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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Vol. 6, No. 30. April 4, 2014

Hello, Everyone:

Well, this week has been no different than most weeks recently: busy busy busy. This is a busy time of year, when we all can get out and do some gardening and yard work, and enjoy lots of spring festivals. There's no lack of festivals this weekend, all over the state – the Boudin Festival in Scott (where they make some of the best boudin anywhere); the Natchitoches Jazz and R&B Festival, the Cypress Sawmill Festival in Patterson, Art in April in Hammond, the Mandeville Craft Show, the Bayou Cajun Fest in Larose, Crawfest and the Freret Street Festival in New Orleans, the Scottish Tartan Festival in Minden, and Fest for All in Baton Rouge. I hope to see some of you walking through Fest for All this weekend.

Well, we've been busier than a centipede at a toe-counting contest. Busier than a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. Have you ever wondered where those "busier than" comparisons come from? Bet you all know what they mean! Do you have any busier-than comparisons? Please share them with me and I'll be happy to pass them along. I've been busier than a one-eyed cat watching two mouse holes. I'm busier than a one-toothed man in a corn-on-the-cob eating contest. Busier than a mosquito at a nudist colony. I'm busier than a cobra at a mongoose convention. I'm busier than mustard trying to ketchup. Ha, ha ha! Where do these sayings come from, anyway?

Earthquakes in Chile. Soft-ball sized hail in Texas. Killer tornados from California to Missouri. Blizzards in New England. And that's just this week. What is the world coming to? The old phrase "April showers bring May flowers" doesn't really work down here, where many of our spring flowers bloom in March. Not this year – March madness brought April flowers and the thunderstorms today smooshed a lot of them.

I don't know about y'all, but I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired about the mindless violence all around us. It's not bad enough that we have become a nation of busybodies and verbally beat people up over their personal business and personal choices. Check out the anger at NY Mets ballplayer Daniel Murphy, who actually left Opening Day and flew to his wife's side when she went into labor with their first child. He took some allowed paternity leave and missed two games. Now he's getting grief for missing TWO GAMES (games, people!) and not "encouraging" his wife to have a C-section before the season started. Really? Mr. Murphy was the one who got his priorities straight. To make matters worse, we have kids going to parties with weapons and shooting up the place, like what happened in Baker last weekend, where a 16 year old is accused of killing three teens. And yet another deadly mass shooting at Ft. Hood. I don't know what it's going to take to wake up our country to the toll that gratuitous, unnecessary violence is taking on all of us, the young in particular. I know that in our business we see more teenage aggression than the average person, but things are really out of control. No place is safe anymore and our kids have lost their innocence.

Okay, let's lighten up - let's do some OJJ trivial pursuit. Most of us are so caught up (read: busy) in getting our own jobs done that we often don't pay attention to things outside our own sphere. So here's a question: who is OJJ's Family Liaison? Extra points if you know what that person actually does. Send me the answer and win a prize: your name in WUD!

How's your Lent going so far? Are you sticking to your plans? Abstaining from yummy things, like meat, or sweets? Or remembering to do positive acts of kindness for others?

Well, I'll close now, with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ family, in every office and facility, for all you do every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

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