

Greetings and Happy Holidays from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! Serving you is certainly one of the things that I am thankful for and I sincerely wish one and all the best of Christmas and the happiest of all New Years.

Bill Lance, Administrator of the Chickasaw Health System has provided the following information for this month's report. The total number of hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility for October was 229 and a 2 month total was 449. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 13,301 for October and 27,407 for the last 2 months. Emergency Room visits were 1,031 in October and 20,28 in the last 2 months. The number of surgeries for October was 257 and 513 for the last 2 months. The Same-day Clinic saw 2,771 patients in October and 5,606 in the last 2 months.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,515 patients in October and 9,233 in the last 2 months. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,861 for October and 5,940 in the last 2 months. The Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,772 patients in October and 5,382 in the last 2 months. The Durant Clinic saw 2,253 patients in October and 4,837 in the last 2 months. The total number of patients seen or admitted in the last 2 months for all clinics and the hospital, including all hospitalizations and surgeries, is 61,395. This month's totals include the numbers from our new Purcell Clinic.

This is the time of year when I reflect upon the accomplishments of our beloved Nation. For me, the realization that we have come a long way is very strong this year and I have many high hopes for the next 12 months and years to come. We as a nation have demonstrated that, working together, we seemingly have few boundaries to constrain our advancement. Our tribal businesses continue to be successful and we Legislators continue to plan for additional services for Chickasaw citizens.

The Chickasaw Nation has truly become a leader in Oklahoma and an inspiration for all Native American tribes throughout the United States. The positive messages brought to us in television commercials by the likes of Chairperson Linda Briggs, Secretary of the Legislature Dr. Judy Goforth Parker, astronaut John Herrington and former Assistant Secretary of the Interior Neal McCaleb show that we are good neighbors who work not only for the betterment of our citizens, but also for the betterment of all Oklahomans. I also think that the induction of Governor Bill Anoatubby into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is a milestone along our journey and I wish to congratulate him and thank him for the outstanding

leadership he has given the Nation.

Please contact me through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the web site. I look forward to speaking with you! For your information, my articles are now located at www.chickasaw.net. Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to all!

Thank you.