



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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The Colville Tribes Grieves the Loss of MaryJayn LaPlante

(Nespelem, WA) — The Colville Tribes is saddened to announce the passing of Colville tribal descendant MaryJayn (MJ) Louise LaPlante. She was 16 years old, born on January 3rd, 2007.

MaryJayn LaPlante was a junior at Wilbur High School. She served as the Vice President of the Keller Youth Council and demonstrated great leadership in her position. Some of her notable accomplishments were organizing the Back to School Clothing Drive for the Keller school and the Colville Business Council candidate forum. MaryJayn declared in her mission statement, “Keller Youth Council will help provide for what needs to be changed or improved. I plan on becoming a part of the Council to provide my personal feelings that can help or open up different views that the youth may have.”

The Chairman of the Colville Confederated Tribes, Jarred-Michael Erickson, said, “The Colville Tribes mourns the loss of such a young member of our community. Our prayers go out to MaryJayn. She will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone who knew her and loved her.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,267 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The twelve tribes which compose the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation include: ščəlám̓xəx̓w (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; s̓x̓w̓y̓l̓p (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šnt̓iyát̓k̓wəx̓w (grass in the water) or Entiat; sn̓áyc̓kst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mət̓x̓w̓u (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáx̓čənəx̓w (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nespelem; uknaq̓in (seeing over the top) or Okanogan; palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; sən̓p̓ŋ̓w̓ilx̓ (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnp̓əšq̓w̓áwsəx̓w (people in between) or Wenatchi.