

Red Ribbon Week observed at Morgan County Schools

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by Megan Scott, Director of the Morgan County Partnership (as printed in the Morgan Messenger)

This year Red Ribbon Week was held October 22-30. It is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. It serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives.

And, perhaps more importantly, Red Ribbon Week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep the country and children safe.

In Morgan County, several activities were held in schools to educate and to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. At Warm Springs Middle School, MADD Speaker, Margaret Walker shared her story to students in sixth-eighth grade about how she lost her only son to a drunk and drugged driver.

Greenwood, Pleasant View and Warm Springs Intermediate School participated in Plant the Promise, where students plant flowers at their school as a symbol of hope. The flowers that thrive serve as a reminder of the beauty of life when it is drug free.

Also at the intermediate school, the third Healthy Living Fair took place, educating fifth graders of how to make smart decisions for healthy living. Workshops including Zumba dance, effects of tobacco use, coping with peer pressure, and stress management techniques.

At Paw Paw schools a guest speaker shared her struggles with addiction with students and then ended the week with an alcohol and drug free event called Friday Night in the Front Yard with musical guests, The School of Rock Band.

The events for Red Ribbon Week was a collaborative effort between Morgan County Schools, The Morgan County Partnership and several businesses and individuals from our community, including War Memorial Hospital, Awakening Health Center, the Red Guitar School of Rock, the PRO Officer, Berkeley Springs High School Athletes and others.

For more information on how to get involved with making a difference in the community, contact the Morgan County Partnership at 304-258-7807. The Morgan County Partnership is a local non-profit that works to build a supportive network of resources for young people, their families and others connected to them in order to create a safe, healthy and drug free community.