

Forum looks at ways music influences youth

By Sarah Frank
Victims Advocate

The music that young children listen to has a huge impact on the choices they will make for their future. What goes through our children's minds when they hear today's popular music? What will a young person do if they continue to listen to songs about sex and violence?

These are questions for each of us, because we have an impact on our children. Please take the time to talk to your children about what they are experiencing.

The 21st Century Teens held a presentation on this subject on April 8 at the Community Center Social Hall. Savenia Falquist, prevention specialist, encouraged parents to talk to their children about the music and media that is popular today.

"Although it may not be possible to stop the children having access to music and media that promotes violence, we can talk to our children about the influence it has on their lives," said Falquist.

She also encouraged parents to talk to children about safe and healthy relationships. Falquist is dedicating her life's work to empowering survivors to overcome abuse and start the healing process.

Wilman Robbins of KWSO spoke on the subject of "Teens, Sex and Media," and how mass media influences teens. Teens watch MTV because it helps them to understand the songs better and what the music is about. MTV uses sexual images of women even when the music is not. What kind of impact does this "understanding" have on your child?

Future Tribal Councilman Reuben Henry talked about the impact music has had on youth suicide. This is a very sensitive topic, but like sexual assault, it is a real problem that we must face in Warm Springs.

Otis Iverson, Sallie Polk, Cyrille Mitchell and Aaron Heath did a skit that required active participation from the audience. The skit gave a visual on the danger a person is in when a part-

ner has more than one partner. There were approximately 15 people who actually became involved in this relationship, carrying a high risk of AIDS and/or STD.

Elders Faye Waheneka, Lucinda Green and Perthina White shared their experiences. Lucinda gave special notice to the many grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren, often single handedly. Faye spoke of the personal experiences she has had with her grandchildren, and stressed that "we need to listen to our teens and be there for them." Perthina shared a story about a waitress that caused her audience to laugh.

As Elders they feel that they need to be speaking to the youth to instill respect in all relationships. There are many elders who have a heart to help you in a loving and caring way; some may not be able to go to you, you may have to take the time and initiative to go see them. Please respect our elders.

The participants heard two beautiful songs. The first song was at the opening of the presentation. Warm Springs Chief of Police Don Courtney sang "This Little Girl." The second song was at the closing of the evening. It was a beautiful Honor Song sung by Quartz Creek. Two different types of music that spoke to the hearts of many.

Many comments were made by some of the 70-plus participants. Participants included all age groups. There was a large turn-out of children and youth. Thank you for attending. Some comments are as follows:

Question: What did you like about the event?

Answers: The elders that spoke up on the strictness of their youth. The circle. The skit. Savenia was up front with her information. Everything, everything was right down to the T, it confirmed what I was telling my child. The media part, I agreed with it, it made me have second thoughts about allowing my children to attend the open mic rap show. You guys did a good job. Open-minded presentation. Don's singing. The Honor Song. That suicide was brought up, I am a drummer and I see



Warm Springs Elementary School students made artwork for the 21st Century Teens' presentation.

Some comments made by teens: It's not just the music that makes me the way I am. It's not just rap music, it's other music too.

the impact suicide has on the youth. Good location. These are real issues that need to be talked about.

Question: What didn't you like about the event? Answers: The fry bread wasn't ready. There wasn't enough time. Concentration on bad rap, there are good rappers too. Should have played some of the music, instead of just talking about it. There wasn't enough room, should have had it in the gym. Should have closed the gym and mandated the youth to attend.

Question: What could we do next year? Answers: More teens, more topics. Put it in to a youth conference.

Mandatory attendance for youth. Divide the youths and adults. More outside presenters. Get more people involved. Encourage other departments to get involved and to share what services they have provide.

Comments made by teens: It's not just the music that makes me the way I am. It's not just rap music, it's other music too. Other comments: Be proud of your culture, you don't have to dress or act like other cultures. I wish my husband would have attended.

We would like to thank the following programs and groups that contributed to the presentation: Chief of Police, Elders (Faye Waheneka, Perthina White, Gladys Thompson, Carol Allison and Lucinda Green), Quartz Creek Drum Group, Jefferson County Juvenile Justice, KWSO, Recreation, Pastor Rick, Youth Skit Participants, future Councilman Reuben Henry, Radine Johnson and cooks Connie Johnson, Lalovi Jackson and Martha Winishut.

Kah-Nee-Ta mini marathon is this month

The Warm Springs Recreation Department invites everyone to participate in the Kah-Nee-Ta Mini Marathon on Saturday, April 24.

The scheduled race distances are the 14.5 mile half marathon, the 10k run, the 3-mile run, and the one-mile fun run/walk.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. at the Kah-Nee-Ta Village front gate. The bus for the 14.5-mile run will load runners and leave the Kah-Nee-Ta Village from gate at 8:30 a.m. sharp.

The 14.5-run begins in Simnasho at 9 a.m., and all other races begin at 10 a.m. from the Kah-Nee-Ta Village front gate.

Separate male and female divisions will be available for these age categories: 13 and under; 14-18 years; 19-29 years; 30-39 years; 40-49 years; 50-59 years, and 60 and over.

Prizes will be given to the top three finishers for males and females in all age categories after the race.

Pre-registration prices (registering before April 14): \$12 with t-shirt of your size; \$8 without t-shirt.

Day-of-race registration: \$15 with t-shirt; \$8 without t-shirt.

If you have any questions, you can contact the Warm Springs Recreation Center at (541) 553-3243.

Indian Night Out April 22 at Simnasho

The Simnasho community is hosting an Indian Night on April 22.

The event will be at the Simnasho

Loungouse.

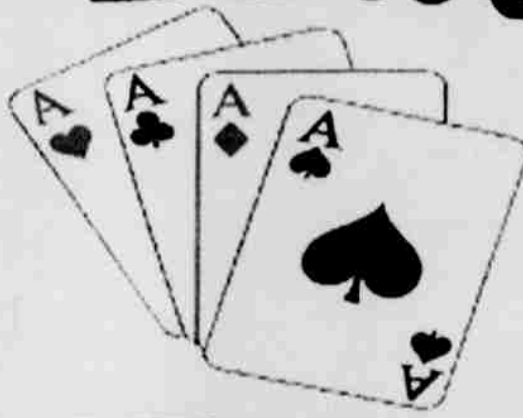
Longhouse. Potluck dinner starts at 5:30 p.m., and dancing is to begin at 7 p.m.

Everyone is welcome.

This event is to promote the tribal culture and traditions.

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Tom Gies - Bob Branson

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