
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everybody:

Well, the Superbowl was not much of a game on Sunday night, but at least we got to see some new commercials. Of course, my favorite commercial was Budweiser's Puppy Love. The cute little pup kept on coming back to its Clydesdale buddy. It scored a 10 on the cuteness scale.

Central Office staff finished up meetings with Jetson employees earlier this week. By now, I know that some of our Jetson employees have reported to Bridge City and Swanson for duty. I want to thank each of you for continuing to serve the OJJ youth. I appreciate that you were able to rejoin the youth and be a part of their treatment. Unfortunately, we have had employees that were not able to transition to Swanson or Bridge City. We are continually working with Workforce Development and other agencies such as DOC and local law enforcement to keep everyone aware of opportunities that are available to them.

OJJ was in the news again this week. While I was in Monroe, the News Star published a story about the transferred youth getting settled at their new facilities and the wonderful work each of you do as "change agents." On Wednesday, Judge Tommy Duplantier came up from Lafayette to visit some of his local youth at Swanson. He was happy to be able to report back to his fellow judges that the youth are transitioning nicely. He was impressed with the campus and staff at Swanson.

Thursday was Bridge City's day to show off. They were visited by representatives from the Prison Law Office Advocacy group out of California. They had heard about our model and wanted to come and see it firsthand. Of course, they were impressed with the facility, staff, and youth. They got to see LAMOD in progress in some of the dorms, and they enjoyed some treats prepared by Chef Sonnier and the youth in the Culinary Arts program. They also got to see a little sleet. They joked about having to buy winter clothes to come to Louisiana!

I think the highlight of my week was the fact that I got to attend two town hall meetings. We did one on Wednesday at Swanson and today at Bridge City. I wanted to get a chance to hear from you all about the transfer and how it was going. From what I heard, we have a few things to follow-up on, but for the most part, things seem to be going well. As I did in person, I want to thank you all for going the extra mile to meet the mission during this time of transition. I know that many of you are working adjusted shifts until we get the Jetson staff in place. And I also know that I can count on you to make transferred staff feel welcome and assist them in getting to know your facilities.

I hope you enjoy your weekend, thanks to each of you, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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