

# THE ANTLERS AMERICAN

Sunday, 26 April 2009

## Awareness theme of event

Antlers American: Angela Fuentes

Local students gathered at Little People's Park on Thursday to take part in an Earth Day and Child Abuse Prevention Month event. The students helped plant trees in the park and blue ribbons tied to them, symbolizing children reported neglected or abused in Pushmataha County.



By Angela Fuentes

Staff Writer

In honor of Earth Day and Child Abuse Prevention Month, James Dry from the Choctaw Nation and others teamed up for a joint celebration of events. Realizing that this would be the perfect opportunity to arouse awareness of these happenings in children, James presented the idea before the Turning Point Coalition. Excited about the idea, members of the Coalition partnered with other sponsoring organizations and leaders to pull everything together.

Five Brantly Elementary school teachers brought their students to the Child Abuse Prevention and Earth Day at the Little People's Park in Antlers last Thursday. Mayor Brent Franks gave the opening address sharing with the kids the importance of why they were celebrating. A total of 130 school kids helped plant trees in the park that were supplied by the Choctaw Nation. Blue ribbons were tied to the trees symbolizing the children reported to have been neglected or abused within the last year in Pushmataha County. The children also enjoyed other fun activities like face painting, flower planting, and received free giveaways.