

### Dance group: preserving tribal culture

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In addition to the instruction Switzler and Johnson provide, elders from the community, like Adeline Miller, also sit in and talk about the history and significance of the dances and songs.

The 4-H club has represented the community at events off the reservation, like the recent Lewis and Clark anniversary commemoration at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles, where they wore regalia and performed.

"This last year, we've been to at least a dozen events, usually once a month and during summer, more than that," Switzler said.



A group of girls from the Warm Springs 4-H Social Dance Club gets ready to perform at the Bicentennial commemoration of Lewis and Clark's landing in Oregon in The Dalles in October. The girls, from left, include Rheana Wolfe, Victoria Godines, Denise Herkshan, Vivian Yazzie, Keeyana Yellowman, Rosebud Whipple, Analise Whipple, and Bridgette Whipple.

"We try to stay pretty close to our ancestral lands, and we try to teach kids not only the history of dances, but the history of the people. And we do as much language teaching as we can."

### Radio: can pose risk to broadcasters

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"It was very sad. I actually cried. I said, 'This is how our people felt when The Dalles dam went in. Elders had to turn their backs when the water covered their falls and the place where they grew up."

"I shared with them that the event was very similar to what happened to us, having the flood waters cover our traditional land. At the very beginning of the video, she says, I am a strong person, and I will always be a strong person because I get my strength from the land. That was so moving to see the individual effort she made."

Sando-Emhoolah brought a copy of the recently broadcast Oregon Public Broadcast special on Warm Springs, which featured KWSO, to show at the conference.

"I showed the part where the radio station is trying to continue the languages, and the ways that we use our radio stations to promote our culture, not just for ourselves but for outside people, non-Indians or Native people who are here but who aren't from here."

In South America, she said, "They're trying to do the same thing."

Another presenter at the conference told about her experience as an indigenous person raised in a city the size of Portland. She went back to her ancestral home to be with her mother, one of the last surviving speakers of their traditional language.

"The daughter felt there would never be enough time to learn the language, no matter how hard she tried. She felt she would never totally recapture the knowledge her mother had."

Sando-Emhoolah also learned there is an element of danger for those who stand up for their indigenous culture in South America.

Loris Taylor, executive director for the Center for Native American Public Radio, is part of an organization at Hopi that has helped people from South America.

She knows of a person who was tortured for almost a year. He and his family were trying to leave South America. He was broadcasting and producing resistance-type material for indigenous people, to resist what was being done to them.

"He was captured before he got out of South America, and he was tortured for almost a year. His wife and his children were let go but they tortured him. Almost a year later they dumped him off on the side of the road, in the middle of nowhere, naked. Nobody knew who he was. He was lucky to be



Mary Sando-Emhoolah stands between Mapuche tribal members of Chile.

alive." A goal of the conference in Santiago was to train people to train others in their homelands how to use community radio.

"One question they asked me was how I would deal with the political aspect of it," said Sando-Emhoolah.

She came to the conclusion that she could teach them the basics of broadcasting and reporting, but that only they knew how far they could go to use broadcasting to disseminate their culture.

"Native people know their communities better than anyone else, and so I said it would be up to them to decide how you use that tool," she said. "It's not up to me to tell you how. I just give you the tool, and you go build whatever you want with it."

She even described the endeavor of using community radio in the South American countries as a "double-edged sword."

"It's something that can really help you, but there's a big risk that it can harm you and your family," she said.

Sando-Emhoolah said she heard some people at the conference describing their use of pirate, or non-sanctioned, radio. The government's response usually has been hanging posters in local communities asking citizens to report pirate broadcasters.

Sando-Emhoolah said the conference opened with a traditional opening by a group of Mapuche people from Chile. She also got to experience a secret Mapuche ceremony. She said their dress and customs, and use of objects in their ceremonies reminded her of Native Americans in the southwestern United States.

She also got to visit Valparaiso, a city on the Pacific coast in Chile.

Sando-Emhoolah said she has been asked to become further involved as a trainer for the indigenous people in South America.

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