
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, Y'all, it's Labor Day Monday and you know what that means. Summer's officially over, it's officially "fall" and everybody is back in school. That includes college students, so the insane traffic jams around our colleges and universities have dissipated now that the students have moved into their dorms and apartments and the parents have stopped re-living their own college days and gone home. Here in Baton Rouge, you could not move anywhere near the campuses for days.

And you know what else that means - fire it up! Are you ready for some football? Time to fire up the grill, get together with old friends and talk footballfootballfootball! Staff at here at central office will become "friendly enemies" again until next season. The Saints are marching in, the Cats (Lions, Tigers, Tigers and Jags, oh my!) are going on the prowl, the Demons are set to get heated, the Bulldogs will be barking, Cowboys are saddling up, Colonels are getting ready to lead the charge, Warhawks will be lurking, and there will be a lot of action in Ragin' Cajun Country while the Green Wave will produce a lot of energy on the field. Whoa - that took a lot of energy to write, but isn't it fun to think about?

Well, this was my first full week back in the office in a while, so I've been catching up on meetings, paperwork, the usual stuff that needs attention. We're already starting to have budget meetings for the next fiscal year.

On this ninth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, I think it's appropriate to reflect for a moment on all that our state has been through as a result of that storm, and be thankful that we have recovered as well as we have. Although the worst of the worst took place in New Orleans, no area of Louisiana escaped the effects of the flooding and historic de-population of a major metropolitan area. Even after nine years New Orleans does not completely look or feel the same as it did on August 28, 2005. Let's also not forget that two years ago today, Hurricane Isaac moseyed slowly through, sitting down and devastating St. John the Baptist Parish in particular, where thousands of people (including some of our staff) lost their homes and possessions. While most of the parish has recovered, some schools are still closed as a result.

The good news is that although there is some tropical activity in the Gulf and in the Atlantic, it's just depressions that have not turned into systems yet, and H. Cristobal is literally making waves on the east coast with no effect here. We've been lucky so far (sorry, Eastern Seaboard) but remember we still have two months of hurricane season ahead.

The weather forecasters tell us we are going to have rain - a lot of it - tomorrow, so the first day of our three day weekend is probably going to be wet. Let's assume that's a good time to straighten the house and start making goodies for Monday. But it's going to clear up for Sunday and be beautiful Monday for those barbecues and get-togethers. For those of you who will be on the road, the good news is that gasoline prices are now the lowest since 2010, AND the Gulf Coast area has the lowest prices in the country. So if you're headed to the beach (or wherever) for the long weekend, an extra treat is "cheap" gas.

Well, I close now with my wish for you all to have a wonderful, safe, long weekend, (remembering that facility staff will still be at work), with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, in every office and facility, for all you do 365 to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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