

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! I hope all enjoyed Easter in church and family gatherings. The weather in the Chickasaw Nation is beautiful with blooming flowers and trees and much needed rain.

Kudos to Mason Laxton for outstanding achievement at Byng School and to all Chickasaw students receiving awards through the Chickasaw Nation's school programs. I hope you enjoy reading in the Chickasaw Times about the many Chickasaw students who receive awards. I'm very proud of our youth!

Our Health Care Committee met with Bill Lance, Administrator of the Health System. One of my personal goals will soon be reached to have an Optometrist at the Purcell Health Clinic one day a week. This will help a lot of Chickasaws living in the Purcell and surrounding areas.

Our best news is that the dental clinic at Carl Albert will see 200 more Chickasaw per month by operating a Saturday dental clinic twice a month. The toll free number to call for those appointments is (888) 512-5522.

Ground breaking for our new hospital is being planned for the not-too-distant future. A policy change at the hospital is that all patients who are eligible for Medicaid will be asked to fill out an application form. Oklahoma DHS workers will be available to provide assistance and determine eligibility for the program. This action will assist us in providing additional health care services for those patients with no health insurance.

We are happy to report that the renovation work is starting at the historic McSwain Theatre in downtown Ada. The attached building on the east side will be incorporated into the Theatre. Delays have been present because of the difficulty in locating qualified firms to do the work. The new Ada Community Center is nearing completion. It is located across from the Headquarters building on Mississippi Street.

Administrator Bill Lance submits the following statistics: In the month of February, 2007, there were 192 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 14,190. February Emergency Room visits were 1,069. February saw 237 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,921 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 3,998 patients in February. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,881 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,887. The Durant Clinic saw 2,432 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,458 in February.

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 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.