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Event seeks to raise awareness

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By Brad House

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The Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition, in conjunction with a number of area agencies, will be sponsoring an afternoon of activities to promote child abuse awareness and Earth Day.

The event kicks off Thursday, April 16 at 1:30 p.m. at Little People's Park in Antlers.

Activities will include: face painting, refreshments, foster care recruitment, library packet giveaways, free tree giveaways, flower planting, tree planting and trash removal.

Earth Day is an annual event aimed at raising awareness of the importance of conservation, with the goal of promoting activities that protect and preserve the environment.

Such activities can involve gardening, recycling, energy conservation actions, such as turning off lights when you leave a room at home, walking or bicycling instead of driving and conserving water.

Likewise, efforts to raise awareness of the problem of child abuse in Oklahoma are also geared toward confronting and, ultimately, changing harmful behaviors.

In 2008, there were 48 children with confirmed allegations of abuse or neglect in Pushmataha County.

Partnering with the Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition are the following: Choctaw Nation "Going Green" Initiative, Smart Start Tri County, Department of Human Services, the Pushmataha County Health Department, OSU Extension 4-H, Antlers Library, Project SPIT, Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles, Oklahoma Department of Forestry, Antlers Public Schools, Brantly Elementary and the City of Antlers.