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Obama Administration Denies Clemency for Leonard Peltier

DAPL EIS 33 Day Comment Period

Energy Transfer Partners asks judge to stop EIS of the line's proposed route under Lake Oahe

TRUMP'S PICK TO HEAD INTERIOR VOWS TO REVIEW GOLD BUTTE DESIGNATION

Battle of Bayou Bridge Pipeline Threatens to Become Standing Rock of Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin

Sabal Trail Pipeline Construction Blockaded on MLK Day

Watchdog: Lack of Oversight Plagues Health Care Services for Native Americans

Video series examines how indigenous peoples across CA actively shaped/ended the land for millennia.

21 young people these dreams while serving worthy goal — improving nutrition in 10 tribal areas

Holland & Knight Young Native Writers Essay Contest

New York City Library Native American Photography Collection

WE SERVED: Johnston served in tank battalion under Patton

Nebraska bill would replace Columbus Day with Standing Bear and Indigenous Leaders' Day

Museum Trustee, a Trump Donor, Supports Groups That Deny Climate Change

Federal agency threatens takeover of White Mountain Apache programs



from

[California Native Entities and Bigfoot Forum](#)

Obama Administration Denies Clemency for Leonard Peltier

January 18, 2017, in a letter addressed to Leonard Peltier's lawyer, the Obama administration formally denied the request to grant clemency to Peltier.

lrinspire.com

DAPL EIS 33 Day Comment Period.

Notice of Intent (NOI) To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement(EIS) in Connection With Dakota Access, LLC's Request for an Easement To Cross Lake Oahe, North Dakota.

Basic comments include:

- Request 120 day extension to comment period;
- Violation of treaties under International Law;
- Violation of Oceti Sakowin territorial integrity;
- Failure to engage in consultation

with indigenous people at Standing Rock;

- Failure to understand culturally appropriate communication and understand social, cultural and economic impacts;
- Failure to adequately identify unique exposure pathways of reservation residents, on or off the reservation practicing traditional lifeways;
- Failure to identify indigenous people as they actually exist;
- Impact to spiritual belief in water purity;
- Cumulative environmental impacts in the event of a spill;
- Cumulative health impacts in the event of spill;
- Cumulative social impacts in the perception of risk/stigma;
- Cumulative economic impacts;
- Environmental Racism-disproportionate burden of risk and no benefit.

E-mail comments to Mr. Gib Owen, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works at: gib.a.owen.civ@mail.mil. If

Please include your name and "NOI Comments, Dakota Access Pipeline Crossing" in the SUBJECT.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/18/2017-00937/notice-of-intent-to-prepare-an-environmental-impact-statement-in-connection-with-dakota-access-llcs>

Energy Transfer Partners, the company behind the Dakota Access oil pipeline, asked a U.S. federal judge this week to [stop an environmental impact study of the line's proposed route under Lake Oahe](#) in North Dakota. Construction on the pipeline stalled after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, driven to action by extensive protests, denied the company an easement needed for the line to cross under the lake. *Reuters*

TRUMP'S PICK TO HEAD INTERIOR VOWS TO REVIEW GOLD BUTTE DESIGNATION

Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke, President-elect Donald Trump's pick to head the Interior Department, told a Senate hearing Tuesday he would review a recent controversial presidential declaration to create national monuments in Nevada and Utah.

<http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz31392841>

[Battle Against the Bayou Bridge Pipeline Threatens to Become the Standing Rock of Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin](#)

Julie Dermansky, DeSmogBlog: Energy Transfer Partners' proposed Bayou Bridge pipeline, if built, isn't just any pipeline. It would be the tail end of the controversial Dakota Access route, cutting through the heart of Louisiana's Cajun Country.

Sabal Trail Pipeline Construction Blockaded on MLK Day

[Read the Article at Earth First! Journal](#)



Anthony Melting Tallow

~ "It is readily acknowledged that Indian children lose their natural resistance to illness by habitating so closely in these schools, and that they die at a much higher rate than in their villages. But this alone does not justify a change in the policy of this Department, which is being geared towards the final solution of our Indian Problem." ~ 1910, Duncan Campbell Scott, Canada's deputy superintendent general of Indian Affairs (1913-1932) writing on The high rates of indigenous children's deaths in Canada's residential schools.

~ Simon Baker's [Squamish Nation] brother, Jim, died of spinal meningitis at the Lytton school.

~ "I used to hear him crying at night. I asked the principal to take him to the hospital. He didn't. After about two weeks, my brother was in so much pain, he was going out of his mind. I pleaded with the principal for days to take him to a doctor. "For god's sake, you better do something for my brother." They finally took him to the small hospital in Lytton. Each day I would ask how he was doing and they'd say he's doing all right. On the third day, on a Sunday night, the principal's wife came in, spoke to her husband and, they called me into the office there they told me that my brother had just passed away. I went to the hospital with the principal. There lay my brother Jim in a room that was like a morgue." The school provided a coffin, but, since it was too short, it was necessary to break his knees to fit him into the coffin."

Image Title - "Staff and students at the Sturgeon Landing, Saskatchewan, school", 1946. Until the 1960s, members of religious orders made up a significant proportion of residential school staff. St. Boniface Historical Society Archives, Oblates of Mary Immaculate of Manitoba.

Watchdog: Lack of Oversight Plagues Health Care Services for Native Americans

Sam Sacks, The District Sentinel: According to an analysis by the Government Accountability Office, the Indian Health Service has practiced only "limited and inconsistent" oversight of its

network of hospitals. The lack of health care standards, the watchdog reported, is a contributing factor to the shorter life expectancy of many Native American populations. [Read the Article](#)

KCET This video series examines how indigenous peoples across California actively shaped and tended the land for millennia. Watch now. [#TendingtheWild](#)
[#CAcontinued](#)

[Tending the Wild](#)

How can traditional practices inspire a new generation of Californians to tend their environment and live in balance with nature?

[Watch More](#) kcet.org

KCET

Visitors to the Upper Midwest’s American Indian nations quickly realize that many young people share a noble goal: returning home after getting their education to strengthen their impoverished communities as educators, entrepreneurs, medical providers and political leaders.

Thanks to a farsighted initiative launched with a generous grant from Minnesota’s Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, **21 ambitious young people will get a chance to realize these dreams while serving another worthy goal — improving nutrition in 10 tribal communities.**

The SMSC, located in the southwest metro, operates the Mystic Lake Casino and has become a philanthropic force. Its efforts laudably include a growing focus on the health conditions linked to poor nutrition that plague many American Indians, such as diabetes. In 2015, SMSC launched a \$5 million “Seeds of Native Health” campaign to strengthen academic research into Native nutrition and provide community grants to improve food access and push for healthier food choices.

Its latest initiative involves a \$200,000 grant to partner with the AmeriCorps VISTA program to create a “cadre of Native Food Sovereignty Fellows.” Teams of VISTA volunteers will live in 10 tribal communities in eight states. Their mission: improve nutrition awareness, launch or enlarge community efforts to grow local food and bolster economic opportunities involving food and agriculture.

SMSC’s gift will help fund the teams’ living allowances during the program’s first year. The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas law school is also a project partner.

The eight states are Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, New Mexico, Alaska, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Washington. The Minnesota locations are the Lower Sioux Indian Community and the Red Lake Nation near Bemidji. The program will recruit volunteers from these communities — giving young people a résumé-building opportunity while leveraging their local connections to make swift progress.

While VISTA has long worked with Indian nations, this is the first time in its 52 years that a tribal community is providing funding for volunteers’ work. SMSC merits praise for this

pragmatic approach to improving public health in often-overlooked locations. Minnesotans not only applaud this good work but look forward to seeing what this community does next.

Holland & Knight Young Native Writers Essay Contest

Application Deadlines: April 15, Annually

The Young Native Writers Essay Contest is a writing contest for Native American high school students and is designed to encourage young Native Americans to write about the progress their tribal communities have made and how their tribal communities can keep moving forward.

The contest is designed to encourage young Native American writers to explore their heritage while becoming positive [...] [More](#)

Every major library, museum and archive across the country has collections that chronicle tribal people.....but often they are out of sight, not known because they do not relate to the local area. They may have been collected by an interested staff member or donated by a person/family member of someone who served/traveled in Indian Country. In any event, nice surprises await a patient researcher. Here's a sample from the New York City Library (unfortunately not digitized):

3. Washoe Indians - Valley of Lake Tahoe. no. 602.

Creator: Lawrence & Houseworth (American, active 1850s-1860s) (Photographer), Thomas Houseworth & Co. (American, active 1850s-1880s) (Publisher (Photographic))
Date: 1866 Medium: Albumen silver print, hand-colored

448. Group of Pahute Indians.

Creator: Charles William Carter (American, 1832-1918) (Photographer)
Date: ca. 1850s-1890s Medium: Albumen silver print

450. Piute Indians, at Reno

Creator: Carleton Eugene Watkins (American, 1829-1916) (Photographer)
Date: ca. 1850s-1890s Medium: Albumen silver print

842. Pahute Indians, the three beauties.

Creator: Charles William Carter (American, 1832-1918) (Photographer)
Date: ca. 1850s-1890s Medium: Albumen silver print

846. Shoshone Indians, Ten Mile Cañon.

Creator: Carleton Eugene Watkins (American, 1829-1916) (Photographer)
Date: ca. 1850s-1890s Medium: Albumen silver print

http://wallachprintsandphotos.nypl.org/catalog?commit=search&page=45&q=american+indian&search_field=all_fields&utf8=%E2%9C%93

Along with explorers, military figures, etc, it is helpful to know the name of any photographer that did work in one's country. This collection contains images from Alaska to Florida; Maine to Mexico and you will find many names. Enjoy

WE SERVED: Johnston served in tank battalion under Patton

Serving as a mechanic and driver for his Sherman tank, William "Tick" Johnston was part of the *American forces that pushed across Germany during World War II. COURTESY PHOTO*

William "Tick" Johnston of Vinita displays the medals he received for his service during World War II.

WILL CHAVEZ/CHEROKEE PHOENIX BY WILL CHAVEZ

Assistant Editor – @cp_wchavez 12/08/2011 01:15 PM

VINITA, Okla. – Cherokee Nation citizen William “Tick” Johnston joined the military in July 1943 when the outcome of World War II was still uncertain.

He boarded a bus in Vinita with “a whole bunch of other Craig County boys” and went to Oklahoma City for physicals. While in line for his physical, the Navy and Marine Corps recruited him because he was a certified water safety instructor, but he declined.

“I had my mind made up. I was wanting to be an airplane mechanic, a trade I could have when I come out of the service,” Johnston said.

He began his Army service at Fort Sill in Lawton before riding a train to Fort Knox, Ky. Johnston had requested to be a mechanic in the Air Force, so he was told he was going to learn how to work on airplane motors. However, he was going to do it in the Army.

“They said, ‘you said airplane mechanic. They’ve got airplane motors in the back end of Sherman tanks,’” he said.

He said the Wright Whirlwind motors in the tanks had a lot of power, as well as oil leaks, yet were easier to work on than the diesel engines used earlier in the war.

From Fort Knox, he went to Camp Chaffee near Fort Smith, Ark., for maneuver training and back to Fort Sill to learn how to fire using the 32-ton Sherman tank. He said the five men of his crew learned their individual jobs along with the other crew men’s jobs. Johnston was the tank’s driver and mechanic.

In November 1944, the crew went to Camp Kilmer, N.J., before boarding a troop carrier headed to Glasgow, Scotland. While crossing the Atlantic Ocean, he said the ship’s rocking made for a miserable trip for most soldiers.

“In nine days and nights in that whole boat, you’ve never seen such a sick mess. I don’t think I’ve ever been that sick in my whole life,” he said.

The men made it to Scotland but had to wait on their equipment to catch up with them.

He said as the driver and mechanic he was responsible for keeping his tank moving. All of his training was on the Wright Whirlwind motor, but when the new Sherman tanks arrived they had Ford motors.

“They (tanks) looked similar to the old ones we had been trained with, but they had twin Ford motors in them. They had plenty of power, and they was almost trouble free,” he said.

In December 1944, Johnston’s unit – the 786th Tank Battalion – loaded its equipment and vehicles onto Navy landing ships for the trip to Le Havre, France. He said the men in his unit had not yet been issued winter clothing and scrounged for it as they crossed France. Eventually, the unit’s wool clothing caught up to them in France.

Johnston said as the unit reached Belgium it began to hear the noise of battle.

The unit was hearing the “Battle of the Bulge.” The German army had launched a sneak attack in mid-December in the Ardennes region, pushing back Allied forces and creating a bulge in the Allied line of advance toward Germany. The battle was the largest and bloodiest battle fought in World War II. United States forces suffered 89,000 casualties, including 19,000 killed.

“Oh gosh, you talk about cold. I had on wool underwear, wool pants...a combat suit that was wool lined, a raincoat – everything I could get on that the Army issued me,” Johnston said.

Battle noise grew louder as Johnston’s unit neared the front line in early January 1945. His unit was attached to the 99th Infantry Division during the battle. He said the 1st Platoon, which included five tanks, was sent into battle first to support the infantry. Johnston was in the 2nd Platoon that waited in reserve. He could hear the 1st Platoon crews in battle through his radio headphones.

“I hear one of the tank guys say ‘I lost a track. We are going to have to bail out of here and run.’ And another something went wrong with this tank and it wouldn’t move or start. He’s a sitting duck, and they (crew) ran off and left theirs,” he said. “Then they say, ‘Second Platoon move out.’ It dawned on me, ‘hey, you’re in 2nd Platoon.’ I was so scared that my eyes would not focus, and my foot was shaking on that accelerator so much 32 tons was jumping and a shaking.” His commander asked what was wrong with him.

“I said ‘I’m scared half to death.’ He said, ‘by God get over it. I’m scared too. Get over it,’” Johnston said. “In a little bit, it kind of blew by. When you realize that them bullets take you down regardless of who you are...if you don’t get a little bit scared I think you got something wrong upstairs.”

When they reached the battle area, the Germans had retreated. Johnston believes the Germans may not have counted on there being a reserve of tanks ready to fight.

After the “the Bulge,” the unit reached the Danube River where Army engineers had constructed a bridge across the 150-yard river for tanks and jeeps to cross. The U.S. Army continued from the Danube, and as it prepared to push to the Rhine River, Gen. George Patton commandeered Johnston’s unit because he wanted as many tanks as possible under his command for his drive to Berlin, Germany.

So the 786th Tank Battalion joined the 3rd Armored Division and pushed toward the Rhine River. It made it to the river and sat for two days while the Americans, joined by the British and French armies, prepared to cross into the Rhineland of Germany.

“A lot of that ‘hurry up and wait’ took place in World War II, but I guess at least you was there and you was ready,” Johnston said.

Finally in early March 1945, the 786th, using the Remagen railroad bridge, crossed the Rhine not knowing explosive charges were set under the bridge by the retreating Germans. None of the charges went off when the tanks crossed, Johnston said. After crossing the bridge, his tank was ordered to park and camouflage and wait.

Johnston said while they waited a German Stuka plane harassed them and attempted to blow up the railroad bridge to prevent more tanks crossing the river. He said a day or two later the plane returned and he tried to shoot it down with a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on the tank. He said he didn’t expect the pilot to have time to shoot back as he flew over, and luckily the bullets straddled the tank and only threw dirt on Johnston. Only after the incident did he realize what a foolish mistake he had made.

“Like an 18- or 19-year-old you don’t think too far out in front of you. You just do something,” he said.

The Army continued its northeasterly advance toward Berlin. Johnston said as they advanced the men knew if they ran into German tanks it would not be a fair fight. A Sherman tank had three inches of armor plating compared to the five inches of armor on a German Tiger tank. German tanks used 88mm guns while American tanks used 75 and 76mm main guns for their tanks.

“The only way we could harm one of them (Tiger tank) was to shoot him on the back end. The back end was their soft spot,” he said.

He said his unit reached a small German town and Johnston’s tank was assigned to observe one of its streets. While observing, he saw a Tiger tank back out into the street. He said the Tiger’s front faced the Sherman while its gun faced the opposite direction.

His gunner also spotted the tank and told the loader to load three armor-piercing rounds into the main gun. Johnston said the loader was good at his job and could load the gun quickly. As the gun was recoiling from one shot, the loader could clear the casing from the previous round and have the gun immediately reloaded.

“It was like boom, boom, boom, three times. I sitting there looking through that periscope, and I seen that red tracer hit on the front end of that five inches of armor and go out and up. It didn’t penetrate.

“Their gun starting coming around towards us, and I thought, uh-oh. I knew if he pulled that trigger at us, that was it,” he said.

Johnston said he thought about abandoning the tank, but before the Germans could fire he threw open the steel hatch above his head and saw all of the Tiger hatches open with smoke billowing out them.

“These Germans coming out of there were hitting their (smoking) uniforms. Those three shells hitting on the front end created so much friction that they couldn’t stand it in there it was so hot. Their uniforms were almost ready to explode,” he said. “They were trying to hold their hands up (to surrender) and pat themselves out.”



Johnston said Patton pushed hard toward Berlin and the tanks had a difficult time staying fueled. Also, there were times when the mud slowed the advance, and as his tank’s mechanic, he had to deal with an oil leak in the motor.

During an instance of “hurry up and wait,” he worked on the leak while the rest of the crew went scavenging in a small town. He said he got under the tank and began removing the steel plate covering the motor but had trouble removing two of the bolts holding it. Compounding his frustration, the men in his unit kept walking by and kicking his boots sticking out from under the tank. He said he used a few choice words for them.

“All of once somebody kicked me again, and I was really getting aggravated at the plate and I said ‘go F off.’ A voice said, ‘what’d you say soldier?’ I kind of leaned over and looked out under the back and I seen brown shiny boots, and I thought ‘uh-oh, it’s an officer,’” he said. “I came out from under there and gave him a salute, and I saw those pearl-handle pistols. I told him ‘I’m sorry, every sucker going by here is kicking me on the foot,’ and I said ‘that’s the reason you got the answer you got.’”

Gen. Patton asked what Johnston was doing under the tank, and he told Patton he was fixing an oil leak.

“He said, ‘you’re the first SOB I’ve caught working this whole day,” Johnston said.

When the 786th reached the Ruhr Valley, it saw more Germans who had surrendered. A difficult memory from this time for Johnston is when his unit came up on the Buchenwald concentration camp in early April 1945. The German army had recently abandoned the camp and left dead bodies and many starving men, including a few American soldiers.

“I don’t even like to think about this. They were literally starved to death. They looked like skeletons walking around with just the hide moving around,” he said. “And the stink, God almighty. The whole combat area and towns had a smell I never will forget the rest of my life.” Johnston said he ran to his tank and gathered all of the food he could to give to the starving men. He said the men fought over what little food he gathered.

“One of them, I never will forget, put his hand on my shoulder and nodded yes.”

He said when the war ended the 786th was near Czechoslovakia. As Patton’s army neared Berlin, his commander halted him, and the Russians were allowed to enter the city first as part of a political deal made among the allies of Great Britain, Russia and the United States.

“At night you could see the red flashes like lightning (over Berlin) as they let the Russians go in,” he said.

The war ended May 7, 1945, when Germany officially surrendered. The 786th loaded its tanks onto flat railroad cars and left Germany. Johnston was discharged Nov. 9, 1945, and he came home. A month later he was working for BF Goodrich in Miami, Okla., and stayed with the company nearly 40 years. After retiring, he and his wife Wilma moved to Vinita.

“I didn’t say anything (about the war) for years and years and years. I just wanted to forget,” he said.

But his children have been encouraging him to talk about his World War II experiences. He summarized his wartime experience with one of his father’s sayings: “It’s something you’ll never forget, but you wouldn’t give a dime to see it again.” will-chavez@cherokee.org • 918-207-3961

About the Author WILL-CHAVEZ@cherokee.org • 918-207-3961

Will lives in Tahlequah, Okla., but calls Marble City, Okla., his hometown. He is Cherokee and San Felipe Pueblo and grew up learning the Cherokee language, traditions and culture from his Cherokee mother and family. He also appreciates his father’s Pueblo culture and when possible attends annual traditional dances held on the San Felipe Reservation near Albuquerque, N.M. He... [Read More](#)

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journalstar.com | By Zach Pluhacek | Lincoln Journal Star, JoAnne Young | Lincoln Journal Star

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By ROBIN POGREBIN

A leader of the American Museum of Natural History has been using her family's millions to finance organizations that some say undermine the museum's mission.

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[Steve Downing](#)

The rare and elusive Andalusian Hummingator.