

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! June is really hot and dry here. We are praying for rain as the fire danger increases in Oklahoma.

Kudos to our students of the year from Ada: Justin Nail and Joy Barrick, Ada High School; Chris Tiger and Taylor Howard, Ada Junior High School; Zachary Garcia, Jordan Workman, Cherokee Truelove and T'Ata Roberts, Willard School; Alexis Walker, Stormy Yargee, Mikayla Hook and Kamron Large, Washington School; Kra Sarah Durant, Cole Keeling, Cedar Easterling and Hannah Johnson, Hayes School; and Daryn Berryhill, Jefferson McDonald, Reese Hamilton and Kara Haines, Glenwood School. We also had many Chickasaw art students place in several categories at the Red Earth Festival.

I would like to remind all Chickasaw students that there is an essay contest to be held in conjunction with the 150th year celebration of our Chickasaw Constitution. The first Chickasaw Constitution was ratified by Chickasaw voters in 1856; the current Constitution was ratified by Chickasaw voters in 1983. Prizes will be awarded to Chickasaw junior and senior high school students. The essays are to be between 1,000 and 1,100 words in length and relative to the Constitution, including how the current Chickasaw Constitution defines the structure of the Chickasaw tribal government. The Constitution continues to be the "law of the land," even after 150 years. Good luck to all who write essays!

May was a busy month for our Health System Employees. Administrator Bill Lance submits the following statistics: In the month of May, 2006, there were 207 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at

Carl Albert was 14,541. May Emergency Room visits were 1,000. May saw 290 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,373 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,630 patients in May. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,071 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,244. The Durant Clinic saw 2,961 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,736 in May.

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.