
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everybody:

I understand that there's a theory that the world will come to an end on Saturday, May 21st (tomorrow). So, I hope this is not my last edition of What's Up, Doc? due to this prediction. With any luck I will be right back next week with a new edition. So for now, I will just report on what has happened this week.

The flood watch continues, and we are sorry to see the flooding due to the opening of the Morganza Floodway. I know it was not an easy decision to open it but the decision was made with great care and deliberation. Fortunately, Louisiana has not had to use the floodway for 38 years, but we must keep in mind that it was built for that reason. It's just unfortunate that the reason has now come to bear.

Watch out for retreating wildlife – I saw a six foot alligator on I-10 on the way to New Orleans last week. Why DID the alligator cross the road? Sadly, I don't think he made it across – Asst. Sec. Girard Melancon saw a deceased alligator on the highway in the same area. Let's heed the warnings from our colleagues at the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries – critters are on the move!

We were very busy this week going through the proposals in response to the RFP for medical services at Swanson. Many thanks to Health Services Administrator Kelly Smith, General Counsel Martha Morgan, Attorney Steven Farber and our contracts staff, Monica Williams and Patricia Ellis, for all their hard work. We have offered the contract to CCS (Correct Care Solutions) - which also has the contracts at Bridge City and Jetson.

The rest of the week was spent taking care of the many details of management. As you may be aware, because of budget deficits, we are experiencing position cuts. We will try our best to accommodate employees affected by these measures by offering appropriate level vacant positions.

Well, enough of the doom and gloom. The bright spot, as ever, is that OJJ staff are the finest public servants anywhere and that you can be counted on to meet the mission despite bad news, high water and alligators. My thanks to every one of you in every OJJ location, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Wishing each of you a wonderful weekend – I hope you all get some well-deserved R&R.

Sincerely,
"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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