
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Wheelchair report: I don't know if any of you have ever been a wheelchair before, but you definitely do get a different perspective, when you suddenly realize that our world is not designed for those who have challenges. I appreciate the newly constructed buildings that have designed wheelchair ramps and have sufficient drop off points in front. And of course, there's the restroom accommodations, which are extremely important, as you can only guess. I have been in some older structures as well, and find it very difficult to manage, as many of the older buildings have not been adequately retrofitted for people in wheelchairs. I must say that I also have a completely different view from the chair and sometimes you prefer not to have that view. (I will let your imagination wander on that one.) Something I notice, is that there are people who don't want to look at you, so I always appreciate the people who are comfortable with the fact that I am in a wheelchair, and will actually acknowledge me and engage me in conversation. I have learned that very, very few people are comfortable with acknowledging people in wheelchairs and engaging in conversation, which is really weird. I am the same ole Doc, I just have a bum leg. This experience has taught me to reach out even more to folks who have disabilities.

The legislature ended as planned, and we will have major operational things that we will have to work through. We still don't know the details, which I will share with you all as soon as we know. We have started a series of meetings to try to work through some of the changes that we will have to institute under the consolidation.

I was fortunate this week to start my physical therapy and to spend a few more hours physically at work. I actually put in almost a full day by attending the graduation ceremony at Bridge City. It was great to get there and take part in something so positive. We are so proud of the nine youth who attained their GEDs. They had a ring ceremony early in the day, which I understand went really well and was very nice. There were quite a few family members there, who enjoyed a nice reception with their kids, hosted by the Culinary Arts class. All the youth at the facility attended the event as well, and they were very attentive and well behaved. It was really a great day. Hats off to the Bridge City staff, who are really coming together and getting us back to where we should be, and to what we know the potential is for the facility. Last week, there was a very nice graduation ceremony at Swanson, where 34 kids who attained their GEDs were honored. **DAS Sean Hamilton** and **Director of Education Kim Mims** attended, and they reported that Swanson's graduation was very inspiring. We are looking forward to Jetson's graduation ceremony next week.

Well, we had some nice cool fronts come though and some great thunderstorms. I know a lot of people don't like thunderstorms, but I love them. I like those rolling thunder noises. And I'm very happy that Daisy the Golden Retriever is not bothered in the least by thunderstorms. I know a lot of pets get really upset and keep people up all night. As usual, the weather is crazy – there has been a raft of really extreme weather crises out west and up east – hailstorms with golf ball-sized hail, almost a dozen huge tornadoes, flash floods, wildfires, torrential rains. And that was just this week

Heads up, everyone – Father's Day is next weekend. If anybody is heading to the mall, you might as well get your shopping for cards and gifts out of the way this weekend. The best cards may already be gone, and you really don't want to have to stop and shop on the way to see Dad.

Well, that about wraps it up for the week. Storms are predicted for Louisiana this weekend, so I hope you will enjoy the weekend inside, safe and dry. Enjoy it wherever you are, with my thanks, as ever, for all you do to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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