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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, it's Friday again, and as ever, we had a busy week. Of course, I was not present in the office for all of it, but I managed a couple of meetings at central office and downtown. Physical therapy is going well, and it's a big help in strengthening the leg with all of its many fractures. If any of you have ever had PT, you know those therapists work you hard, but it's worth the effort. Whatever I can do to get back in the saddle, I'm going to do it.

One thing I missed today was the graduation ceremony at Jetson, but some of the staff who attended called to tell me what a great event it was. There were 11 grads, but only five attended – the others have been released and could not get away from their jobs or college. That's a perfectly good reason to miss your own graduation. **Juvenile Judge Kathleen Richey** was the keynote speaker, and she told the packed house how proud she was, personally, because two of the graduates are her youth. A number of parents attended, and the employers of one graduate were there to support their young employee, who recently was released, and who also earned not only his GED, but a traditional high school diploma as well. Now, that's a wonderful accomplishment for anyone, and my hat's off to not only **Brian D.**, but also to the school faculty who worked with him. Thanks also to our special guests who came out to support our graduates – **State Representative Dalton Honore, Mayor's representative David Guillory, Zachary Mayor David Amrhein and Zachary Police Chief David McDavid.** Congratulations to **Director Daron Brown, Principal Ronnie Knox, instructor Dwayne Nedie** who spearheaded the event, and all the faculty members and youth who decorated the gym and helped to make the graduation a memorable event for our kids.

I also want to say a big thank you to two Bridge City JJSs. Their close attention to kids' behavior in their dormitory and fast, decisive actions, thwarted an escape attempt by three youth. Somewhere around 3 a.m., **JJS Kia Griffin** called to notify the shift supervisor, **JJS Gilbert Lofton**, that she noted suspicious behavior by three youth in Serenity Dormitory. JJS Lofton reported to Serenity, where he observed all three youth with three layers of clothing on, and a map and plan for an escape. Thanks to JJS Kia Griffin, who has been with BCCY for about a year and a half, for being very observant and knowing what to do at once, and JJS Lofton for his support and fast response to the suspicious activity report. Not only did this contribute to the safety of the public, but also the safety and welfare of the youth involved. This was a very serious situation was avoided by professional actions.

This weekend is Father's Day, as most of you know. I hope you've already purchased those cards, because it's slim pickins' out there now. Many thanks to all of our fathers out there, and those of you who serve as father figures for our youth and perhaps other kids in the community and in their lives. Of course, the dads who will be working Sunday will not be with their own families on that day, they will be taking care of youth and maybe even providing support for the youth who may be missing their own dads, and some who may be missing their own children. So, thanks to all the OJJ fathers, and a special shout-out to my own dad. Dad, sorry I can't be there on Fathers' Day - maybe next year. (As author of this blog, I get to take literary license!)

And, of course, my thanks to all OJJ staff, fathers and non-fathers alike, in every office and facility, for all that you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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