
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 6, No. 26. March 7, 2014

Hello, Everyone:

Well, y'all, it rained on our parades, but that does not seem to have stopped the Krewe of True Believers in Mardi Gras. Fat Tuesday has come and gone, and it was one for the record books. This was the coldest Mardi Gras on record, with the news reporting a high in the 30s in New Orleans. I heard that a few people stayed home where it was warm but the rest put on their longjohns and braved the steady patter of rain. Maybe it was just a little easier to catch beads this year! I've never associated long icicles with Mardi Gras before and I hope this year will be the last. This is true March madness – this weather is so crazy – aren't the azaleas supposed to be blooming now? Even a lot of the camellias are late. I think they know something that humans do not. The weather people are saying it's going to be back in the 30s again next week, a week before the official date of Spring. Enjoy the wonderful weekend in the high 60s – I'm afraid this year spring will be about a weekend long.

But one thing that is for sure is the launch of Daylight Savings Time Sunday, so let's be sure to "spring forward" even if the weather says otherwise. I'll be glad to have some daylight after work again. Especially with all the gray, gloomy days we've been having. It's great to see the sun out today. Yep, good weather on tap this weekend.

Even though reptiles are coldblooded, snakes are already on the move. I saw one on the highway recently and several people report seeing multiple snakes very close to home. Be careful outside, I bet the serpents are really hungry after their long sleep.

Asst. Secretary Sean Hamilton has been on the road again, visiting P&P offices. Last week he visited Shreveport and Alexandria, and this week he went to Lafayette and Lake Charles. He is just checking in with the regional managers to see how things are going, and to see if they need any additional support and resources from central office. Sean found that, essentially, everything is fine in the field offices, and he was very pleased overall. Sean reported that after speaking with the RMs he had time to talk with individual officers to thank them for their service and the good job they are doing. He consistently heard from the PPOs who have been working to fill in as needed at Swanson how smoothly everything has been going with the transferred kids, in the Holly dorms and other areas of campus. Sean said the officers are so impressed with the level of professionalism of the Swanson staff – they have welcomed the officers onto the campus, staff support them while they are there, and they manage the kids and their behaviors very well. The PPOs say the Swanson staff lead by example and they look forward to spending time there with the youth and staff. Well done, everyone!

That about wraps it up for this week, so I'll close with my sincere thanks to each and every member of the OJJ family, wherever you serve, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

Office of Juvenile Justice • PO Box 66458 • Baton Rouge, LA 70896 • e: Whatsupdoc?OJJ@la.gov • www.ojd.louisiana.gov