

June 2004

Head Start kids moving on; lots of summer camps

Greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5 Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! The Health Care Committee met on May 10 and received an informative report from Bill Lance, Health Systems Administrator. Much information regarding our health care was discussed as well as changes planned for future health care.

The patient load at Carl Albert last year was 327,500 and is expected to increase this year as a result of extended services. May 10 through 14 was National Hospital Week and it was observed at Carl Albert Hospital. Third-party reimbursements were up for the month of April this year.

A question was asked regarding the poor condition of the emergency room parking lot. Mr. Lance reported that the parking lot is owned by the Abbott-Miller social services complex next to the hospital. We are in negotiations to procure the complex and repaving the parking lot will be high on the list of improvements. The planned prescription center will probably be located on the Abbott-Miller property.

The new Healthy Lifestyle center on Seabrook Road in Ada is slated for a grand opening in June. The Carter Seminary property in Ardmore is being considered for a similar facility, either to use the existing building or new construction. The Carter Seminary property is also being considered for a food distribution center.

Dr. Denny Parton reports for work at the Ardmore clinic on June 6. We look forward to giving Dr. Parton a warm welcome.

Housing Division has relocated numerous offices to a location on North Broadway in Ada. Housing purchased the old Branscum Lumber building last year and is planning to expand those facilities. Housing is also planning to implement automated equipment that may someday also be used by the Health System.

I also serve on the Education Committee and wish to report that computer classes for seniors will resume in July. Numerous camps for youth including Golf, Space and Entrepreneur Camps are scheduled for the month of June.

Graduates from Ada Head Start numbered 47. Graduation was held in the second week of May. I visited and enjoyed reading Indian stories to the Head Start group on several occasions. The teachers and I will miss their smiling faces but wish them all good success for next school term wherever they may attend.

It was also reported that 54 schools now participate in Governor's program to promote good grades. The Ada school system received an award for outstanding achievement for the JOM program.

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.