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### **Tobacco Reward Reminder Visits take place in Wagoner County**

The Cherokee Nation Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC), in partnership with the Wagoner County Tobacco Use Prevention Coalition, Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) and the Wagoner Family Service Council conducted Tobacco Reward Reminder Visits (RRVs) in the Wagoner County communities of Wagoner, Coweta and Porter.

RRVs are an evidence based prevention strategy to reduce youth access to tobacco by rewarding tobacco retailers who I.D. properly and refuse sale.

RRVs are an opportunity to educate tobacco retailers about the risks and potential negative impact tobacco sales have on our youth in the community. Regardless of whether I.D. is checked or money is exchanged, if a clerk puts tobacco in arm's reach of the minor decoy, rings up a price on the register and then communicates that price, it is counted as a sale.

It is the clerk's responsibility to properly check I.D. and refuse sale before retrieving tobacco products. Because youth are told to present their real I.D., which shows that they are underage, the clerk only has to read the yellow box on the vertical I.D. This yellow box tells the clerk the exact day, month and year the decoy will turn 18. It is also important to note that acceptable forms of I.D. include: Oklahoma State Issued Driver's license and Identification Card, U.S. Passport, U.S. Military I.E., and Permanent Resident card. College Student I.D. should not be taken as the sole source of identifying a customer's age for the purpose of buying tobacco or alcohol. Tribal I.D. cards may be taken if a business wants to accept them; however, the State of Oklahoma does not recognize them as a valid I.D.

Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) Region 5 would like to thank the following merchants for following the law: Ginny's Log Cabin Store on 690 Road, Fast Trax off Dewey/U.S. 69, Walgreens, Fred's Grocery, Maverick Mini Mart and Morgan's Corner.

Of the seven RRVs conducted, there was only one attempt to sell tobacco to a minor decoy. The retailer who attempted to sale to a minor was warned of the dangers associated with youth access to tobacco and reminded to follow state law prohibiting the sale of tobacco to youth under 18 years of age. The manager of the store received a packet of educational information to help store employees make wiser choices when selling tobacco products.

RPC Region 5 is funded by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) Strategic Prevention Framework state Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG project), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) and ODMHSAS.

Wagoner County Tobacco Use Prevention (WCTUP) is a Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control grantee funded by the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET). To join the efforts of WCTUP, contact Johnna Sue Blair or Monica McCrary at 918-485-3022.