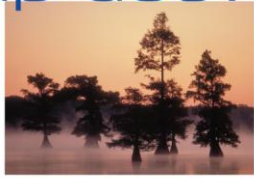

what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I did a little traveling this week - we had our final Leadership Training in Hammond, and as ever, it was great to see everyone who was able to attend. On Wednesday I visited the Bunkie Rotary Club to bring them the good news that we are on track to start construction of the Acadiana Center for Youth. The Rotarians were delighted to know the groundbreaking is set for Aug. 7.

Thanks to everyone from all over the agency who came to Baton Rouge and pitched in to help clean up and carry out stuff at Jetson. It's a major effort and people from many offices stepped up to sweat, get rained on, clean, sort, inventory, cart stuff around, etc. as we readied dorms for a possible hurricane evacuation of Bridge City and also general cleanup. Our efforts even made the news with a big story in the local paper.

Is everyone as tired of rain as I am? It feels like it's been raining for a month. And it has been just about a month of non-stop drizzle. Or downpour. It seems like I've been annoyed by all the precipitation for at least a month. Looks like southwest Louisiana is getting pasted today, yesterday it was here in Baton Rouge. One thing we need to be concerned about down here at the end of the Mississippi River is all the rain falling up in Minnesota at the headwaters. It's got to get down here sooner or later.

As the old Saturday Night Live character used to say, "it's always something." Some time back Engineer Curtis Badon warned us in *The Inside Scoop* about coyotes prowling around and becoming more bold. Now the news is telling us that these nighttime operators are running around towns and cities all over the state in broad daylight, and worse, these "City Slickers," as one central office staffer called them, are snatching and eating pets - dogs and cats. The local animal control director called them street smart "wiley coyotes" and tells us that we need to be vigilant so they do not pay us a visit. I'll be keeping Daisy, my Golden Retriever, close to the house and not putting dog food out.

There is a lesson here – the unusual weather patterns and excessive rains are driving wildlife out into the open more and more. We may be seeing a lot more snakes than usual with all the rain. I just heard about a town in Illinois that is covered with snakes (who would have thought snakes would want to live up north where it snows?) – they are just now coming out of hibernation after that long winter vortex. Maybe the coyotes are looking for food in all the wrong places for the same reasons.

U-S-A! U-S-A! Yep, we're still in the competition for the World's Cup. We just lost 1-0 to Germany, the second best team in the world, but that didn't kick us out of the competition. Although we are ranked 13th, we still progressed to the next stage and we're still in. Stay tuned. In fact, if the rain continues this weekend, we may all be staying tuned and glued to our televisions.

Next week is a short week, with the Fourth of July holiday on Friday. Wishing you all a wonderful, SAFE holiday. Since we won't be doing WUD next week, I'll thank you all twice, for everything you do, every day and everywhere in our agency, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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