

April 2004

Diabetes Clinic grand opening set for April 6

Greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! The Health Care Committee met on March 8 and received an informative report from Bill Lance, Health Systems Administrator, which brought us up to date on current happenings in our hospital and clinics. We always appreciate the attentiveness Mr. Lance shows to your representatives and the information he so willingly shares.

Mr. Lance reported that things are moving well regarding the Purcell health care clinic. The structure is well under way and the parking lot is currently under construction. Electronic health records are now available at all branch offices and the Family Practice facility in Ada. Electronic records are the state of the art in the health industry and allow all of our providers to be knowledgeable about our complete health history. This allows the providers to ensure that their treatment of us is in concert with all of our providers.

Other highlights of the Health System include the new Diabetes Clinic in Ada which will have a grand opening on April 6; plans are being made to add CATscan services at Carl Albert Hospital; HUD is awarding a grant of \$80,000 for construction of our new prescription center; and several doctor staffing changes. Dr. Mota will come on board on June 1. Dr. Mota will practice internal medicine and a general surgeon, Dr. Davis, will be joining the staff at Carl Albert. Dr. Weathers, a quality provider, will join the staff at the Ardmore Clinic to fill a recent opening. The number of catastrophic health care emergencies has risen lately.

I also attended the Education Committee meeting on March 8. The Committee received a report from Sherri Waters, Acting Education Administrator, who reminded us that it is time to start thinking about scholarship applications for next school year. Please encourage every Chickasaw student needing assistance to make application as soon as possible. The 11th Student Appreciation Night is scheduled for April 22, 6:30 p.m., at the Pontotoc Area Technology Center. We have an outstanding education program and this night is a special time for students. Please join us if you can.

Each year, the Legislature conducts public hearings for the following year's budget. The hearings will be in June at several places around the Nation. As the times and places are determined, I will report them to you. Please try to attend these very important hearings.

As always, I invite any comments or questions you may have. Please contact me through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of *the Chickasaw Times*. I look forward to speaking with you! May God bless our health care providers and also our Indian people that they may be in better health in the coming year. Thank you.