

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! I hope you all enjoyed Easter at your place of worship and spent the rest of the day enjoying family and friends.

It's time to wish all of our graduating students the very best in the coming year and may you all continue in the vocation of your choice. Kudos to all of you for completing your course of study. I encourage all Chickasaws to continue your education throughout your lives.

I recently attended the Oklahoma state JOM conference in Tulsa. I was encouraged that the JOM program is very strong throughout the Chickasaw Nation. It is such a needed program that I hope Congress does not cut it as I hear they might. The program is wonderful and helps schools address the education of our Native American youth with the input and assistance from parents.

I would also like to remind students and parents that the summer camp season is rapidly approaching. The Chickasaw Nation will again offer camps that are educational and recreational in nature and excellent experiences for our youth to expand their awareness of the world and the opportunities that it holds. Please remain aware of our tribal newspaper and the Chickasaw Nation web site for further information.

Administrator Bill Lance reported the following statistics: In the month of March, 2006, there were 250 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 14,689. March Emergency Room visits were 977. March saw 311 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,555 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,570 patients in March. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,762 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,853. The Durant Clinic saw 2,890 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,723.

Until next month, may you each enjoy good health. 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.