

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! It's that time of year that the woodlands give us a color show. The trees here in the Chickasaw Nation are starting to show lots of yellow, orange and brown in addition to green. We have had over eight inches of rain lately and several misty days and the weather is much cooler. The days are noticeably shorter now.

We have held the first regular session of Fiscal Year 2010. Our new Legislative Chairperson is Holly Easterling and Linda Briggs is the new Legislative Secretary. Doretta Sellers is again the Recording Secretary and Harold Stick continues as Sergeant-at-Arms. Doretta has been Recording Secretary since 1984 and Harold has been Sergeant-at-Arms since the early nineties. Doretta is also the oldest employee of the Legislature having been hired in 1984. She is the current Chief of Staff.

Dr. Judy Goforth Parker, Health Administrator, met with the Health Care Committee on October 5 and reported that Dr. Erica Sun is our new part-time Psychiatrist. Dr. Sun will be seeing patients at Carl Albert Hospital and will visit with patients in Tishomingo and Ardmore via tele-psychiatry. Dr. Sun came on board on September 14 and we wish her a hearty "Welcome Aboard"!

Site work on the new Chickasaw Nation Medical Facility, including 750,000square feet of concrete pavement and parking, is nearly complete. Roofing on the hospital, clinic and central plant is complete and a majority of exterior windows have been installed in the hospital. The building project continues to be on schedule.

The following are statistics for the month of September, 2009, (last year's statistics):
Emergency Room and Same-day Clinic visits were 3,116 (3,700). September saw 309 surgeries (294) and 456 total surgery visits (423). The Family Practice Clinic in Ada and satellite clinics

saw 3,888 patients total in September (3,873). Internal Medicine saw 372 patients (476), Pediatrics saw 964 patients (1,051) and OB/GYN saw 51 patients (48).

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.