

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! Welcome to Summer, 2007. So far the weather has been cool and lots of rain here in Ada. We pray that it remains that way for the entire summer.

This is the time of year that the Executive Department and Legislature are preparing the budget for Fiscal Year 2008. The primary topic is, of course, the new hospital. We should expect that not very many new programs will be developed until the hospital is up and running. However, we do expect that the current level of programs will be maintained throughout this time period.

During the Health Care Committee meeting on May 7, Administrator Bill Lance reported that the groundbreaking for the new hospital should be in September of this year. That momentous occasion will all give us good enthusiasm for the completion of the project.

The Summer Youth Program will be in full swing the first week of June. As usual, it will be the first time for many of our youth to seek employment and experience the work place. We all hope that they have positive experiences as well as assist the Nation with their efforts.

We are all taking pride in the Chickasaw White House in Emet, Oklahoma, as it is now completely restored and is open to the public. As you know, it was the residence of Governor Douglas Johnston, the Chickasaw Governor at time of statehood who served the Chickasaw Nation until 1939. The town of Emet was named after my great uncle. I have purchased a memorial brick for my Mary Isabel Cornelia Victor Kennedy, his sister.

Administrator Bill Lance submits the following statistics: for the month of April, 2007, there were 217 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 14,608. April Emergency Room visits were 1,120. April saw 263 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 3,618 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,297 patients in April. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,213 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,160. The Durant Clinic saw 2,220 patients and the

Purcell Clinic saw 1,421 in April.

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.