

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! We are all thankful for the good rain that we received here in Ada and are looking forward to Thanksgiving. Our family will be sharing our blessings with all seven of my husband's siblings. We will also be celebrating his 80th birthday and our 55th wedding anniversary. We have so much to be thankful for!

Thanksgiving is my favorite time of year. I wish God's blessing on each of you and may you receive more love and fellowship with family and friends than ever before. Remember why we take time for this special day and give thanks to our Creator.

We have had a total of 13 candidates file for the vacant seat on the Legislature. The vacancy was created by the untimely passing of Legislator Mooniene Ogee. This shows that there are many good Chickasaws interested in becoming a member of our law-making body. Kudos to all! It is our prayer that the person best suited for the position will prevail in the election.

Preparation continues for the new hospital. Stakes have been placed at the proposed site so we can garner at least a small sense of how large it will be. Administrator Bill Lance submits the following statistics: In the month of September, 2006, there were 208 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 14,763. September Emergency Room visits were 1,132. September saw 273 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,490 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,771 patients in September. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,136 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,445. The Durant Clinic saw 2,586 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,511 in September.

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](mailto: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.