RUFE — A Rufe man has been charged with two felony counts of lewd molestation and two misdemeanor counts of stalking after a Sept. 24 incident involving minors near the Choctaw Academy Church.

Joseph Leroy Potts is charged with touching two juvenile girls and attempting to kiss them as well as stalking them, according to District Attorney Laura Ross Wallis. The Choctaw County Sheriff's Department report states the incident happened in the afternoon of Sept. 24 when the two girls were helping clean the property around the church in preparation for a Halloween haunted trail event. Potts lives about 100 yards south of the church.

The girls gave a written statement about Potts including that similar incidents with the man had happened before but they were afraid to report it because of threats made by Potts.

Law enforcement officials report that Potts is also facing federal charges for stalking in another case.