

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! School is back in session and it amazes me each year that school starts so early here in Ada.

This month, we received a report from the Division of Education who told us that the clothing allowance for college students has been decreased while the allowance for books has been increased. Apparently the cost of books has increased dramatically.

Health Administrator Dr. Judy Goforth Parker has announced that all the Health Care facilities now sit on smoke free campuses. That is certainly good news for all Indians as smoking causes all sorts of maladies. She also announced the completion of negotiations with the Indian Health Service and we can expect to receive more funds from IHS under a new agreement. Robert Bales, M.D., ophthalmologist, from Elmore City, Oklahoma, will be providing part-time services at the eye clinic starting August 12, 2009. Welcome Dr. Bales!

The construction on the new hospital is coming along and the crews are beginning work on the interior now. The women's clinic at the new facility will be on the second floor. The Committee discussed with Dr. Parker the possibility of providing some sort of transportation for patients who need to travel from one end of the new facility to the other. The facility is quite long and some elders and others may have difficulties in going from one end to the other. No decision has been reached yet.

This is a general call out for new volunteers at Carl Albert. Some of the older volunteers have retired and we need new volunteers to replace them. Volunteers complete needed tasks for the hospital and patient services which gives the volunteer a sense of accomplishment. It also looks great on a resume for younger volunteers. Please consider giving a little time for the good of our Indian community!

The following are statistics for the month of July, 2009, (last year's statistics): Emergency Room visits were 805 (1,245). July saw 397 surgeries (408). The Same-day Clinic saw 2,378 patients (2,346). The Family Practice Clinic in Ada and satellite clinics saw 4,118 patients total in June (3,536). Internal Medicine saw 426 patients (489), Pediatrics saw 935 patients (676) and OB/GYN saw 56 patients (74).

I would love to hear from you. Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people. Thank you.