

Native Brazilians, Warm Springs share culture, ideas

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Six Native Brazilians were in Warm Springs on Sunday and Monday. Their visit was part of a U.S. State Department program called the International Visitors Leadership Program.

"It's a program of citizen diplomacy between our embassies," said Thomas Norton, one of the interpreters who traveled with the group. The Brazilians speak Portuguese, and their native languages.

One of the visitors, Adolfo Timotio, is the chief of his tribal village of several hundred people, and chairman of his entire tribe of 40,000 members.

The Brazilians toured Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises, the Museum at Warm Springs, Kah-Nee-Ta, and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

The Brazilians also met with Warm Springs tribal members for a salmon bake at the museum.

Tribal Council Vice-Chairwoman Aurolyn Stwyer-



The Brazilians joined in a dance circle with the tribes' Ayayat Idait Te Na Numu Dance Group at the Museum at Warm Springs.

Pinkham presented each of the guests with Kibak Tiles, designed by Warm Springs artist Lillian Pitt.

The guests enjoyed a dance performance by the Ayayat Idait TeNe Numu Dance Group, and the Brazilians were invited to join in some of the dances.

During lunch, Chief Timotio asked why the U.S. last year refused to sign the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The U.S. was one

of four countries to oppose the declaration, while 143 nations voted in favor.

Councilman Wilson Wewa said the U.S. since that time has a new President. The current President, Wewa said, is more aware of the challenges facing Native peoples.

The indigenous tribes of Brazil have a much different relationship with the Brazilian government, in comparison to the tribes of the U.S.

The Brazilian tribes, for instance, do not have ownership of land, the way U.S. tribes have reservations and other land. The natural resources of the Brazilian tribal lands do not belong to the tribes, and can be exploited by outsiders.

There is not enough government oversight to prevent the illegal taking of their timber and gold, for instance, said Louis Riggio, who also served as in-



The Brazilians met with Tribal Council members Wilson Wewa (center at back) and Council Vice-Chairwoman Aurolyn Stwyer-Pinkham (middle front).

terpreter.

The Round Butte hydroelectric facility is a good example of the difference between Brazilian and U.S. tribes, said Riggio.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are part owners and operators of the dams. In Brazil, dams are built within tribal lands with little or no re-

gard for the Natives, who receive no benefit from the dams.

Another difference: Gambling is illegal in Brazil, so there are no tribal casinos.

After their visit to Warm Springs, the Brazilians left for Minnesota, where they were going to visit the White Earth Reservation.

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