

# TRAILBLAZING WOMEN OF IDAHO



Courtesy Gabby Lemieux



ISHS, Archives, 80-54-11

## JANE SILCOTT ▲

Daughter of a Nez Perce chief, eighteen-year-old Jane guided Elias Pierce's prospecting party through the Clearwater River region in 1860. Near modern-day Pierce, Idaho, they discovered gold, initiating the Idaho gold rush.

## GABBY LEMIEUX ▶

Gabby is recognized as the only Native American woman professional golfer in the U.S. and is earning a spot on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour. "Growing up in the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe taught me to accept myself for being unique and different," Gabby says.



Courtesy Lori Edmo

## ◀ MAXINE RACEHORSE EDMO

Maxine fought for education improvements for over 50 years. President Jimmy Carter selected her for the National Advisory Council on Indian Education in 1978. Later, she served on the Federal Library Board. In 1996, her hard work paid off when the Shoshone-Bannock Jr./Sr. High School opened on Fort Hall Reservation.



## ◀ TAI SIMPSON

Tai advocates for racial justice and to end violence against women. A Nez Perce citizen, she's also passionate about Native Americans recovering their traditional cultures. In 2019, Tai was among members of Idaho's five tribes that united to create a task force investigating the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women in Idaho.

Photo by Fiona Montagne, courtesy Tai Simpson

## ▶ AMY TRICE

In 1974, the U.S. government still denied the Kootenai Tribe recognition, reservation land, and assistance. Amy served on the Kootenai Tribal Council and led her people in a nonviolent war against the U.S. Through treaty negotiations, the Tribe acquired 12.5 acres of federal land and the promise of investments in community infrastructure.



Photo by Edgar J. Stephenson, The Valley Studio, courtesy Boundary County Museum, 2552



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Courtesy Leanne Campbell

## ◀ LEANNE CAMPBELL

Leanne creates art that honors her Coeur d'Alene heritage. Although the Tribe lost the skill of making cedar bark baskets generations ago, Leanne helped revitalize practice and began using modern materials. Her work mixes floral, geometric, and pictorial designs characteristics of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

## SACAJAWEA ▶

Sacajawea guided Lewis and Clark through the wilderness and helped with tribal communication and safe passage. The Lemhi Shoshone people celebrate Sacajawea and her use of the tribe's knowledge of language, culture, and native plants during the expedition. Today, she is recognized for her bravery and perseverance.



Photo by Richard Mouser, courtesy Wikimedia Commons

## MILDRED BAILEY ▶

Mildred combined the traditional songs of her childhood on the Coeur d'Alene reservation with popular music of the 1910s. By singing the sounds "in between the notes," Mildred became a jazz and blues innovator. The first woman to sing with a "big band," shaped the careers and styles of musicians such as Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra, and Bing Crosby.

Courtesy Library of Congress, William P. Gottlieb Collection, LC-GLB23-0039



## PAULETTE JORDAN ▼

In 2018 Paulette Jordan made history as the first Idaho woman to be a major party candidate for governor. She has served on the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council and in the Idaho House of Representatives. Her ancestors include a long line of chiefs and leaders.

Photo by Dschwen, courtesy Wikimedia Commons



## ◀ RANDY'L TETON

In 1998, Randy'L was selected to be the model for the Sacagawea U.S. gold dollar coin. "The image doesn't represent me," Randy'L says, "it represents all Native American women." A member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, she used the coin's release as a platform to advocate for Native issues.

Courtesy Randy'L Hedow Teton



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