

Journal #6052 from sdc 8.20.25

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'A land that our ancestors walked': L.A. County tribe wins land back for the first time

Economic Opportunity Act of 1964

Public Law 89-253 AN ACT To expand the war on poverty

Another impactful congressional act: H.R. 4497, An Act to create an Indian Claims Commission

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Launched in 2009, the World Digital Library

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August 20, 1866, National Labor Union called on Congress to mandate an eight-hour workday.

Leonard Peltier, now mostly free, navigates a new life on the outside



BREAKING: Mexico, Guatemala and Belize are creating a tri-national nature reserve to protect the Mayan jungle!

It will become the second biggest nature reserve in Latin America, behind the Amazon rainforest.

'A land that our ancestors walked': L.A. County tribe wins land back for the first time

For the first time in centuries, a piece of ancestral territory belongs to the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians. While small, the half-acre lot serves as a space for the tribe to hold ceremonies and government business without needing anyone's permission.

Read in Los Angeles Times: https://apple.news/AL5aoU_BIQ3K-IRR8gcR5kg

508 PUBLIC LAW 88-452-AUG. 20, 1964 Public Law 88-452 [78 STAT. August 20, 1964 AN ACT [S. 2642] To mobilize the human and financial resources of the Nation to combat poverty in the United States. **Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.**

FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

SEC. 2. Although the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States have progressed to a level surpassing any achieved in world history, and although these benefits are widely shared throughout the Nation, poverty continues to be the lot of a substantial number of our people. The United States can achieve its full economic and social potential as a nation only if every individual has the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of his capabilities and to participate in the workings of our society. It is, therefore, the policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this Nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity. It is the purpose of this Act to strengthen, supplement, and coordinate efforts in furtherance of that policy

uscode.house.gov

79 STAT.] PUBLIC LAW 89-253-OCT. 9, 1965 973 Public Law 89-253 - GovInfo

Public Law 89-253 AN ACT To expand the war on poverty and enhance the effectiveness of programs under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

<https://legalaidhistory.org > histories > civil-legal-aid-history > civil-legal-aid > 1965-1975-oeo-era>

1965-1975: OEO Era - Legal Aid History

The OEO era began in 1964 when Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act, the beginning of President Johnson's War on Poverty. For the first time, Congress made federal money available for legal services for the poor. OEO's legal services program achieved much success but also encountered significant opposition. This made clear the need for a new legal services structure, separate from ...

<https://www.govinfo.gov > content > pkg > STATUTE-79 > pdf > STATUTE-79-Pg973.pdf>

This act includes the initial or amending legislation for:

Job Corps

Work Training (including Cuban refugees)

Work Study (for internships in institutions of higher learning)

Community Action

Adult Basic Education
Voluntary Assistance for Needy Children
Special Programs or Rural Poverty
Assistance for Migrants
idemnity and payments for Dairy Farmers
Coops
Small Business Administration
Work Experience
Office of Economic Opportunity Administration
VISTA

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4266933>

[How Johnson Fought the War on Poverty: The Economics and Politics of ...](#)

This article presents a quantitative analysis of the geographic distribution of spending through the 1964 **Economic Opportunity Act** (EOA). Using newly assembled state- and county-level data, the results show that the Johnson administration directed ...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_on_poverty

[War on poverty - Wikipedia](#)

Social Security **Act of 1965** (Created Medicare and Medicaid) - July 30, **1965** The Office of **Economic Opportunity** was the agency responsible for administering most of the war on poverty programs created during Johnson's Administration,

Another impactful congressional act:

[Artifact Explorer](#)

H.R. 4497, An Act to create an Indian Claims Commission . . . , May 21, 1946

The Indian Claims Commission Act

In part to show gratitude to American Indians who served in World War II, Congress passed the Indian Claims Commission Act in 1946. The act established a special, temporary commission to hear and decide land claim cases of American Indians, who believed the federal government had treated them unjustly through treaty violations, confiscation of land, and other grievances. Tribes who won claims would receive monetary awards as compensation. Congress's action capped years of effort by American Indians and sympathetic allies to resolve long-standing land claim cases fairly.

Since 1924, when the last noncitizen Indian became an American citizen . . . there has been no reason . . . why Indians should not have the same right to sue in the Court of Claims as anyone else.

Representative Henry ("Scoop") Jackson of Washington, Statement on H.R. 4497, May 20, 1946

Image Details

Prior to 1946, American Indians had to request special authority from Congress to pursue monetary damages against the U.S. government in the Court of Claims. This process often took years. By creating the Indian Claims Commission, Congress hoped to address American Indians' claims against the government more expeditiously and justly. The government could authorize monetary awards only; return of seized land was prohibited.

Records of the U.S. Senate, National Archives and Records Administration

[Show More](#)
[Artifact Explorer](#)

H.R. 4497, An Act to create an Indian Claims Commission . . . , May 21, 1946

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Wesley Dick by Colten Tohannie and Bucky Harjo

Shout to @skyeaglecollection and the designers at the UPLIFT Fashion show in Santa Fe NM for an amazing show, and display of indigenous fashion and resilience. With partial proceeds going to the Wounded Warrior Project! Check em out! [#native](#) [#indigenous](#) [#nativefashion](#) [#indigenousfashion](#) [#skyeaglecollection](#) [#upliftfashionshow](#) [#swaia](#) [#nativeamerican](#)

A 16-Million-Year-Old Tree Tells a Deep Story of the Passage of Time

Launched in 2009, the **World Digital Library** was a project of the U.S. Library of Congress, with the support of UNESCO, and contributions from libraries, archives, museums, educational institutions, and international organizations around the world. The WDL sought to preserve and share some of the world's most important cultural objects, increasing access to cultural treasures and significant historical documents to enable discovery, scholarship, and use.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-digital-library/about-this-collection/>

Congress has not taken steps to create the Administration for a Healthy America

CDC officials plan for the agency's splintering, but questions remain

<https://apnews.com/article/cdc-hiv-administration-for-a-healthy-america-8309109b91e6e4025878f335ea15dc96>

0.8 miles of Kalamazoo River revitalized in \$7M dam removal project

"We weren't just removing a dam, we were reimagining how this stretch of river could function ecologically and socially," Mills said. "The result is a safer, healthier and more accessible river for the people and wildlife of southwest Michigan."

<https://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/2025/08/08-miles-of-kalamazoo-river-revitalized-in-7m-dam-removal-project.html>

New California dam removal would free a river but destroy a community

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/lake-pillsbury-dam-california-20779336.php>

A Sneaky Theory of Where Language Came From

It might have hijacked our early ancestors' brains.

https://getpocket.com/explore/item/a-sneaky-theory-of-where-language-came-from?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us

Vox: The White House has a preferred alternative to PBS. It may already be in countless classrooms.

How the right-wing network PragerU could fill the void left by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's defunding.

Nuclear Experts Say Mixing AI and Nuclear Weapons Is Inevitable

Human judgement remains central to the launch of nuclear weapons. But experts say it's a matter of when, not if, artificial intelligence will get baked into the world's most dangerous systems.

Attn: crafters, school teachers, HEADSTART personnel, after-school coordinators, etc. I have classroom amounts of cork, tp rolls, plastic tops (mobiles), paint mixing containers, square juice bottles (terrariums) etc. if you are looking for free supplies to stimulate creativity amongst your little people and want such supplies, let me know. sdc

Small Farms Fed the Bay Area During COVID. But Now Face Federal Cuts

<https://www.kqed.org/science/1998136/small-farms-fed-the-bay-area-during-covid-but-now-face-federal-cuts>

BLM offers over 140 wild horses for adoption through online event

(news3lv.com) — The Bureau of Land Management is hosting an online adoption event for over 140 wild horses, allowing adopters to pick them up locally in Reno. This initiative aims to find homes for horses from Nevada's public lands, with the event running until August 24.

NSHE, school district partner to bring Wi-Fi to 120 Schools

August 19, 2025

Washoe County School District and Nevada System of Higher Education partner to offer free Wi-Fi to over 68,000 students and staff at 120 schools and district sites.

[Read more...](#)

Today in History - August 20

On August 20, 1866, the newly organized National Labor Union called on Congress to mandate an eight-hour workday. [Continue reading.](#)

Leonard Peltier, now mostly free, navigates a new life on the outside

The 80-year-old AIM activist is learning who to trust and rebuilding relationships after 50 years in prison. **By Kim Hyatt**

The Minnesota Star Tribune

August 20, 2025



Leonard Peltier, under supervised release, at his home in Belcourt, N.D., on Saturday, with one of his paintings hanging on the wall. (Richard Tsong-Taatarii/The Minnesota Star Tribune)

BELCOURT, N.D. - It's been six months since Leonard Peltier walked out of prison, and the first family reunion he could attend in 50 years went on without him over the weekend.

Relatives expected him, and said they were disappointed the 80-year-old patriarch didn't show. Instead, Peltier nostalgically cruised the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation, telling stories about pretty girls and fast cars. He got takeout chicken, watched CNN and called Willie Nelson's ex-wife to catch up.

A few miles down the road, relatives from across the country shared a potluck and played games. Peltier drove past the gathering and didn't stop. Family called him on speaker phone and delivered him plates of food.

The American Indian Movement (AIM) activist said he didn't attend "for personal reasons." Accusations of theft have caused a rift between him and a sibling. Peltier is also in pain from a

recent fall at home and needs a walker again after regaining enough strength to ditch his cane for a time.

He is aging, partly blind and navigating a completely different world than the late 1970s, when he received consecutive life sentences for the killings of two FBI agents. Like in prison, he is learning who to trust. He sees people didn't forget him like he feared. In fact, there's a premium on his name, image and likeness. People want to write books, make documentaries, have him appear at events.

Peltier continues his activism, as much as an octogenarian can. He wants to rename AIM the American Indigenous Movement, and said his biggest concern in Indian Country is an epidemic of overdoses and addiction exploited by drug traffickers.

"Everybody thinks because I'm out, I'm going to be the savior and know how to stop all that stuff," he said. "There's only one way I can think of, and I don't want to be a serial killer. No, I don't want to be a killer period."

Controversial release

In a surprise move, ex-President [Joe Biden granted Peltier clemency to indefinite house arrest](#) in the last days of his presidency. It doesn't erase his conviction, later reduced on appeal from murder to aiding and abetting murder.

People either think Peltier is "the epitome of evil," [as FBI Director Kash Patel called him](#), or a political prisoner symbolizing the injustice done to and resistance of Native Americans. Not all in Indian Country celebrated his release, [namely the family of murdered AIM member Anna Mae Aquash](#), who remain suspicious of Peltier.

Aquash's killing and the FBI shootout took place on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1975. Peltier has maintained his innocence, but believed he would die in prison.

"It's like dying and going to heaven," he said of being home. "I'm out of that hole. I'm out of that dungeon. I'm out of that, I don't know what else to call it but hell."

Yes, he's free, he said, "to a certain extent."

Rules of home confinement restrict Peltier's travel to a 100-mile radius for errands and doctor appointments. Beyond that, he needs a furlough pass.

He got one earlier this summer to attend a sun dance ceremony on Pine Ridge. Peltier returned to say prayers and give tobacco.

"It brought all that belief back to me. Restored everything," he said. "Back to where I was before I went to prison."

So many visitors

Much of his time is spent on his porch, shirtless and catching a tan.



Leonard Peltier among his paintings at his home. (Richard Tsong-Taatarii/The Minnesota Star Tribune)

Visitors drop by from across the country for coffee. They laugh and cry, overwhelmed that he's out after decades of unanswered pleas for his release, from the pope to Mother Teresa.

[Denied clemency and pardon requests](#) fill dozens of boxes stacked in his garage. They contain FBI interviews and court records spanning his 49-year fight. Archivists will work to preserve the documents, said Holly Cook Macarro, a lobbyist who helped push for Peltier's commutation and continues overseeing his media relations. She said some 400 pounds of his mail stored in prison made it to Belcourt.

Macarro of Red Lake Nation worked with NDN Collective, an Indigenous rights organization based in South Dakota, to achieve clemency.

"We built on decades of work that people had done. We were, I think, in the right place at the right time to help bring it across the finish line," she said.

Her husband is the president of the National Congress of American Indians. Deb Haaland, the first Indigenous Cabinet secretary to serve under Biden, was a big supporter. (Haaland's 2026 campaign poster for New Mexico governor hangs in Peltier's bedroom.)

"I got a beautiful home [NDN] bought me," Peltier said. "A nice, big yard. ... Lots of visitors. They all come and always offer me something, whatever I need."

He still has nightmares that he's back in prison and battles paranoid thoughts. He soon will install a security fence. He wants two German shepherds. More than anything, he wants a companion. He's always teasing and flirting with women.

"I figured the right one will come along eventually, hopefully not too long. I am 80," he said. He turns 81 on Sept. 12.

Peltier with a photo of himself as a young man in



Seattle, and Sandra Martinez, the mother of his first child. (Richard Tsong-Taatarii/The Minnesota Star Tribune)

Reunification

His absence at the family reunion reopened fresh wounds for relatives who got little access when he was released.

[On that bitter cold homecoming Feb. 18](#), hundreds of relatives and activists greeted him as he crossed the reservation line for a celebration at the casino. Everyone wanted a moment, a photo, to give him a quilt or tobacco.

Family say they know that Peltier doesn't just belong to them, but the world. Still, many felt sidelined then — and now.

He told one of his daughters to not come to North Dakota for the reunion. Stubborn like her father, Marquette Peltier, 52, hopped on a bus from Kansas anyway at the insistence of other relatives that she be there and see her dad.

"We have to forgive and move forward. We're repairing 50 years of damage to our family," she said. "It's going to take time."

She was a baby when her dad went to prison. After he was moved to the Leavenworth penitentiary in 1985, she moved to Kansas to visit often. Then he was moved to Florida, and visits were harder.

"Now I get to spend the rest of our lives together," she said, adding that she plans to move to North Dakota to be near him. "As a daughter, all I ever wanted was my dad."

Leonard Peltier's other daughter is dying from years of alcohol and drug abuse, which he described as "infuriating." He's visited her in the hospital several times since his release.

Other relatives moved to Belcourt to care for Peltier, only to be cut off. Some say they won't return again until Peltier's funeral.

"He's my uncle. I still love him. Family's family. But I won't come back," said Pamela Bravo of Washington, who felt activists and documentary crews pushed family away at Peltier's homecoming.

Cousin Bev Moronez, of Fisher, Minn., said each visit with Peltier brings more understanding of his perspective: his stolen childhood in boarding school, his stolen health while incarcerated.

"He wasn't getting the medical care that he needed, and that's kind of hard to see someone deteriorate," she said.

Since his release, he's had several eye surgeries, to no avail. He hopes the Mayo Clinic can improve his vision so he can drive again and paint.

He has two big safes in his house filled with his paintings, which can sell for thousands of dollars. His art behind bars helped pay for his legal defense fund, but he hasn't painted for five years, his acrylic paints and brushes untouched in a corner of the living room. He said he dreams of turning his garage into an artist studio.

When traveling on familiar roads with home health aides behind the wheel, he can sense when they're approaching his childhood home or the swimming hole he played in as a kid.

"Even though I'm half blind I still recognize it," he said.

Where white buffalo roam

A herd of rare white buffalo roam in Peltier's backyard, but he can't see them in the distance.

White buffalo, [a symbol of hope and restoring spirituality](#), are deeply sacred in Native American culture, prophesying good things. One in every 1 million buffalo calves is white. A baker's dozen were born on Turtle Mountain in the last few years before Peltier's release, so many that several were given to other tribes, like Red Lake Nation.

Ask about the white buffalo and Peltier's fading eyes twinkle.

"Whatever great mystery, you know, something's happening," he said. "So I feel honored that this happened. ... It's a big, big honor for us as a Native nation to have the white buffalo."

He recently took photos with them to make prints, with plans to sell them like his paintings.

Andy Laverdure, 71, a respected elder and tribal judge whose spirit name is White Buffalo, said Peltier is his friend, but it's a stretch to say the births foretold his return.

Turtle Mountain, he said, is the heartbeat of Turtle Island, aka North America. It's the geographic center visible from satellite.

The Creator sees the damage done by boarding schools, the dysfunction of substance abuse, lying, stealing and "not trusting each other," he said, "and tearing families apart."

"It brought them here because they want to save us, and Creator wants us to live. That's why the buffalo are here," he said.

"Bringing Leonard home is healing. ... But it's bigger than that."

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[https://www.mprnews.org > story > 2025 > 06 > 24 > leonard-peltier-gives-interview-after-release-from-prison](https://www.mprnews.org/story/2025/06/24/leonard-peltier-gives-interview-after-release-from-prison)

### **[Leonard Peltier gives interview after release from prison | MPR News](#)**

**[Jun 24, 2025 After spending most of his life behind bars, Leonard Peltier now lives in a home on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa reservation in North Dakota. He says he has no regrets but still harbors ...](#)**