
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, if I could get frequent flier miles for driving, after this week, I could probably go anywhere in the world! I definitely put in some car time every day this week and let me tell you, it's exhausting.

I started the weekend and first part of the week in Little Rock Arkansas at the AWEC conference. Because it was so close, we had a nice crew from Louisiana OJJ in attendance and I think everyone learned a lot and was really appreciative to have to opportunity to attend.

While we were away, LSU had a scare. A bomb threat evacuated the entire LSU campus on Monday, and I hear that includes Mike the Tiger! They evacuated almost 30,000 people in 80 minutes. This could have been a very serious situation and we are thankful everyone, including Mike, is okay. Also, next time you see me, ask me about the time I found a bomb- true story.

On Tuesday, I attended a stakeholder meeting in Ruston, along with our northern regional managers; we had District Attorneys, public defenders, judges and local providers there. On Thursday, we had the same type of event in Lafayette where our regional managers from those surrounding regions attended. The MacArthur Foundation folks put this meeting together and it was great to discuss some statewide and local juvenile justice issues.

In between, on Wednesday, I headed down to New Orleans and had a great tour of the YEP facilities, one of our partners in reintegration. They have some impressive programs and seem to be doing a lot in the community there. We had lunch at Liberty Kitchen which I suggest everyone try out. My salad was good, but nothing compared to **DAS Karen Stubbs'** fried shrimp po-boy! If you go, you should also try a home-made cookie, too. A lot of the youth that work there are former OJJ youth and I got to speak with one young lady who has really turned her life around. So go enjoy the delicious food and encourage the youth staff, but plan to exercise that day if you eat.

So I had a big week, but not as big as a man in Bourg, near Houma, Louisiana, who made the catch of his life when he hauled in a 12-foot, 800-pound alligator. Now that's a lot of Gator meat – and belts.

So whether you're traveling or staying at home this weekend catching gators, my thanks to you, where ever you are for meeting the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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