
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Oh, my gosh – what another week we have had with unprecedented natural weather disasters – flooding in the northeast and wildfires in Texas. We are hoping that Tropical Storm Nate would be headed toward Texas (right now it's on track for Mexico) to give them some much-needed rain. As I talked about before, I have family in the Austin area – my aunt and uncle live in Bastrop County, and they did have to evacuate. They have been very lucky so far – the fire has remained about four miles from their house. That is just way too close for comfort. Luckily, the winds have died down and they have gotten the fires under control, but it's still dry, dry, dry. I understand CD Jerel Giarrusso's daughter Elena is working this summer right in the middle of the northeast flood area. So far, she is staying high and dry.

Also, in the news – I guess y'all saw that the Saints lost. I had to turn the game off at halftime because I am old and go to bed early. But, something told me I shouldn't wait up, pretty much by the first quarter.



Have you been watching the news? Did anybody see the picture of the gigantic crocodile in the newspaper? I'm sure that picture was carried by newspapers other than in Baton Rouge. His name is Lolong and he is 21 feet long, weighing in at almost 2400 pounds. They should have named him Huey Humongous. Hmm, that could be a lot of boulets! And then, the news tells us about a Swedish moose who got caught in a tree after becoming inebriated from eating fermented apples. A local fire and rescue team got the moose out of the tree and left the big guy on the ground to sleep it off. It gives a whole new meaning to "an apple a day." Don't eat apples and drive!

On to more serious news, this week I was able to visit our friends and stakeholders in Beauregard Parish, as well as staff from Lake Charles P&P. I also visited with Judges Martha Ann O'Neal and Kerry Anderson and with DA David Burton. I also addressed a joint meeting of local TASC, FINS and the CYPB, to give them an update on OJJ activities and plans, and met with the director and board members of BeauCare, a local organization that provides services to kids. It was a very productive day, and I was happy to have the opportunity to meet with so many people. It was great day.

As you all surely know, this weekend is the 10th anniversary of the "9/11" attack on the U.S. It goes to show that no matter what we may be going through, it may be inconsequential compared to other people's problems. Who would have ever guessed that their loved ones would get up and go to work in the morning and never been seen alive again? Who would have thought that someone would crash airplanes into skyscrapers and attack *the Pentagon*, with the sole purpose of killing innocent people and disrupting a nation? Ten years later, the wounds are still deep, for the people whose loved ones were lost, and for the nation as a whole. We will never forget that day and the aftermath. But, we must take care not to let the bad guys win. They win if the Land of the Free becomes the land of people so afraid that we give up our freedom. You know that quote by Benjamin Franklin: "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

I want to thank our staff from all offices and facilities for the support you have been giving to Bridge City. We continue to be short-staffed at BCCY, and it's important to have dedicated and experienced staff step in to assist. As ever, OJJ is a family and it is always obvious in a pinch. Our staff pulls together to meet the mission whenever and wherever needed, and I thank you all for always getting the job done. I know it hasn't been easy for anyone. Wishing you all a wonderful "fall" weekend.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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