

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! Spring is here and we are thankful for the rain that God blessed us with. Our weather has been good here through the last days of winter.

We are happy to announce the arrival of a new children's doctor at Carl Albert Hospital, Dr. Stephen O'Grady. The oversight committee for our new hospital have reported that they interviewed 3 architectural firms and hired one to design the new hospital. Next will be interviews for a facilitation manager. Administrator Bill Lance reported that the new prescription refill center should be open by January, 2007.

There is a plan underway to help with children needing orthodontia. Each family that has such a need should seek advice and bring a plan for their child's needs signed by their family dentist to be examined by our dentists. If the plan is approved, the family may receive up to a maximum amount of \$2,500 per year for the child's orthodontia. The family will have to pay their family dentist. We appreciate this new program as this work may be quite expensive.

Administrator Bill Lance reported the following statistics: In the month of February, 2006, there were 227 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 13,761. February Emergency Room visits were 974. February saw 231 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,644 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,425 patients in February. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,221 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,949. The Durant Clinic saw 2,596 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,513.

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.