
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Due to technical difficulties and my being out of town last Friday, this is the late edition of What's Up Doc? Wouldn't you know it, LSU surprised us and beat Alabama. Who would have ever thought when this season started that LSU would beat Bama? You could have knocked me over with a feather! But here we are, and I'm sure our ranking will go much higher in the BCS (Bowl Championship Series). Well, watching LSU football is always fun and always full of surprises.

Onward and upward! I'm sure you have seen and heard in the news that our proposed site for the Acadiana facility is now controversial. We had very good support and it is now a question mark as to whether we will proceed with this site. I am working with local officials in St. Landry Parish to determine an appropriate course of action. Everyone should know that we will not give up on opening a secure care facility for youth in the Acadiana region. We cannot and should not give up because we know it is the best practice to provide treatment for youth close to their homes, in smaller, regional settings. Because of this, we will not give up. We will have to find an agreeable solution, and we will. I plan to continue with our commitment to work with people in Acadiana to ensure the best possible outcome.

I hope everybody took the challenge of thanking a veteran for their service. I certainly saw a lot of that going on in the communities I visited and I hope you had the same experience. In that vein, I am currently reading a book entitled **Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman**, by Jon Krakauer. It is an excellent book and a very good read.

While I'm thinking about it, I just finished a book called **Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln**, by Doris Kearns Goodwin. It is a fascinating book and I highly recommend it also – if you can get through it. It is a great leadership book for CEOs.

Speaking of reading, we are getting ready to launch the second book in the facilities' Get Caught Reading Program. The book is **The One that Got Away: A True Story of Personal Transformation**, by Fox Rich. Fox was appointed by Governor Jindal to the Louisiana Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Board. She is an active member of JJDP, and a very interesting woman. Her book discusses incarceration and its impact on individuals and the community. Fox Rich knows what she is talking about – she faced a prison term of up to 297 years, but served only seven years, and used that experience to help others build self-worth. She has a successful career in public speaking and television. Her message helps people realize the decisions they make now will have a lasting impact. She produces her television show, The Fox Rich Show, which showcases the inspirational stories of others. She lives in Shreveport with her five sons.

OMG – Christmas music is on the radio and decorations are already out. I love the Christmas season but I can't help but think this is more commercialization for the holidays. Oh well, I guess it's good for the economy. Merry Christmas, everybody - before Thanksgiving is even here! So start slowing down right now because we should enjoy the holiday season for what it is meant for. And it will be here in...oh, it's already here!

During this season we give thanks, and I want to thank each one of you, in every OJJ office and facility, for all you do, every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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