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## what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Heaux, heaux, heaux – happy Thanksgiving, everyone! Oh, but I am confused. I had Christmas music on the radio behind me, as the staff set up for our pre-Thanksgiving holiday feast at central office. We had a choice for the menu – everyone got to vote on the main dish. It was a tie between chicken and sausage gumbo (yum, good!) and roast pork tenderloin a la Gay Lynn Brown. Gay Lynn is our (fairly) new Internal Auditor. I don't know if you all know this or not, but Gay Lynn is quite the chef. I think Mr. Boxberger must have known this before we hired her – she is a cookin' fool! She does it all from main dishes to desserts. I'm sure she could dress up roadkill!

I don't know if we have a roadkill program here in Louisiana, like the one in Alaska. It's something Louisiana may want to consider. I was just visiting with a friend from LSU graduate school, Kathy Chapaton Buser, who left Louisiana after graduate school and moved to Alaska. Yes, she knows that other famous Republican from Alaska (but I digress). She was telling me that her husband was not able to kill a moose during moose season, but was on the roadkill list. If a moose is killed on the highway, people on the list have approximately 20 minutes to get to the site and do whatever they have to do to retrieve the meat. They store the moose meat in the freezer and eat on that moose all winter long. Just imagine all the critters we could get on a Louisiana roadkill list – armadillo, skunk, possum, squirrel, raccoon...okay, I'm going to stick with turkey and ham unless Gay Lynn cooks it – that might change my mind.

On a serious note, I attended a very nice graduation ceremony for 11 Probation and Parole Officers from around the state, who graduated from POST Academy #25. My thanks and appreciation to all the OJJ staff members who turned out to support our newest PPOs. OJJ swept the awards, with Scott Peyton of Lafayette winning the highest academic award, Samuel Moore of Lafayette cinched the physical fitness award, and Anthony Hall of Shreveport was the best marksman. Congratulations to all 11 new OJJ POST graduates.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve as the Deputy Secretary of such an outstanding agency. I am thankful for your strength, commitment to integrity, hard work, kindness and generosity – that makes a difference in our kids' lives. I appreciate Gov. Jindal giving me the opportunity and the chance to serve the citizens of this state. My hope is that you feel the same way about your role, your colleagues and the agency you serve. My hope is that all the youth and the families that we interact with as part of the juvenile justice system seize the opportunity to better their lives.

For those of you who will travel this Thanksgiving holiday, be careful, buckle up, watch out for the other guy, slow down, be safe, and take in a stray to join your family for a good meal, if you get the chance. Special thanks to all the staff members who will be working at the facilities during this long holiday weekend. As always, my thanks to you for the work you do to meet the mission every day.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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