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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Leg update: I am cooking with grease now! Ten weeks and counting – the doctor said I can walk just a few steps without crutches and I am now able to drive, as long as it doesn't hurt. Since it doesn't hurt to drive, I AM mobile! Several members of the Jetson staff have been babying me with a pillow to prop my leg on when I am there, and I have to admit, it does make me more comfortable. Just be patient with me on the highway, folks, I'm still a little slow on the road.

Speaking of Jetson, you all know we had two youth escape this week, and the search is on. Staff from Jetson and central office are staffing the command center around the clock. Jetson staff and people from several P&P offices are helping out with the search. Some of you may wonder why we need to do this – youth in secure care are high-risk kids to begin with, and when they do something like this, they present an even higher risk to the community. As you know, the first part of our mission states that we protect the public and that is what we have to do. I am confident that we will soon apprehend the two youth.

While we are dealing with the emergency situation at Jetson, our regular work continues to go on. We have to keep things moving forward in the face of this serious incident, and I am happy to report that work continues on the Acadiana Center for Youth project. Preliminary plans are drawn for the buildings and they are getting final touches. The architectural review is on-going and we do seem to be making some progress. **Engineer Curtis Badon** has been working hand-in-hand with the facility planning people at DoA, and we are hoping they will soon approve the drawings so we can continue to move forward. We are so looking forward to that grand opening sometime in the future.

I guess you have seen the news that our good friend, actor Andy Griffith passed away this week. Didn't we all grow up on The Andy Griffith Show? Who can forget the characters of Mayberry, including down-home sheriff Andy Taylor, played by Griffith? Andy will remain young forever, as he is in the reruns.

I hope all of you had an enjoyable Fourth of July – I know quite a few folks had their plans interrupted and spent the day at Jetson or out searching for our escapees, working to meet the mission. They will get that well-deserved plate of barbecue another day.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend, and I hope everybody stays safe out there. My thanks to all of you, in every office and facility throughout the state, for all you do every day, including holidays, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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