
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I tell you, some of my staff took their lives into their hands last week, wearing what looked to be Alabama gear with dark red colors (crimson?) and houndstooth jackets (remember Bear Bryant's famous houndstooth fedora? Remember Coach Bear Bryant??) They shall remain unnamed, in case some rabid Tigers are on the prowl. There are still a few of us LSU fans out here, even though we are not having such a great year. The Tigers played a great first half last weekend, not so great in the second half. So, onward towards the A&M game next weekend – I'm holding my breath on that one too, hoping for a good outcome. For LSU. The good news is that the Southern University team seems to be turning a corner, and is having a winning season, with their last home game tomorrow.

I know we've all been seeing the horrific news out of the Philippines about the terrible damage from Typhoon Haiyan that struck a week ago today. It was one of the strongest storms ever recorded with sustained winds of over 160 mph. It brings back memories of our own experiences when people here in Louisiana were so greatly impacted by the storms of 2005 – Katrina and Rita – as well as Gustav and Isaac in 2008. Watching the news surely triggers memories of what people here may have experienced during the storms, and we should be aware that some of our staff and youth may also have responses to the tragedy of the storm that recall their own experiences. We need to be mindful of this as we carry out our daily work with colleagues and kids.

Things we might not know about tropical storms – what is the difference between hurricanes and typhoons? The difference is the location - in the west Pacific Ocean they are called typhoons and those in the Atlantic and east Pacific Ocean are called hurricanes, according to longitude above or below the equator. Hurricanes are east of the International Date Line and typhoons are west of it. Both have sustained winds of 74 mph or more and have lots of heavy wind and rain, storm surges and spinoff tornadoes. But here's my favorite factoid about the difference – hurricanes are given human names, while typhoons are named after living things other than people. The World Meteorological Organization's Hurricane Committee selects the names from lists submitted by each country. Pacific nations use names of animals, flowers, rivers, astrological signs and such. The translation of last week's Typhoon Haiyan ranges from Sea Bird, to Angry Ocean, to Yolanda. Alrighty, then!

The U.S. has a long interest in the Philippines. The U.S. controlled the Philippine Islands from 1898, except during the World War II Japanese occupation, until the U.S. recognized their independence in 1946. The Philippines were part of the Spanish empire for 300 years but at the end of the 10-week long Spanish-American War in 1898, the U.S. received control of the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam. The U.S. wanted the Philippines for its strategic location in the Pacific Ocean, and established the Naval Air Station at Subic Bay and Clark Airbase. The U.S. kept control of the military bases after independence in 1946, but the bases were destroyed in 1991 by a simultaneous volcano eruption and a typhoon. At the same time, the Philippine Senate did not renew the agreement to use the bases, which were then abandoned. In June 2012, the U.S. was again granted permission to use the military bases in the Philippines.

Our staffing pattern in the facilities has been improving as we are able to implement additional coverage while we are hiring needed staff. I really want to thank everyone for their hard work and the additional effort in the facilities, especially those who are working overtime while maintaining their normal workloads.

We had our final meeting with Facility Planning on the capital outlay project for improving the perimeter fence and front entrance at Bridge City. The project is on schedule and hopefully it will be going out for bid shortly, and work can start in January or February. We will be re-doing the entrance to make it more secure and more professional, and replacing the perimeter fence with a state-of-the-art arched barrier "candy cane" fence. The money being spent on this project is capital outlay funding, not OJJ funds or operational money. This pot of money is set aside by the state to improve and maintain state buildings and property.

Wishing each of you, in every OJJ location, a wonderful fall weekend, with my sincere thanks for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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