

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! It's graduation time all across the Chickasaw Nation. Kudos and congratulations to our high school graduates. We hope that you will take advantage of the scholarships and other financial aid that is available to you from the Chickasaw Nation. We wish you God speed in all your future endeavors.

The Health Care Committee met with Administrator Bill Lance on April 9. He reported that the committee is currently choosing the materials for the new hospital. He also reported that the hospital will include room for CT scans, biopsies, teleradiology, telemedicine, bone density scans and MRI. All I can say is "wow."

The new hospital will be built to meet the expanding needs of Indian people within the service area. We are also working hard to expand services to Chickasaws who live outside the service area. We have an excellent working relationship with the Indian Health Service which will help us meet our goals. As you know, for years the patient load of our current facility has far exceeded the amount planned for back in 1980. We will be very excited to see the construction actually begin on the new facilities.

Administrator Bill Lance submits the following statistics: for the first quarter of 2007 (January through March), there were 627 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 43,209. First Quarter Emergency Room visits were 3,135. The first quarter saw 759 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 7,972 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 12,951 patients in the first quarter. The Ardmore Clinic saw 8,773 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 6,371. The Durant Clinic saw 7,501 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 4,541 in the first quarter.

May God bless each of you readers and the Chickasaw Nation. I would love to hear from you! Please contact me through my email address [mary.green@chickasaw.net](mailto: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.