

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! Fall is beautiful here in the Chickasaw Nation. Mornings are cool, and the foliage is turning vivid colors. In olden times, October was called the Moon of the Falling Leaves.

I attended the ground breaking for the new child care facility in Ada. Because of the increasing demand for more child care services, we need to build a bigger facility. We are trying to satisfy a long waiting list. The new facility will contain age appropriate classrooms, cafeteria, media room, aerobic room, sick room, indoor play areas, screening rooms and more. It will truly be state of the art.

The Health Care Committee met with Health System Administrator Bill Lance on October 9 who told us that a new obstetrician, Dr. Faye Jensen, is now working at Carl Albert Hospital. She is a welcome addition to the staff of the Women's Clinic and we welcome her warmly.

I also have breaking news! The Chickasaw Nation has been awarded a grant from the Indian Health Service regarding our new hospital. We had serious competition for the grant and it is a definite coup for us to receive it. The grant will assist in providing equipment and operating expenses for the new hospital.

Bill Lance submitted the following statistics: for the month of September, 2007, there were 205 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 17,124. September Emergency Room visits were 1,132. September saw 281 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,490 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,922 patients in September. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,685 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,791. The Durant Clinic saw

2,234 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,499 in September.

May you all enjoy the best of health possible and 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.