

what's up doc?

by Dr. Mary Livers, PH.D, MSW, Deputy Secretary

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Hello, Everyone:

As you all surely know, we have entered the annual Danger Zone. We are now on notice, until November 30, that a nasty tropical storm could blow up in the Gulf of Mexico and head our way. When you think about it, that's half a year. And that's on top of the flooding now happening in parts of north Louisiana with the Red River out of its banks.

So, now is the time to think about hurricane prep. As usual, we are going over our emergency plans here at OJJ, but one of the things we have to keep in mind, is that we need to make sure our families are safe and cared-for in the event we have to get to work and take care of our "other" kids. Be sure you and your family have the essentials for staying home without power, including batteries, food that is ready to eat, and plenty of water. If you live in an area that may be evacuated, start gathering copies of all your important papers, and get your family prepared to pack up if necessary. Don't forget to make arrangements for pets if you have them. We learned several years ago when the power was out for while that you can't use plastic to pay for things, so cash is a necessity for necessities. For comprehensive hurricane/emergency planning information, go to the GOHSEP Get a Game Plan link on our website, in the lower left on the homepage.

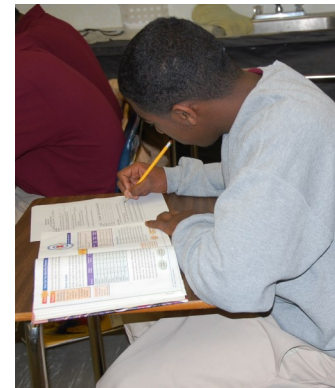
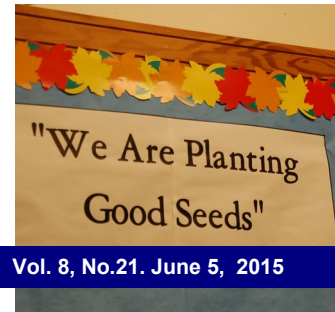
We did get some good news on the Legislative side last night. The Senate Finance Committee amended HB1 with funding to support the opening of the Acadiana Center for Youth in May 2016. HB1 still has to face a floor vote on the Senate side and, subsequently, House approval of any Senate changes. The legislature will be working through the weekend to get a budget on the books by close of session on June 11.

Bridge City held its graduation today. I always enjoy being a part of our graduation ceremonies, and seeing our young people beam as they are recognized for their accomplishments. Some parents and families were present to join their sons in celebrating their success. JJIC member Tracie Woods joined us to deliver an inspirational message to the boys. The instructors and educational staff were glowing, too, watching the kids reap the rewards of their hard work. I know that graduation ceremonies mean a lot to the entire staff, so congratulations to the entire Bridge City team – youth and staff – for a job well done.

Many of our staff are Southern University graduates, and I know many of you are mourning the death of longtime SU president Dr. Delores Spikes. She made history in a number ways - becoming the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics from LSU, and the first female chancellor and then president, of a public university in Louisiana. She served as a board member of Harvard University's Institute of Educational Management, and made history again when she was appointed president of the Southern University System, the first woman in the U.S. to head a university system. Dr. Spikes was a powerful example of what a person can accomplish when they choose the path to success, and here in Louisiana, we are all better for her contributions to excellence in education.

Louisiana baseball fans are prepping for the "Battle of the Basin." The UL Lafayette Ragin Cajuns are heading into Baton Rouge to take on the LSU Tigers in a best of three super regional. They are expecting a standing room only crowd at Alex Box this weekend; I will be enjoying the games from the comfort of my air conditioned home. Enjoy your weekend and sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, wherever you serve, for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



**Comments?
Send them to
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