

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee!

The ground breaking for the new hospital was held on November 9 with over 700 in attendance. I had really looked forward to being there; instead, I was in California to comfort my 87 year old sister in the death of her daughter. While there, I received word that my brother's wife had passed away, so I had 2 family funerals in one week my niece and sister-in-law. Therefore, I missed several community council meetings and other events. But I am thankful that I was able to tend to my family's needs.

I am so pleased that we can now begin construction on our new hospital. The new facility will see an increase in the number of doctors and nurses and many other services including an expanded family practice clinic, ob-gyn clinic, optometry, dental and behavioral health. Imaging services will be expanded with 2 CT scanners, an MRI unit and women's imaging services with digital mammography, ultra sound and bone scan.

Bill Lance met with the Health Care Committee on November 5 and submitted the following statistics: for the month of October, 2007, there were 203 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 19,806. October Emergency Room visits were 972. October saw 214 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,801 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 2,004 patients in October. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,207 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,082. The Durant Clinic saw 2,421 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,887 in October.

In closing, I hope y'all enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. For

Christmas, I wish y'all much happiness and remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. I wish for your new year health, prosperity and love for your family and friends. Remember God from whom all blessings flow. Thank God for the free country we live in!

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.