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## what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

The big news this week, of course, as most of you know by now, is that Swanson was recommended for ACA accreditation after its audit this week. I am so proud of Director Carolyn Atkins and all of the staff and youth at Swanson. They have come so far, and this positive recommendation just speaks to the fact that we are getting better at what we do every day.

One of the neat things they did in preparation for the audit was to have each dormitory work on developing its own mascot. The boys put a lot of thought into it, and not only picked their mascot, they painted murals on the walls in their dorms. Each dorm had the agency mission as part of the mural. And they did some outstanding artwork to go along with it. I was so impressed with the bright colors and the thoughtfulness that went into the effort to decorate the dorms. The dorms were also clean and neat – the boys really participated and got into the spirit of accomplishment.

My hat's off to Swanson! We are looking forward to Jetson and Bridge City getting right in there with the same kind of performance.

Even though Swanson is an old facility, and even though it was built for the correctional model, it is apparent that we are making the best out of what we have to work with. That's what we have to do – we'll make the best of what we have until we get something better.

Monday I visited the Alexandria P&P office and I was lucky to see most of the staff there. It was a short visit, but it's always good to see folks. As luck would have it, I missed their fish fry that was held later in the week. If I'd known about that, I would have visited later. I never turn down a meal, that's my motto. I understand the fish were supplied by RM Johnny Qualls and fishin' buddy PPS John Baker on their most recent trip to the pond. Well, maybe next time....

Well, storm season is here and Tropical Storm Don is out in the Gulf, headed for south Texas. The prayers of Texas for rain have been answered! Having just been in Texas and seeing what it is like there because of the drought, I can tell you, I am happy for them. With all the rain we've been having, I think Baton Rouge has finally caught up. We're hoping for a day of sunshine tomorrow so we can get out and mow the grass that's been growing like crazy from all the rain.

I hope all you have a great weekend – with my thanks to each of you in every OJJ location, for all you do every day, rain or shine, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

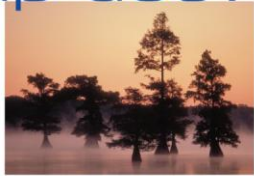
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