

# KI BOIS News

Helping People. Changing Lives. Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



## The South West Transit Association Names Charla Sloan as their First Woman President

Austin, Texas (March 1, 2010) - At the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Charla Sloan was voted as the new President of the South West Transit Association (SWTA).

“This is particularly exciting because Charla is the first female to be name President in the 30 year history of SWTA,” says SWTA Executive Director, Kristen Joyner.

Mrs. Sloan has served on the South West Transit Association board since 2004 when she first represented the Oklahoma Transit Association as President. In 2007, Charla was voted Vice President of the SWTA Board and on February 17, 2010, became President of the organization.

“We are thrilled to have Charla serve as President of SWTA,” remarked Rick Cain, Administrator, Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and President of the Oklahoma Transit Association. “Charla’s background in working with Federal, State and local agencies to provide great rural transportation will serve the SWTA organization and its members well.”

Charla began in transit in 1988 as a part-time clerk at KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. By 1996, Charla had earned the position of Transit Director. Since then she has been instrumental in increasing public transportation services to needy residents in eastern Oklahoma. KI BOIS Community

(Continued on page 5)



Charla Sloan



KI BOIS Community Action was named 2009 Business of the Year (with over 50 employees) and KI BOIS Community Action Executive Director Carroll Huggins was named 2009 Business Leader of the Year by the Stigler Haskell County Chamber of Commerce. KI BOIS Community Action Board Chair Gene Bass is shown holding the Business of the Year Plaque. Presenting the awards was Chamber President Jennifer Slater. (See story on page 4)

## From the Desk of the Executive Director / CEO

We were very pleased to learn that KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated was selected as 2009 Business of the Year by the Stigler/Haskell County Chamber of Commerce. I am also honored to be selected as 2009 Business Leader of the Year.

Our Board Chairman, Mr. Gene Bass, received the award for our agency at the Annual Chamber of Commerce Appreciation Banquet in Stigler on Saturday, February 25, 2010. Our Lt. Governor Jari Askins was the keynote speaker and over 240 people were in attendance. It was a very nice honor for our agency and for me.

KI BOIS Community Action now has 950 employees and a 38 million dollar annual budget. That makes us one of the largest employers in Southeastern Oklahoma.

I am pleased to say that our agency is very healthy with no debt and a good cash reserve and good sound assets. I attribute this to a great board, great management team, and great staff and great volunteers.

We are following closely the budgets of each of our programs as cuts continue to come down from the State of Oklahoma. We have taken several steps to operate as lean as we can without laying off staff.

We do not know what the future will bring as far as cuts in funding but we do not believe that the State of Oklahoma will have any choice but to farther reduce spending for at least the next two fiscal years.

Our Department of Commerce CSBG ARRA monitoring is scheduled to begin this month and the annual audit by our independent auditor is nearing completion. We are also doing lots of income tax returns for our clients.



**Carroll Huggins**

*R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP  
Executive Director/CEO*

## Ted Allen/David Walker Scholarship Award Winners Announced

Jacquelyn Smith, daughter of Great Plains Improvement Foundation employee, Sheryl Smith, was named the recipient of the 2010 Ted Allen/David Walker Scholarship. Smith will receive a \$1,000 scholarship at the OWHAC Housing & Energy Conference in OKC in August. Placing 2nd was Traci Gist and she will receive a \$500 scholarship check from OWHAC. Gist is related to several KI BOIS Community Action staff including Sandra Few.

In addition there were eight more applicants and OWHAC voted to give them a \$100.00 scholarship. They include Branton Moore – the son of KI BOIS Weatherization Coordinator Kenny Moore and Ricale Keith – granddaughter of Head Start Center Director / Family Service worker Sandra Miles. Other \$100 winners were Melecia Pena – WVCAC; Garrett Goldsby – Delta; Ethan Griffith – Delta; Dylan Graham – Southwest; Sean Pontius – OHFA employee and Kelsey Mobbs – INCA

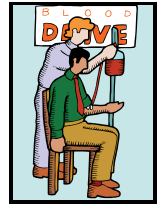
Congratulations to all of these applicants. They all did a great job!



## Calendar of Events

### March 2010

- Tuesday, March 11th, 9:00 a.m. Head Start Strategic Planning Committee, KI BOIS Community Action Conference room.
- Sunday, March 14th, Day-light Savings Begins....Don't forget to run your clocks up!
- Spring Break Week of the 15th....
- OBI Blood Drive Wednesday, March 17th 2:00 - 6:00 KI BOIS Community Action Conference room.
- OKACCA Legislative Conference March 22<sup>nd</sup> thru 24th, Biltmore, OKC.
- KI BOIS Community Action Board meeting, Thursday, March 25th.



### **KI BOIS News**

is published monthly by  
KI BOIS Community Action  
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#### **R. Carroll Huggins**

Executive Director / CEO

#### **Tom Marlatt**

Associate Director / CFO

#### **Larry Hall,**

Associate Director / COO

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Jan Coplen, Parliamentarian

Kay Box, Editor  
918-967-3325, Ext. 131

## Saturday, March 20th Spring Begins

# KI BOIS Community Action Offers Energy Education!

Bills, bills, bills! We all have them and most of us are becoming increasingly concerned about our growing monthly budgets. Fortunately, there is one area of our budget over which we have a great deal of control, our energy bills. If you're interested in lowering your energy bills, we can help! The KI BOIS Energy Education Department has the resources to help you learn how to better manage your energy usage. Following are some low-cost and no-cost tips to save energy this coming summer:

## Use Your Windows to Gain Cool Air and Keep Out Heat

- When it's predicted to be cool at night, turn off your cooling system and open your windows while sleeping. When you wake in the morning, shut the windows and blinds to capture the cool air.

**Install window coverings to prevent heat gain through your windows.**

## Operate Your Thermostat Efficiently

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.
- Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lower the thermostat setting to 78°F (26°C) only when you are at home and need cooling. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature.

**Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.**

## Use Fans and Ventilation Strategies to Cool Your Home

- If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort.
- Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room. Remember that fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect.

**When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove the heat and humidity from your home. Your laundry room might also benefit from spot ventilation. Make sure bathroom and kitchen fans are vented to the outside (not just to the attic).**

## Keep Your Cooling System Running Efficiently

- Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment.
- Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

**Vacuum registers regularly to remove any dust buildup. Ensure that furniture and other objects are not blocking the air flow through your registers.**

## Don't Heat Your Home with Appliances and Lighting

- On hot days, avoid using the oven; cook on the stove, use a microwave oven, or grill outside.
- Install efficient lighting that runs cooler. Only about 10%–15% of the electricity that incandescent lights consume results in light—the rest is turned into heat.
- Take advantage of daylight instead of artificial lighting, but avoid direct sunlight.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. Consider air drying both dishes and clothing.
- Take short showers instead of baths.

**Minimize activities that generate a lot of heat, such as running a computer, burning open flames, running a dishwasher, and using hot devices such as curling irons or hair dryers. Even stereos and televisions will add some heat to your home.**

## Keep Hot Air from Leaking Into Your Home

- Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.

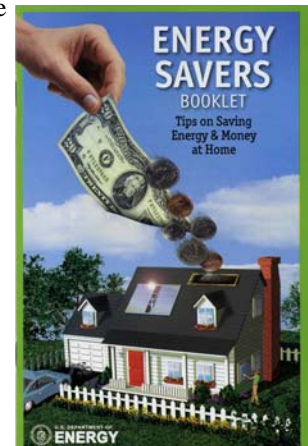
**Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.**

## Lower Your Water Heating Costs

Water heating can account for 14%–25% of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

The information above is an excerpt from one of the tools we use, the Energy Savers Booklet, published by the U.S. Department of Energy. It is a comprehensive pamphlet that includes a multitude of tips to help you as you choose to live a more energy-efficient lifestyle. These booklets are available by emailing your request to [anita.bucciarelli@kibois.org](mailto:anita.bucciarelli@kibois.org), or you may phone in your request to Anita at 918-967-3325.

Please help us to spread the word that KI BOIS also provides energy education presentations in group settings for people of all ages. Senior gatherings, employee, civic and business meetings, classrooms and school assemblies – we can tailor a program to fit any group. Simply call Anita (918) 967-3325) to schedule a presentation.



## AWARDS...cont. from page 1

Example,” according to Webster’s Dictionary is “something showing the character of the rest; a model.” KI BOIS Community Action Executive Director / CEO R. Carroll Huggins sets an example every day to those who call him friend, employer, and the individuals our agency serves. Huggins has been a life-long resident of Haskell County. Receiving his high school diploma from McCurtain, he has never traveled far from his roots. Receiving his BS Degree in Education in 1964 from Oklahoma State University, Huggins started in his profession as a school teacher with the Oklahoma City Public School system. He returned to Haskell County in 1968 and began his career as Area Coordinator for KI BOIS Community Action. After leaving in 1969 and working in other areas, Huggins returned to KI BOIS Community Action and took the reins as Executive Director in July of 1978. Under his leadership, KI BOIS Community Action has grown into one of the largest Community Action agencies in Oklahoma with a 30 million dollar budget. KI BOIS Community Action is also recognized as Southeastern Oklahoma’s largest employer with approximately 900 employees. KI BOIS Community Action’s growth did not just happen; it took wisdom and foresight by a man with a vision.

### *Rx for Oklahoma Assists Individuals With Prescriptions*

Rx for Oklahoma helps Oklahomans access prescription assistance programs provided by pharmaceutical manufacturing companies. Free and discounted medication assistance has proven to be a much needed service for Oklahomans since the inception of Rx for Oklahoma on December 1, 2005. KI BOIS Community Action is the lead agency for the program and continues its partnerships with Little Dixie CAA, Big Five CS, INCA, and Delta CAF to comprise Region 4 of the five regions in Oklahoma. These five agencies service 17 counties in southeastern Oklahoma. We have approximately 86 physicians working with Rx for Oklahoma, and that number continues to grow as Rx for Oklahoma staff market the program and bring awareness to all doctors, clinics, hospitals, and all other medical personnel. Oklahoma residents, regardless of age, who are uninsured or underinsured are encouraged to apply. Medicare Part D and Medicaid beneficiaries with unique circumstances may qualify. The lists of drugs change regularly as companies add new drugs and/or discontinue assistance with certain drugs. Call KI BOIS Community Action Rx for Oklahoma Director Shaunda Noah at (918)967-3325 for more information.



Serving Haskell, Latimer LeFlore and Pittsburg counties, Mr. Huggins’ goal has always been that each county office meet the needs of those we serve, but first and foremost, treat those individuals with dignity and respect. Under the leadership of Huggins, KI BOIS Community Action programs have survived and continue to grow in spite of budget cuts making KI BOIS Community Action one of the major social service agencies in the area. Mr. Huggins is often called on by other Community Action Agencies



“I am honored.” states Huggins .

As you stand in the doorway of Mr. Huggins’ office the walls are decorated with his many accomplishments, but what you don’t see and never hear about are the many handshakes, telephone calls and thank you’s that he has received. For the past 32 years, Mr. Huggins’ mission has been serving those in need.

Mr. Huggins and his wife, Lana, have three boys, Jon, Matt and Mike and three daughters-in-law, Maylynda, Sally and Stacey. The Huggins family is also blessed with six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Huggins attends Main Street Baptist Church where he serves as Deacon Chair. Mr. Huggins has not only served his family and community, but has served his country as well. He entered the Oklahoma National Guard in 1967 and retired in August of 1999 as a Sergeant Major.

Mr. Huggins is the “man” for Business Leader of

## Run Into Reading 5k

**There will be a 5k run/1 mile walk fundraiser for the Haskell County Stigler Library on Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>. It will start at 8:00am in the parking lot of Roye Park and will end up back at the park. The course is a sanctioned 5k course and will be timed, with medals going out to the top 3 overall times. All ages are welcome. You can run, walk, push a stroller, or just sponsor someone! Tell everyone you know that might be interested in participating. All proceeds from the race will go to the construction of our new Haskell County Stigler Library. All participants will receive a race day T-shirt.**



**\* Early bird registration until March 22nd - \$15. March 23-27 - \$20. Please contact Janice at the Haskell Co. Chamber (918) 967-8681 or Lola at the Stigler Library (918) 967-4801 for more information or registration forms.**

(Continued on page 5)

**AWARDS....cont. page 4**

the Year. Huggins' character and the success of KI BOIS Community Action speak volumes for his dedication and hard work to his community and those individuals KI BOIS Community Action serves.

**KI BOIS Community Action** was also selected as 2009 Business of the Year (over 50 employees). On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1968 board members from Community Action agencies in Haskell, Latimer and LeFlore Counties met and agreed to form one single agency, KI BOIS Community Action. Inc.

Today, KI BOIS Community Action has grown into one of the largest Community Action agencies in Oklahoma and is the major social service agency in Southeastern Oklahoma with programs touching every age, ethnic and gender group in our area of operation. From Head Start to senior programs from public transportation to Developmentally Disabled (DD), from Women's Shelters to Drug Rehabilitation Services, KI BOIS Community Action is and continues to be the leader in community development and social services delivery. Serving Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore and Pittsburg counties, KI BOIS Community Action goal has always been that each county office meets the needs of those we serve, but foremost treat those individuals with dignity and respect. Each office is staffed with trained personnel who are equipped with knowledge and resources to help every individual who enters our agency. With today's economic crisis and the increasing demand for services, KI BOIS Community Action is always seeking new avenues to meet those demands.

Congratulations Carroll and KI BOIS Community Action for your service to those we serve and to our community.

**Sloan named president.....cont. from page 1**

Action has been able to expand service from a four county to an eleven county area and has directed the statewide "Road to Work, Oklahoma" program. Mrs. Sloan recently worked with former Congressman Brad Carson's office and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to obtain funding and build a brand new maintenance facility and offices in Stigler, Oklahoma, for the thriving and growing non-profit agency.

KI BOIS Community Action provides demand response public transportation services, contract transit services for the Department of Human Services (DHS) TANF program as well as transportation for Medicaid's Sooner Ride program.

The South West Transit Association (SWTA) is a regional transit association representing: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. SWTA was formed in 1979 to represent transit agencies and others interested in public transit issues. SWTA's mission is to assist members in maintaining and improving their ability to provide quality public transportation services by providing a community of education, communication and advocacy.

Congratulations Charla!

**Homes For Sale**



**902 E. Jefferson, McAlester - \$128,000.00**



**900 E. Jefferson, McAlester - \$128,000.00**



**401 North 9th, McAlester - \$128,000.00**

**You could be living in one of the above homes in just a matter of days .....**

- \$20,000 down-payment/closing cost assistance provided in form of a second mortgage
- Buyers must meet certain income eligibility requirements
- 1500 sq ft, two car garage, energy efficient homes
- Financing available thru BancFirst and Rural Development

**Contact Housing Director John Jones at 918-967-3325 for more details.**

# Feel Better Soon Jan Garner



Coalition members wear their orange t-shirts as they gear up for the 2010 Census. Back row left to right are Ernest Renfrow, Anne Peck, Janice Williams, Peggy McAlester and Royce Alverson. Seated are Donna Carolan, Anita Bucciarelli and Sandi Rutherford.

## Haskell County Coalition Involved in 2010 Census

By Sandie Rutherford, Chair  
Haskell County Coalition

The Haskell County Coalition is partnering with the 2010 US Census and has formed a Complete Count Committee. This committee will seek to involve every aspect of a local community in its committee structure-government, education, faith-based, media, community-based, special housing, recruiting and business. Up to this point the committee has established membership structure, function and purpose of committee.

The committee plans to discuss community perceptions and any cultural or language factors that may require attention in developing census plans & activities, identify areas within the community which may need special targeting for promotion and outreach because of remoteness, language, or other factors, decide on an action plan for promoting census awareness within the community, and identify specific activities and assignments related to building awareness, motivating community response and encourage community cooperation with enumerators.

It's In Our Hands - Stand Up and Be Counted is the slogan for this year's campaign. - In the US Census 2000 58% of Haskell County residences participated in the Census along with 55% of Latimer County residences, 59% of LeFlore County residences and 60% of Pittsburg County residences. Our goal is to increase Haskell County's participation. We need everyone!!!

As 2010 Census Partners it is our obligation to do all that we can to further this cause/campaign for Haskell County and our great state of Oklahoma. Please share the message with everyone you know.

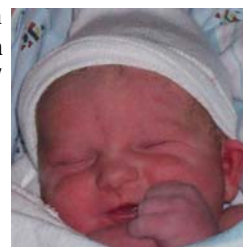
## To everything there is a season, A time to be born....



Alayna Martin was born on February 9th to Amy and Steve Fair. Weighing 6 lbs - 12 oz and 19 inches long she was also welcomed home by her older brother Christian.

Amy works out of the Latimer County KI BOIS Community Action office as VITA / CAPilot Coordinator. Alayna's grandmother, Claudia Jeffrey, is also KI BOIS Community Action Latimer County Director.

Thomas Lane Ward was born on February 14th to Shianna Parkinson and Kirk Ward. Thomas weighed 7 lbs - 12 oz and was 19 inches long.



Great-grandmother is KI BOIS Community Action Head Start Director Donna Carolan.



Please welcome Elaine Beardsley grandson, Aiden Pierce to our KI BOIS family. Aiden was born on February 15th, weighing 5lbs. 8 oz and 18 inches long. Elaine works in Head Start as a secretary.



Kaden Dale arrived at 11:56 a.m. Tuesday, Feb, 23rd, weighing 8lbs 7oz and 21 1/4" long. Kaden's proud parents are Marcy and Bradley Ross.

Marcy works in the accounting department of KI BOIS Community Action.

## and a time to die.



## Hazel Marks Killian

April 15th, 1921 - Feb. 23rd, 2010

Ms. Killian was the mother of  
Head Start Secretarial Clerk  
Jackie Garland.

**Feel Good.** KI BOIS Community Action Conference Room  
**Give Blood.** Wednesday, March 17th  
 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
 If you would like to give....call Kay Box (918) 967-3325 ext. 131

## ***KI BOIS Community Action Employment Postings***

**JOB TITLE: HABILITATION TRAINING SPECIALIST – Part Time**

LOCATION: Poteau and McAlester

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Will serve as direct support staff for consumers. Ability to handle sensitive issues while protecting others' welfare. Able to exercise patience, understanding, creativity and flexibility. HS Diploma/GED, maintain a valid driver's license and auto insurance. Must complete Foundation, CPR and First Aid Training (and any other training as required/requested.) Must be able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.

VERIFY OPENING AND PICK UP APPLICATION at local KI BOIS Community Action Office.

**JOB TITLE: CLIENT ADVOCATE - Full Time (12:00 Midnight to 8:00AM)**

LOCATION: McAlester – Domestic Violence Shelter

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Training and/or experience in crisis intervention, effective listening, problem solving and communication skills. Experience in volunteer programs preferred. HS Diploma/GED.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Until Filled

**JOB TITLE: CONTRACT CASE MANAGER (Advantage) - Full Time**

LOCATION: Leflore County

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Requires B.S. in Social Work or related field with two years experience in human services. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Until Filled

**JOB TITLE: TRANSIT DRIVERS – Part Time**

LOCATION: Sallisaw, Okmulgee, McAlester, Henryetta, Tahlequah, Poteau, Okemah

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Maintain a valid driver's license. Good driving record. Must be physically able to assist passengers and their belongings while entering and exiting the vehicles. Must be able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs and provide wheel chair assistance. Should have knowledge of area resources and live within convenient distance of city where job opening is available.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Until Filled

**JOB TITLE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR – Full Time**

LOCATION: Poteau Area

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Must have at a minimum a Bachelor's degree in counseling, psychology, social work, or an addiction related field. Master's degree preferred. One year experience preferred. Will provide counseling in an outpatient setting.

**JOB TITLE: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – Full Time**

LOCATION: Eufaula Area

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Previous experience in the mental health and or substance treatment field a plus, along with a demonstrated ability to read and interpret various regulatory standards. Will perform basic accounting, computer application, data entry, patient chart audit and organizational related tasks.

***These positions are open to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation staff as well as to the public. Current employees – please submit a letter of interest to Human Resources. Applications may be picked up at any KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. office or printed from the website, [www.kibois.org](http://www.kibois.org). Applications should be returned to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. P. O. Box 727 Stigler, OK 74462, Attention: Human Resources Phone: 800.299.4479 Fax: 918.967.8660.***

***KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION, INC.  
 IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER***



YAB students, back row, left to right, Autumn Kirkland, Lacey Gamblin, Tres Rutherford, Erica Monks, Alysia Pemberton, Shonnie Hall, Director. Front row left to right: Dakota Bryant, Tabitha Robertson, Moriah Robertson, Kolton Bryant.

### Making a Difference Today and in the Future

Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a youth led program dedicated to helping communities within the Choctaw Nation through education and communication.

These youth leaders are uniquely visible in their community promoting programs involved in underage drinking prevention and tobacco use prevention and domestic violence prevention. YAB organizes community service projects such as canned food drives, youth volunteer work, trash offs, and many more. There are over 23 projects they do in 10.5 counties of the Choctaw nation with interests and commitment to the communities of the Choctaw Nation. Their desire is to make a difference. The Choctaw YAB is open to Choctaw youth tribal members as well as non-tribal youth in grades eight-12 through 12th.

YAB was the Spotlight presenter at the Haskell County Coalition on Thursday, February 4, 2010. Rutherford is the son of Smart Start Kiamichi Coordinator Sandi Rutherford and Bryant is the son of Child and Adult Food Care Program Ginger Bryant.



Students look on with excitement as their volcano experiment erupts. Pictured are students of Jaymie Craig and Ashley Dunkin's KI BOIS Head Start/Pre K, Stigler.

## Free Income Tax Preparation

If your income is less than \$50,000 and you have a basic income tax return, KI BOIS Community Action will prepare your income taxes for FREE!!!

KI BOIS will have the following income tax preparation sites available January 15th - April 15th, 2010 for your 2009 income tax preparation.

Wilburton: 918-465-3381

McAlester: 918-423-3525

Poteau: 918-647-3267

Stigler: 918-967-3325

Heavener Head Start: 918-653-2004

Hartshorne Champ Hodgens Estates: 918-429-9999

**Call your nearest KI BOIS Community Action location to make an appointment.**



Heavener Pre K students taking a trip to the post office to mail valentines.



It's been a long, cold winter for students in all of the Head Start centers and when you catch a few sunny days you need to make the most of it. Heavener Head Start students are shown doing just that and enjoying every minute of the sun.....notice the children around the picnic table in the background.