
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well good morning, all! I am surprising you with a Monday edition of WUD. I thought I would make this work out as a twofer.....since this is a short week, and Friday I was busy and did not get to the computer to write WUD.....just thought I would switch it up a little and keep you on your toes!

How 'bout this weather? I am enjoying the cold, but I am not looking forward to the wet too much. I feel for all of the travelers who might get stranded in airports or off the roads because of rain, sleet, or snow. I know we will be praying for everyone to make it to their destinations safely.

How 'bout those Tigers? Just when you think they are toast, they come back and play football, the way we thought they would play all year. So, I was happy just to have a game where we were firmly in control. Except for the penalties. My goodness, have you ever seen a team get so many penalties year after year, after year? Hey, Coach, really?

Last week we said goodbye to Rev. T.J. Jemison, age 95, a pastor who was a trailblazer in the civil rights movement, and who had a huge impact on Louisiana and the nation. In 1953 (I know, no one here remembers back that far!) he organized a bus boycott that lasted for 8 days in Baton Rouge. That boycott was the model for nonviolent protest when the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. organized the much-better known bus boycott in 1955 in Montgomery, Ala. Rev. Jemison was known for his ability to stand up for his beliefs and work for positive change, but always in a peaceful way. Some of us may never have heard his name before, but I think we have all benefitted from the work he did that resulted in community healing.

As many of you may know, the Improved Outcomes for At Risk Youth Act (Act 214) was passed last year by the Legislature. We are hard at work with DCFCS to envision and implement an integrated case management system to help achieve positive outcomes for crossover and at risk youth. This week we met with stakeholders from FINS, local probation, judges and other state agencies to share information on the resources and needs of Louisiana's at risk youth. I will keep you all updated as this progresses.

I hope that you all enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday week. It is a time to give thanks, and no matter how challenged we might be with events going on in our lives, we can always find something or somebody to be thankful for.....I know that you all are looking forward to the all-you-can-eat Olympics. I have seen some real hog-offs in my life, and have been a willing participant myself. I hope I can moderate this year. It is my goal to moderate, anyway. It is always good to set a goal, and then there is always a new start the next day if you need it! And then there's Black Friday, a national shopping holiday, following Brown Thursday, which used to be known as Thanksgiving.

I hope that each and every member of the OJJ family will enjoy your holiday. Let's remember that many of our staff will be at their regular jobs, helping to make Thanksgiving pleasant for our secure care kids, who are away from their families during the holidays. My sincere thanks to each and every member of the OJJ team for all you do, every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

P.S. As of today, there are only 31 days until Christmas. We better go shopping. But not on Thursday.

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