

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! Welcome to Autumn, 2006. We are thankful for cooler weather, but continue to pray for rain in the Chickasaw Nation. We are saddened by the loss of our dear friend and colleague Mooniene Ogee. She was a good and faithful Chickasaw and was especially thought of by our senior citizens and Honor Guard. We will certainly miss her.

The 150th year celebration of our Chickasaw Constitution was an event in Tishomingo enjoyed by hundreds. The short play was well received thanks to our own Chickasaw actors.

School is in full swing now and the youngsters are busy applying for the clothing grants. You can access Youth Services at www.chickasaw.net to apply online. The clothing grant for Chickasaw youth headstart through 12th grade was a dream of all of us on the Education Committee.

Plans are moving forward on our new hospital. Groundbreaking for the new Education building on Rosedale Road and on our Governmental Services building on Lonnie Abbott Blvd. were well attended. Our Education Department currently occupies rental properties in Ada and we are anxious to move them into their own building. The Governmental Services building will house the BIA, CDIB and Self Governance offices and departments.

I attended the National Indian Council on Aging conference in Tulsa. The Chickasaw Nation had the largest participation of all the tribes because our seniors attended from throughout our Nation. Legislator Wanda Scott and I participated in the fashion show along with several other Chickasaws. I also entered the story telling competition where I told the story of how Bear lost his tail. We supported a resolution calling for the continuation of a national conference instead of regional conferences. A good time was had by all who attended!

Administrator Bill Lance submits the following statistics: In the month of August, 2006, there were 237 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at

Carl Albert was 13,730. August Emergency Room visits were 1,158. August saw 287 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,522 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 3,830 patients in August. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,604 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,623. The Durant Clinic saw 2,569 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,466 in August.

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 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.