

what's up doc?

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

Vol. 8, No.10. March 13, 2015

Hello, Everyone:

Have you adjusted to Daylight Saving Time yet? I'm having the usual difficulty—getting to sleep is pretty easy, waking up is another story. To make matters worse, we've had nothing but gray, gloomy days this week, so there has been no sunshine to save and enjoy. I'm really ready for spring. Real spring, with azaleas, cool temperature and sunshine.

Asst. Secretary Sean Hamilton, RD Johnny Qualls, Lafayette RM Michelle Thomas and I traveled to Acadiana for a visit with the New Iberia Kiwanis Club at the invitation of retired Judge Robert Segura. I had the opportunity to address the Kiwanis Club and update them about all the good things going on within OJJ. Of course, the big news for their area is the progress of construction of Acadiana. The Kiwanians were very receptive, and it's always good to have face time with community leaders.

I want to take a moment to remember several public servants who gave their lives in the line of duty this week. U.S. Marshal Josie Wells was killed in the line of duty. He was a member of the fugitive task force trying to apprehend a career criminal wanted in connection with a double murder of a brother and sister in New Roads. That individual had made his decision not to be taken alive known to relatives, and he died as a result of the gun battle. Marshal Wells was only 27 years old, with a wife who is expecting their baby. This child's father was a hero but that will make little difference to a widow raising her child alone and a fatherless son who never had the opportunity to meet his father. By all accounts, Marshal Wells was a dedicated law enforcement officer who wanted to make a difference in our world. I am deeply saddened by this senseless tragedy. And now we in Louisiana are mourning the loss of four Army National Guardsmen based out of the Hammond area. The Guardsmen were aboard a Black Hawk helicopter that went down on the Florida coast during a training mission. Our heartfelt condolences to Natchitoches RM Clay Dupuy, whose nephew, David Strother, was one of the lost Guardsmen.

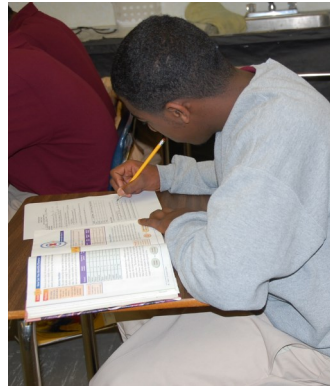
It is so very difficult for all of us to comprehend these tragedies, and for those of us in public service it is especially sobering. As I have said in the past, there is no greater calling than public service. In many areas, such as law enforcement, corrections and the military, it's a given that people put their lives on the line every day to protect the public. But it still takes my breath away when tragedies happen and we have to say goodbye to good, dedicated people. I will ask you all to remember our fallen compatriots and please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

On a lighter note, have you all received your truly addictive Girl Scout cookies yet? We hear the Thin Mints were held up in shipping by all the nasty weather, but who cares if the cookies fall victim to cold weather. You know they taste wonderful frozen, right? You freeze them so you won't sit down and eat the whole box, but the cookies are just fine frozen. And then there's the Samoas. It ought to be illegal to sell those things, they are soooooo addictive. And we have staff begging for Rah Rah Raisins rehab. I can just hear the voice ordering "Step away from that cookie."

So, what's with the Saints? Trading Jimmy Graham to the Seahawks, of all teams, without even telling him beforehand? Last I heard, we still have Drew Brees.

Okay, that's it for now. I'll close with my sincere thanks to each and every member of the OJJ team, in every office and facility, for all you do, every day and everywhere, to meet the mission. To borrow a line from the TV show Hill St. Blues: "Let's be careful out there."

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



Comments?
Send them to
Whatsupdoc?
OJJ@la.gov