
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everybody:

Happy Mother's Day weekend to you all! I hope you all had a good week, and found the time to either appreciate your staff or be appreciated by your supervisor, as we celebrated State Employee Recognition Day.

Well, this has been a week with a lot of huge headlines. The first big news headline was the surprise of getting Osama Bin Laden. I think all of us at one time thought that we would never find him. But we also knew that people like OBL "can run but they cannot hide," at least not forever. So, we are now finding out that he was in the process of engineering more destruction of our infrastructure. Thank goodness for Team 6, the CIA and the president, for having the guts to go get him. I'm sure this will be one of those events where you will always remember where you were and what you were doing when you heard that Osama Bin Laden was captured and killed.

Another big news event that we are all paying attention to right now is the anticipated rising waters of the Mississippi River. We are all watching with great anticipation the possibility of the worst flood occurrence of our lifetime here in Louisiana. The governor has mobilized the Unified Command Group (UCG) and every key agency is at the table getting prepared to do what needs to be done to protect lives and property. At central office we are also engaged in preparation for any emergency that may arise. Staff are on standby in the event of a necessary evacuation, and we will be ready to mobilize as the need indicates. OJJ will be prepared to carry out our mission and assist in evacuating detention centers if needed. There is also the probability that the Morganza Floodway will be opened. The water is coming! There's no stopping it. We now have to figure out how to manage it and minimize the potential damage as much as possible.

Another media event impacting us this week was a press conference we held today at the Lafayette P&P office. Today we formally issued a Request for Information (RFI) as we seek to partner with a community in Acadiana to locate a secure care facility to serve that region's youth. The RFI requires a response from communities interested in working with us by May 27. We will then have all response/proposals reviewed by our contract architect and a review panel, and we plan to announce the successful community partner on June 17. We have been working to find a suitable location for the Acadiana Center for Youth for several years, and we are very confident that this time, we WILL be successful. Stay tuned. And – a big thanks to Lafayette RM Susan Miller and her staff for hosting the press conference.

Last, but not least, this Sunday is Mother's Day. I hope that all of you will be able to take time to be with your own mothers or a surrogate, aunts, grandmothers, or the people who meant as much to us as our own mother – those women who have nurtured you and been in your lives. I am very lucky to get to spend Mother's Day with my mom, Doris Livers, and I am very blessed that I live close enough to her to be able to honor her for not seriously injuring my brother and me while we were trying to grow up. Lord knows we needed a lot more of that switch – you know, the kind where you had to out and pick your own. I'm pretty sure she learned that from her own mother. Trust me, I deserved everything I got. But that was when I was very young, and as adults, we are very good friends, and I think she is very cool. Happy Mother's Day, Mom! (Both of my parents are on the What's Up, Doc email list so they can keep up with what we're doing.)

So, hug your moms or the mother figures in your life. And, as ever, but especially in light of State Employee Recognition Day, my thanks to each and every member of the OJJ family, for all you do EVERY day to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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