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## what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, I'm happy to report that our budget meetings are over for a while. I crammed for days for our budget hearings, and fortunately both the House and Senate Appropriations committee hearings were this week. Monday and Wednesday. If any of you were watching Monday, you would have seen the world's land speed record for brief budget hearings. No complaints from me! We did fine, many thanks to everyone who spent time putting together information for our briefing book. Of course, we never know until the very end of the session what will be our final number. Now we wait and watch the rest of the debate.

Between legislative hearings it's been one meeting after another this week. I don't know how anything gets done when we are in constant meetings. But, getting input and making well informed decisions as a team, do require that kind of commitment.

I did manage to take out a little time for fun – I attended the LSU women's basketball game. Great game – although they nearly gave me heart failure, the Lady Tigers pulled it off and made it to the Sweet 16. Geaux, Tigers! Their next game is on ESPN2 on Sunday at 1:30pm.

Well, I almost had to swim to work today. The rain started yesterday and now there's flooding around us and people are having to be evacuated just north of us in Mississippi. We'd better keep an eye on the Amite and Comite Rivers, they are the ones to give us trouble after heavy rains. And please keep the people in Washington State in your thoughts and prayers after the devastating landslide there last weekend. The death toll keeps rising and with all the missing and unaccounted for, it's going to be really rough. Seems like the crazy weather patterns will just not quit – a blizzard this week in the northeast, and Denver the warmest spot in the country with over 70 degrees. I'm just ready for some boring warm weather. And some azaleas. Hold the snakes.

There's also a really nasty virus going around, and we've had a handful of staff down with it. I hear that other agencies are experiencing this illness as well. Take care of yourselves, this thing feels like the flu, but it isn't. It's also contagious, so if you have chills and fever, and all-over aches, stay home and pay the doctor a visit. It isn't pretty and it lingers.

Well, I'd like to wish you all a great weekend full of pleasant sunshine so you can get outside and enjoy spring, but rain is predicted, and the best we can say right now is the weather is completely unpredictable. So, enjoy your weekend, whatever it's like outside, with my heartfelt thanks to each of you, in every office and facility, for all you do, every day, to meet the mission. Now, that's predictable!

Sincerely,

Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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