

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! We have enjoyed some Spring rains here. The rain hasn't slowed the work down very much on the new hospital and Cultural Center and we're thankful for that. The Cultural Center plans to have a limited open house for Festival week. If you are able, drive down to Sulphur that week and get a glimpse of the Center.

Summer is fast approaching and I wish to remind the elders to stay out of the heat as much as possible. Do your shopping early in the day to avoid the heat. The Farmers' Market in Ada is now open on Wednesday and Saturday and I know that several other towns have similar events.

Now that school is out we will see many of our summer youth workers throughout the Chickasaw offices. Both the Summer Youth and Jobs Partnership Training Act (JPTA) programs place young people in work experience situations where they learn many different skills as well as getting to work on time, working as part of a team, managing finances and leadership. We are fortunate to have such programs.

We also have several summer camps that are available to our youth. The camps vary from CNASA (space camp) to the Summer Arts Academy. The camps are operated by several governmental agencies such as Arts and Humanities, Youth and Family and Education Divisions.

Health System Administrator Bill Lance reports that we are interviewing dentists to fill two vacancies, one in Ada and one in Tishomingo. He also submitted the following statistics: for the month of April, 2008, there were 260 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 19,419. April Emergency Room visits were 1,031. April saw 293 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic

saw 3,380 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 2,951 patients in April. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,056 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,218. The Durant Clinic saw 2,650 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,088 in April.

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 month, thank you.