveport and I'm seeing a steady stream of football traffic. A whole bunch of LSU fans are going up I-49 over to I-20 to Dallas for the start of football season. LSU plays Oregon in Arlington, Texas at Cowboy Stadium. I guess this is a big weekend – Grambling and Southern have big games as well. Southern will play Tennessee State in Nashville, while Grambling plays Alcorn State in the Port City Classic in Shreveport.

I've been in Shreveport since Sunday evening and I've had an extremely busy week, but very productive. Before I tell you about the business we took care of this week, I want to tell you about the experience I had taking my Mom for an MRI. I was really worried about whether she could do it, because Mom is a little claustrophobic. Okay, a lot claustrophobic. I discovered that she was not scheduled for what is called an "open" MRI, and I was really worried that she could not pull it off. The doctor's office failed to call in a prescription to help calm her nerves – which really made me nervous that she wouldn't be able to do it. But, to my surprise, the MRI technician said I could be in the room and sit at the end of the big doughnut machine, and keep my hand on Mom's ankle to calm her down. I was surprised they allowed me to be in there. My Mom is a real trouper – they clamped something like a helmet down on her head, and she made it through the 45 minute scan. I sat next to the machine as it made all kinds of noises. About halfway through the procedure I got a little fidgety and moved closer to the machine. I felt my leg getting pulled toward to the machine. For a minute there I thought we were going to get a two-for-one MRI special. I backed away and wondered if I was going to be glowing when I left. When we left the MRI area, I noticed a sign on the outside door that said "The Magnet Is On." I guess I should have read the sign BEFORE going inside. If any of you go to help with an MRI and see that sign, you better steer clear. That was about the most exciting thing that happened. I guess it must have been my "magnetic" personality.

Now, on to other things. We had a series of great meetings in northwest Louisiana this week. DAS Karen Stubbs came up and attended many of the meetings with me, and DAS Carolyn Lewis traded places with her toward the end of the week. Shreveport RM Kristi Martin, PPS Guy May and PPS Kim Scott each attended some of the meetings. Monday we met with the Caddo Parish District Attorney, Charles Scott, and ADAs Lisa Ryder and Mike Powell. On Tuesday, we met with the Caddo Parish juvenile judges, Judge David Matlock, Judge Paul Young and Judge Shonda Stone, as well as Hearings Officer Michelle Perkins and Juvenile Services Director Clay Walker. Wednesday we had a full day, meeting first with Bossier City Mayor Lorenz Walker, State Rep. Henry Burns, 26th JDC DA Schuyler Marvin, Bossier Parish Court Administrator Suzanne Stinson, Bossier City Court Judge Thomas Wilson, and members of the Bossier Parish District Attorney's Juvenile Division, among others. Then it was off to Minden (Karen Stubbs' hometown, by the way), complete with a police escort. We had a wonderful time, meeting with Springhill City Court Judge John Slattery, Minden City Court Judge John C. Campbell, Webster Parish Sheriff Gary Sexton and a number of others, and we enjoyed lunch with all the local officials. Thursday I was also able to meet with Rep. Jane Smith, of Bossier Parish. On Friday, DAS Carolyn Lewis and I met with Bill Ziegler of Christian Acres.

We're getting ready to have a really soggy holiday weekend. I hope the rain from Tropical Storm Lee doesn't mess up your plans too much. My special thanks to everyone from all over OJJ who is helping at Bridge City, for the work you are doing there. As ever, thanks to each and every one of you, wherever you are, for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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