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## what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

For those of us down here in south Louisiana, we are asking one another, “Did you feel that? WHAT was that?” Yes, it’s true: earthquakes. Little bitty earthquakes, in our own backyard. First people started noticing strange bubbles in some bayous in Assumption Parish, then people started noticing their houses shaking. For over a month, people have said tremors have been knocking pictures off walls, cracking slabs and wallboard and generally shaking things up. The tremors are not strong enough for the U.S. Geological Survey instruments to pick them up, but enough people have called to describe the events that the USGS is taking it seriously. A scientist with the Center for Earthquake Research and Information said researchers “looked at the data, and they are earthquakes, in that an earthquake really just means that the earth shakes. So, yes, the earth is shaking.” It’s a real comfort to get such a scientific explanation.

And on top of all that is this crazy weather. First we have a drought, and the grass is brown and we are all out watering the lawn. Then we have a week of gully washers and floods. What is the world coming to?

But, all’s well with the world when a football player signs a contract for \$100 million. I’m not sure I can even count that high. Now you all know I’m a die-hard sports fan and I like the Saints and QB Drew Brees as much as anyone, but a hundred million dollars? Even spread out over five years, that’s a haul. Not bad for a 33-year old, playing a game. I bet any of us would be happy for just a fraction of that. All I can say is, we should expect Drew to give us some outstanding performances, at least for the next five years. Who dat? Geaux, Saints!

Did you hear about the man who discovered a treasure trove of baseball cards in his grandfather’s attic? No, there’s no punchline, a man in Defiance, Ohio (that’s a real town) found a stack of 100 year old baseball cards said to be worth \$3 million. I’m going to have to find another line of work; I keep making my money the old fashioned way.

Well, I had no idea that half the central office staff are doctors. I’m trying to get around just a little without my crutches and people keep asking me where the crutches are...and has my doctor released me yet...you’re overdoing it...But I’ve always been a rebel in a lot of ways and it feels good to be able to move around on my own two feet even for just a few steps. So yes, things are looking up, and no, I’m not overdoing it, and no, the doctor has not yet released me, but the leg really is healing up. At least the earth does not shake at central office.

Well, it’s the weekend, and I hope that all of you will get some much needed rest and relaxation. It’s been a busy week, as always, and we all deserve a little down time. I want to thank each and every one of you, in every office and facility, for all you do, every day, rain or shine, earth shaking events or routine, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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